



# California Health Sciences University

## UNIVERSITY

### POLICY ON AWARDS AND HONORARY DEGREES

#### **PURPOSE**

California Health Sciences University ("CHSU") may be interested in providing special recognition to individuals who have outstanding achievements or demonstrated leadership in a field or activity consistent with CHSU's mission, vision, or purpose. This Policy sets forth the standards and procedures for granting awards or honorary degrees.

#### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all honorary degrees awarded by the University.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT AND RELATED PROCEDURES**

Honorary degrees may be awarded by the University to persons who meet the criteria identified below. The honorary degree is a type of award. It is not expected or required that the recipient meet the University's requirements for graduation. The degree does not qualify the recipient to practice in a profession, apply for an advanced degree, or to apply for licensure. The University may award the Honorary Doctor of Health Sciences or Doctor of the University degrees.

##### Criteria for the Awards and Honorary Degrees.

Honorary degrees and awards may be given in recognition of an individual's achievements and/or leadership in areas relevant to the University's mission, vision, or academic programs, including, without limitation, accomplishments in advancing healthcare, achievements in biomedical sciences, and contributions to improving the quality of life in the Central Valley of California.

##### Procedure for Determining Awards and Honorary Degrees.

The University may award honorary degrees or other special awards upon recommendation of the President and approval by at least three-fourths vote of the members present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held at least one month prior to awarding the honorary degree.

##### Nomination for Awards and Honorary Degrees.

Members of the University community, including trustees, students, faculty, and staff, can submit nominations of qualified individuals for awards or honorary degrees. The nominations should be supported with a brief (no longer than one page in length) recommendation letter and

should identify the achievements or contributions of the nominee that make the individual an appropriate award or honorary degree recipient. Nominations should be submitted directly to the President/Provost and will be received on a rolling basis at any time during the year. The University will complete review as needed to verify a nominee's qualification and eligibility for an award or honorary degree. The nominations will be reviewed by the President/Provost. If the President approves the nomination, the nomination shall be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final approval. The Board of Trustees shall take affirmative action to approve the conferral of the honorary degree on the individual.

#### Revocation of Honorary Degrees

The University retains the right to rescind the award of an honorary degree if at any time after an honorary degree has been awarded the University becomes aware that the degree recipient has engaged in criminal, unethical or immoral behavior or activity and such activity has been verified by the University.

Where the University President believes that an honoree's misconduct is appropriate cause for rescission of the degree, the President will present information and documentation to the Board of Trustees warranting the revocation of an honorary degree. The Board will then review and consider this evidence and by vote of at least three-fourths vote may revoke the honorary degree. If revocation is approved, the recipient will be notified in writing of the Board's decision by the President.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The University President's office is responsible for this policy.

#### **HISTORY (R\*)**

Approval Date(s): 02/26/2024.

Initial Approval by Board of Trustees: 02/24/2024, 8/12/2019.

Previously revised on 02/26/2024, 6/6/2023.

**R:** President, Provost

**A:** Registrar, Deans, and Directors of Academic Programs

**C:** Legal

**I:** President, Provost, Deans and Directors of Academic Programs, Faculty