

From the By-Laws of the Graduate School, passed by the Board of Trustees in July, 2008:

ARTICLE FOUR: HONORARY DEGREES

4.1 Purpose

The award of an honorary degree by the University of Louisville should serve any or all of several purposes: first and foremost, it serves to honor individuals on whom the degree is conferred; secondly, it invites individuals into communion with the community of scholars that constitutes the University, i.e., it makes the honorees alumni of the University; and thirdly, it demonstrates to the world the kind of persons, activities, and accomplishments that are valued by the University. In other words, an honorary degree provides the world with a basis on which to judge the University.

The reputation of the individuals to whom an honorary degree is awarded may range from local to international. The honorees may be friends of the University who are otherwise unknown, but whose friendships are so valued that the University community feels pride in inviting them to join their members. On the other hand, honorees may be people of international renown whose works are so highly regarded and relevant as to support this invitation to membership. The types of degrees conferred honoris causa permit the recognition of different individuals for many different reasons. The Honorary Degrees Committee shall present the names of qualified individuals to the Graduate Council for its action, i.e., either for recommendation to the Board of Trustees or for return to the Committee. Those recommended by the Graduate Council will be forwarded to the President for presentation to the Board of Trustees for final authorization of the degrees.

4.2 Nominations and Selection

Nominations should be received on a continuing basis. A preliminary nomination by an individual or a set of individuals must include a brief listing of the accomplishments of the nominee, an abstract of the nominee's curriculum vitae or résumé, a listing of the reasons supporting the consideration for an honorary degree, letters of support of the nomination and a statement of rationale indicating why the University of Louisville should make the proposed award.

- A. The nominee might have made some important contribution--either tangible or intangible--to the University and/or the community.
- B. The nominee's work might influence or somehow touch on similar work being performed at the University.
- C. The award might in one or more ways attract attention to the University in a beneficial manner.
- D. The Graduate School will acknowledge receipt of the nominations; a complete dossier will be requested if the nominee appears to be a likely candidate on the basis of the preliminary information.