AP 4110 Honorary Degrees

Purpose:

The honorary associate's degree is the highest form of recognition offered by Southwestern Oregon Community College to persons of exceptional distinction. Honorary degrees shall be conferred by the Board of Education at commencement exercises.

- Honorary degrees shall be bestowed by the College President, the Chair of the Board of Education, or a Board member designated by the Chair.
- Honorary degrees may be awarded in absentia and posthumously, but only upon recommendation to the Board of Education by the College President in the case of extraordinary and compelling circumstances.
- To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the College and/or to the community at large; and
- To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the College's aspirations for its students.

Conditions of Eligibility:

1) Individual who has made a significant, noteworthy contribution to the college and/or to the community at large.
2) Individual who has demonstrated an enduring commitment of commendable service to the College.
3) Current faculty, staff, and Board members are not eligible. Faculty, staff, and Board members who have been separated from the College for at least five years are eligible.
4) Generally, the College will award no more than two honorary degrees in any academic year.
5) Honorary degree may be issued as one of the following:
   - Associate of General Studies (A.G.S.)
6) The following areas represent the categories and criteria used to determine the eligibility of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the college:
   - **Educational Service:** recognizing outstanding services that enhance educational opportunities within the college district or that gives personal assistance that leads to the success of individuals in higher education.
   - **Humanitarian Service:** recognizing outstanding altruism that enhances the quality of life for others within the college district.
   - **Servant Leadership:** recognizing outstanding service that goes “the extra mile” in any area of leadership and that benefits others and/or enhances their leadership capabilities.
   - **Arts and Culture:** recognizing outstanding contributions to the arts in any form that enhances the quality of life within the college district.
   - **Entrepreneurial Leadership**: recognizing outstanding contributions to business and industry through creative start-ups of new enterprises or through innovative management, business, or industry within the college district.

Procedures for the Nomination and Selection of Honorary Degree Recipients:

1) Coordination of the nomination and selection process for honorary degree recipients is the responsibility of the College President who shall consult with delegate representatives from:
   a. Faculty
   b. Associated Student Government
   c. SWOCC Foundation
2) Nominations for honorary degree recipients will be encouraged and accepted from any member of the College community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and friends of the College.

3) Each nomination must include the nomination form (Attachment A) and letter of support. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office of the President or the College website and must be submitted by the published deadline.
4) The President (or her/his designee) will meet with the delegate representatives to review all nomination packets received and to make a recommendation to the College President for awarding the honorary degree. Generally, the review and selection process will take place in March each year.
5) In order to ensure that any recipient receives ample notice, the College President will make a recommendation to the SWOCC Board of Education for review and consideration at the April Board of Education Meeting.
6) The President or designee will notify the recipient(s) of their honorary degree award and extend an invitation to receive their award as part of Commencement in June.

Purpose of Awarding an Honorary Degree:

- To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the College and/or to the community at large
- To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the College's aspirations for its students

In accordance with SWOCC Administrative Procedure AP4110, the nomination and selection process for awarding Honorary Degrees is as follows:

1) Coordination of the nomination and selection process for honorary degree recipients is the responsibility of the College President who shall consult with a delegate of representatives from:
   a. Faculty
   b. Associated Student Government
   c. SWOCC Foundation
2) Nominations for honorary degree recipients will be encouraged and accepted from any member of the College community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and friends of the College.
3) Each nomination must include the nomination form (below) and letter of support. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office of the President or the College website and must be submitted by the published deadline.
4) The President or designee will meet with the delegate representatives to review all nomination packets received and to make a recommendation to the College President for awarding the honorary degree. Generally, the review and selection process will take place in March each year.
5) In order to ensure that any recipient receives ample notice, the College President will make a recommendation to the SWOCC Board of Education for review and consideration at the April work session.
6) The President or designee will notify the recipient(s) of their honorary degree award and extend an invitation to receive their award as part of Commencement in June.

Conditions of Eligibility:

1) Individual who has made a significant, noteworthy contribution to the college and/or to the community at large
2) Individual who has demonstrated an enduring commitment of commendable service to the College.
3) Current faculty, staff, and Board members are not eligible. Faculty, staff, and Board members who have been separated from the College for at least five years are eligible.

SWOCC HONORARY DEGREE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Deadline: March 1st of each year

I. HONORARY DEGREE AWARD RECOMMENDED

_____A. Associate of General Studies (A.G.S.)

II. INFORMATION ON THE NOMINEE

Nominee's Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Work # _____ Home #_____ Cell # _____

Email Address: _____

Current Employer/Position: _____

Describe why the person should receive a degree based upon the following criteria:

_____

_____

III. SERVICE RECORD OF THE NOMINEE

Please state your opinion as to why the nominee should receive this award. In particular, what has this person done that sets him or her apart from his or her peers? Identify positions held (private, public, volunteer, or other). Attach your statement of nomination along with a copy of the nominees resume if available and any other letters of support for this nomination to this form.

The following areas represent the categories and criteria used to determine the eligibility of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the college:

- **Educational Service:** recognizing outstanding services that enhance educational opportunities within the college district or that gives personal assistance that leads to the success of individuals in higher education.
- **Humanitarian Service:** recognizing outstanding altruism that enhances the quality of life for others within the college district.
- **Servant Leadership:** recognizing outstanding service that goes "the extra mile" in any area of leadership and that benefits others and/or enhances their leadership capabilities.
- **Arts and Culture:** recognizing outstanding contributions to the arts in any form that enhances the quality of life within the college district.
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership**: recognizing outstanding contributions to business and industry through creative start-ups of new enterprises or through innovative management, business, or industry within the college district.

IV. NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name:_____

Current Employer/Position: _____

Work # _____ Home #_____ Cell # _____

Email Address: _____

Do you wish for this nomination to remain confidential? □ Yes □ No

Date:_____Signature: _____

Adopted by Board of Education: Policy #9.036 April 24, 1970
Changed to Administrative Policy January 22, 1996
Revised: May 2, 2018 (Formerly Admin. Policy 8.002)
Renumber: October 20, 2023 (Formerly APP 8049)
Revised: July 23, 2025

Southwestern Oregon Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability status, gender identity, or protected veterans in employment, education, or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations.