Responsible Office: Office of the President
Contact Number: 541.885.1100
Contact Email: president@oit.edu
Revision Date: 12/18/2025

Oregon Tech Policy
OIT-15-013
HONORARY DEGREES

1. Policy Statement

Oregon Tech awards honorary degrees to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to society through scholarship, industry leadership, excellence in applied research, or impactful public service. These degrees are the university's highest ceremonial honor and are awarded by the President upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

2. Reason for Policy/Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to document the process by which the university awards honorary degrees.

3. Applicability/Scope

This policy applies to all honorary degrees.

4. Definitions

Honorary degree: an academic degree awarded to an individual to recognize their significant contributions to a field or society, rather than being earned through traditional academic study only.

5. Policy

a. Criteria

Nominees should be distinguished in their respective fields, with their contributions widely recognized. The individual must have shown outstanding scholarship, achievement, or public service and contributions to society during their lifetime. While not mandatory, a connection to the university is beneficial. Nominees should demonstrate intellectual and humane values consistent with higher education, the highest ideals of their field, and Oregon Tech's mission.

b. Nominations and review

Nominations can be submitted by any member of the faculty, staff, student body, administration, Board of Trustees, alumni, or a member of the external community. Nominations may be submitted by letter or email to the president's office detailing how the nominee meets the criteria for an honorary degree. The president's office forwards nominations for review and comment by the President's Council.

c. Final approval

After review and comment by the President's Council, the President selects from any nominations, at his or her discretion. The President forwards the selected nomination or nominations to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for final approval. Upon approval by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, a formal communication will be sent by the President to the nominee informing them of the university's decision. If the Executive Committee declines to approve a nominee, such decision will be treated as discreetly and confidentially as allowed by law.

d. Revocation

The university reserves the right to rescind an honorary degree if, at any time, unethical or immoral behavior surfaces and, after exercising due diligence, the university determines that the awarded honorary degree may compromise the public trust or reputation of the university.

6. Links to Related Procedures, Forms, or Information

NA

7. Policy Review/Consultation

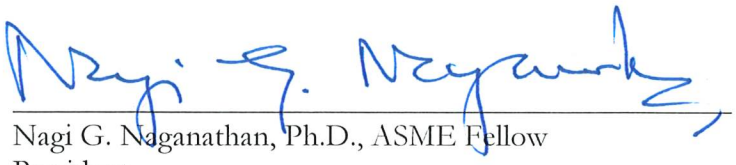
This policy was reviewed and open to consultation by the following Oregon Tech committees and/or advisory groups:

- **TBA**

This policy was adopted pursuant to Oregon Tech's policy review and making process.

8. Policy Approval

Approved by the President on December 18, 2025.



Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow
President

Adoption Date
12/18/2025