I. Purpose

The purpose of an honorary degree is to bestow Northwest Missouri State University’s highest honor upon individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to humanity. By focusing deserved attention upon individuals of exemplary achievements, an honorary degree highlights the University as a community of scholars who endeavor to recognize those who advance knowledge and improve the human condition.

II. Policy

The degrees which may be granted are:
- Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)
- Doctors of Laws (L.L.D.)
- Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)
- Doctor of Pedagogy (Ped.D.)
- Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)

- No more than four such degrees may be granted in any one year.
- Honorary degrees shall be not be awarded posthumously or in absentia.
- An honorary degree may not be awarded in consideration of money or other gifts of value to the University.
- As a general policy, honorary degrees will not be awarded to active or retired members of the University’s faculty or staff or to political officials unless retired from political life.
Prior to public announcement by the President, all matters relating to honorary degrees will be treated as confidential.

### Process

- Nominations for honorary degrees may come from faculty, the Northwest Foundation, or the President’s Cabinet.
- A five-member committee will screen nominations. The committee will consist of three members of the faculty – one from each of the three colleges; one representative of the Foundation; and one member of the President’s Cabinet.
- The committee will submit its recommendation(s) to the president for submission to the Board of Regents. Final authority for awarding honorary degrees is vested in the Board of Regents.