

# ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## BOARD POLICY

**Policy Number:** 305

**Subject:** Honorary Degree Policy

**Date Adopted:** October 1998

**Revised:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Honorary degrees are only awarded to persons of acknowledged eminence in the arts, letters or sciences, in the professions, or in public service whose contributions are so significant that benefits are recognized and acknowledged on a state, national, or international level.

As a general policy, honorary degrees shall not be awarded to active members of the University faculty or staff, or to retired faculty members for career distinction achieved solely at Arkansas Tech University.

Arkansas Tech University will grant no more than one honorary degree to an individual. Names of previous honorary degree recipients, along with any other consideration, are on file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

The authority to award honorary degrees rests with the Board of Trustees.

### **General Guidelines:**

1. Faculty members and academic administrators holding regular faculty rank may submit names of persons considered worthy for an honorary degree from Arkansas Tech University to a committee made up of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, three representatives from the Dean's Council, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
2. Those wishing to nominate a candidate should submit the following:
  - Letter of nomination citing the field in which the nominee has achieved eminence and describing the significance of the nominee's contribution to the field and, if appropriate, to Arkansas Tech University.
  - In cases where the candidate is not as well known outside his or her discipline as within it, at least three letters by eminent persons in the same field endorsing the candidate's nomination.
  - Any other information illustrating the candidate's eminence and contribution to Arkansas Tech University.

3. After preparing its recommendations the Committee shall present them to the President by February 1 for spring commencement. The President will forward the names of the nominees to the Board of Trustees for final approval.
4. After final action by the Board of Trustees, the President informs the nominees.

Prior to public announcement by the President and the Board of Trustees, all matters relating to honorary degrees are treated as confidential.

Any honorary degree shall not be awarded in absentia unless specifically recommended by the Committee and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the President, and the Board of Trustees.