

R492, Honorary Degrees¹

R492-1 Purpose: To provide guidelines for Utah System of Higher Education (“USHE”) degree-granting institutions to award honorary degrees.

R492-2 References

- 2.1 Utah Code § 53B-2-103, Degree-granting Institution Board of Trustees
- 2.2 Utah Code § 53B-2a-105, Technical Colleges
- 2.3 Utah Code § 53B-16-103, Granting of Degrees, Diplomas, or Certifications

R492-3 Policy

3.1 Purposes of Honorary Degrees: The purpose of honorary degrees includes:

3.1.1 Recognizing a recipient who has achieved excellence and has made substantial contributions to their professional field, higher education in general, or to a specific educational institution;

3.1.2 Bringing distinction to both the recipient and the institution; and/or

3.1.3 Rewarding past donations and/or developing future donation opportunities (usually combined with the purposes in subsections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2).

3.2 Awarding Honorary Degrees: USHE degree-granting institutions may award honorary degrees. USHE institutional boards of trustees are responsible for selecting honorary degree recipient(s). Technical colleges, as defined in Utah Code section 53B-2a-105, do not award honorary degrees.

3.3 Reporting Requirements: USHE degree-granting institutions shall report anticipated honorary degree recipients to the Commissioner annually by May 1.

¹ Approved April 11, 1986; amended March 27, 2025.