

**Austin Peay State  
University**

**Awarding Honorary Degrees**

**POLICIES**

**Issued:** May 13, 2022

**Responsible Official:** University President

**Responsible Office:** Office of the President

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**Policy Statement**

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The Austin Peay State University Board of Trustees authorizes the awarding of honorary degrees to recognize individuals whose extraordinary achievements have set a standard that distinguishes them and benefits Austin Peay State University, the communities they serve and society.

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**Purpose**

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The purpose for awarding honorary degrees is threefold:

To honor persons whose careers and affiliations with the University reflect sustained and superlative achievement in the arts and professions, research, scholarship, public service, leadership, volunteerism, and/or cultural affairs as well as new frontiers of human endeavor. The degree should be awarded in honor of extraordinary achievement over an entire career and not merely to honor a single achievement.

To advance the educational missions, goals, and programs of Austin Peay State University by developing associations with persons who embody the same ideals, values, and aspirations.

To inspire students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and members of the local, national, and world communities to emulate such standards of excellence, integrity, and commitment to enhance the public good.

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**Procedures**

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**Criteria for Selection**

- A. An honorary degree is special and is awarded only in exceptional circumstances. Relatively few awards should be given and no more than two per year.

- B. Current faculty, staff, students, and university trustees are not eligible. Faculty, staff, students and trustees who have been separated from Austin Peay State University at least three (3) years are eligible. Currently serving elected and/or appointed public officials and current candidates and/or nominees for public elective and/or appointed offices within the state of Tennessee are not eligible.
- C. Philanthropy cannot be a sole criterion for awarding an honorary degree, but may be taken into account as a factor to be considered in a determination to award an honorary degree.
- D. The degree awarded will be named the Honorary Associate, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate of (discipline name, such as Education, Business, etc.). The degree is not to be granted for earned credit such as a PhD.

### **Guidelines**

- A. Written nominations will be accepted from all sources and shall be reviewed by an *ad hoc* Honorary Degree Committee established by the President. The Committee shall be comprised of no less than 50% faculty but should include staff and administrators.
- B. The committee will review the nomination and forward a recommendation to the University President. All deliberations will be confidential. The committee should use intense scrutiny of a nominee to ensure continued integrity of the award process.
- C. The president must approve any nominee recommended by the committee to receive an honorary degree.
- D. The recipient must attend Commencement to be awarded the honorary degree.

### **Authority**

Authority to award honorary degrees at Austin Peay State University is delegated to the president.

### **Policy Review**

The Awarding Honorary Degrees policy will be reviewed every five years.

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### **Revision Dates**

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APSU Policy 2:026 – Rev.: May 13, 2022

APSU Policy 2:026 – Issued: March 8, 2017

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**Subject Areas:**

Academic	Finance	General	Human Resources	Information Technology	Student Affairs
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**Approved**

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President: signature on file

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