

Policy Number:	2500
Policy Title:	Honorary Degrees and Awards
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Policy Statement

University Canada West (UCW) grants Honorary Degrees and Awards to distinguished persons who warrant recognition for their substantial accomplishments or significant contributions to society at the local, provincial, national, or international level that align with UCW's vision, mission and goals.

Purpose

This policy sets the framework for granting of honorary degrees and awards at UCW. Under its Terms of Reference, the Honorary Degrees & Awards Committee shall recommend for Academic Council's consideration candidates for honorary degrees and awards. The Committee has the authority to establish subcommittees for the purpose of soliciting and adjudicating nominations for honorary credentials, but will normally carry out the adjudication itself.

Scope

UCW grants the following Honorary Degrees:

- Doctor of Laws honoris causa (LLD)
- Doctor of Letters honoris causa (DLitt)
- Doctor of Science honoris causa (DSc)

An honorary degree is the highest honour the University can bestow. Honorary Degree nominees will have made local, provincial, national, or international contributions consistent with the vision, mission, and values of University Canada West. Recipients of Honorary Doctorates must be distinguished, with achievements both relevant and appropriate to UCW.

Nominees must not hold an elected office at any level (including municipal, provincial, or federal) or a current appointment at the University, nor have legal or operational influence over the University.

Current members of the University's Board, Academic Council, Faculty, or Staff are not normally be considered for an Honorary Degree. Honorary degrees are not normally given posthumously. Nominations are not normally accepted from members of a nominee's family.

Normally, Honorary Degrees are not awarded in absentia, and recipients are expected to attend Convocation to receive recognition.

UCW is not obliged to award an honorary doctorate in any year. Normally, not more than one honorary doctorate is bestowed at convocation.

UCW grants the following Awards:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Alumni Award
- Distinguished Teaching Award
- Emeritus/Emerita Designation

While primarily concerned with the internal awards, the Committee may, on occasion, advise the University on nominations for external awards.

In determining which candidates to recognize by awarding an honorary degree or award, the Committee and Academic Council, will, over time, attempt to achieve a balance across backgrounds, disciplines, and spheres of contribution, as well as to recognize and reflect Canada’s national character, regional and cultural diversity, and the diversity of the UCW community.

Definitions

These definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy:

Word/Expression	Definition
Distinguished Service Award	Awarded to honour and recognize exceptional, long-standing service to UCW and/or the educational community that it serves.
Distinguished Teaching Award	Exemplary teaching is highly regarded at UCW. UCW recognizes and celebrates exceptional teaching. This award recognizes remarkable teaching demonstrated by activities such as the development of new courses and curricula, contributions to the scholarship of teaching, development of effective teaching methods, enrichment of UCW’s learning environment, and contributions that improve teaching.
Doctor of Laws <i>honoris causa</i> (LLD)	Awarded in recognition of exceptional service to the University or community at large, usually as a way of honouring a distinguished individual’s contributions to a specific field, or to society in general, and benefits the University through association with the recipient. This is the most frequently awarded honorary degree.
Doctor of Letters <i>honoris causa</i> (DLitt)	Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in the humanities or literature.
Doctor of Science <i>honoris causa</i> (DSc)	Awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in the pure and applied sciences.
<i>Honoris Causa</i>	An honorary degree or degree <i>honoris causa</i> (Latin: "for the sake of the honour") is a degree for which the University has waived the usual requirements, such as matriculation, residence, study and the passing of examinations. The degree is typically a doctorate and may be awarded to someone who has no prior connection with the institution.
Emeritus/Emerita Designation	An honorary appointment for life awarded to a retired employee for distinguished service and academic contributions to UCW. The emeritus/emmerita appointment celebrates an employee’s distinguished performance, honours the employee’s standing of high regard among peers

Word/Expression	Definition
	and colleagues, and anticipates the continuation of the employee’s academic contributions to UCW after retirement.

Associated procedure

Procedure Number	Procedure Title
2500p	Honorary Degrees and Awards

Confidentiality

It is extremely important that all persons involved in the submission of the nominations recognize that this is a confidential process. Nominees will not be informed that they are under consideration. The only names that will be made public are those offered the award by the President of the University and who subsequently accept the award. The President determines when and how a degree or award recipient is made public.

The Office of the President is responsible for correspondence and communication with Honorary Degree and Distinguished Teaching Award recipients.

Rescission of Degrees

The UCW Board of Governors, upon recommendation of the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee, Academic Council, and the President, may revoke an Honorary Degree conferred by UCW based on a recipient’s conduct.