

## HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### **AP 4110          Honorary Degree**

**Reference:**        Education Code Section 72122

An honorary degree is an academic degree awarded by the College to an individual who has made significant contributions to a particular field or to society in general, often without requiring the recipient to complete a formal course of study. This degree serves as a form of recognition, signifying that the College honors the recipient's achievements. The primary purpose of an honorary degree is to acknowledge and celebrate an individual's outstanding achievements and impact in areas like public service, arts, science, business, and philanthropy. While the degree does not confer academic credentials or the right to practice a profession, honorary degrees are considered a high honor from the College, symbolizing the institution's values and the recipient's embodiment of those ideals.

Nominations for recipients of honorary degrees may be made by any group or individual and must be submitted to the superintendent/president by February 1 to be considered for commencement. Under extenuating circumstances, the due date for the nomination and date of awarding of an honorary degree may be changed with the agreement of the superintendent/president.

It is understood that honorary degrees will be awarded infrequently. No more than two honorary degrees will be awarded in any one academic year.

Honorary degrees may be awarded at commencement or other equally appropriate time.

The degree awarded shall be an associate of arts or associate of science degree as appropriate. Recipients must have distinguished themselves in education, community or national service, or in their profession. Their service must support the mission, vision, and values of the District.

A letter of nomination for an honorary degree shall be submitted to the superintendent/president. The letter of nomination shall include:

Name of recipient

Educational and professional experience

Record of distinguished service that justifies awarding of an honorary degree

Occasion at which degree is to be awarded

Upon receipt of the letter of nomination, the superintendent/president shall form a committee comprising of:

Chief Instructional Officer

One additional administrator appointed by the superintendent/president

Academic Senate President or designee

Two additional faculty members appointed by the Academic Senate

The superintendent/president may consult with individuals not mentioned above.

The recommendation of the committee is made to the superintendent/president. The superintendent/president will review the recommendation, and if appropriate, forward the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration. Honorary Degree nominees must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

If the holder of an honorary degree is found not to uphold the criteria and standards for which the degree was awarded, the superintendent/president can make the request to rescind the degree to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall make the final determination regarding whether any previously conferred honorary degree shall be revoked.

See BP 4110

Approved by Superintendent/President: April 7, 2026