

**LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**  
**POLICY ON THE AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES**  
**Adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 10 & 11, 2015**

**Purpose**

The Lebanese American University (“the **University**”) awards honorary degrees on a selective basis to distinguished individuals (“**Candidates**”) who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement or leadership in a field or activity consistent with the values, ideals and mission of the University. This Policy sets forth the following procedures for granting honorary degrees.

**Scope**

This policy applies to all members of the University Community involved in the nomination or selection of Candidates for honorary degrees.

**Criteria**

1. In recognition of their achievements, the Board of Trustees (BOT) may award honorary degrees to recipients who reflect the diversity of interests, backgrounds, and concerns embodied in the society and world it serves.
  
2. Candidate selection will be based upon outstanding contributions or leadership during the course of a career in a variety of fields, including endeavors in scholarship, public service, arts, literature government, religion, finances or any other endeavors, and the extent to which such achievements exemplify the values, ideals and mission of the University, including people who may have a special connection to LAU.

**Procedures**

1. The number of honorary degrees awarded typically will range from one to four per year.
  
2. Honorary degrees will not be granted to any University Trustee during his/her service on the Board or to any faculty or staff member employed on a full-time basis at the University.
  
3. University Trustees, faculty, students, staff, and other members of the University Community may recommend potential Candidates for honorary degree to the President.
  
4. The President will consider Candidates recommended to him; should he approve the recommended Candidates, he in turn, will recommend them, after due diligence, to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Should the latter approve the recommendations of the President, the Chair of the BOT Academic Affairs Committee will recommend the approved Candidates to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee for consideration and final approval.
  
5. Normally, the awarding of honorary degrees will take place during commencement ceremonies at the end of the academic year; however, the President may award an honorary degree to an approved candidate at any time within two years of the Board or its Executive Committee's granting of that approval; thereafter, the President must again secure the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee's approval of the Candidate in order to award said honorary degree.

**Prohibition on Fees and Honoraria**

An honorary degree recipient shall not receive a speaker's fee or honorarium for accepting an honorary degree.

**Presence at Commencement or Other Official Ceremonies**

Except in exceptional circumstances, no honorary degree shall be conferred unless the recipient is present.