

AP 4110 Honorary Degree

Reference: **Education Code Section 72122**

Date Issued: May 19, 2015

Date Reviewed: [Board Date]

I. Guidelines

- a. The Chancellor, with ~~support~~ **endorsement** from a college's Academic Senate, recommends the awarding of an honorary degree to the Board of Trustees.
- b. The Board of Trustees shall approve recipients of all honorary degrees.
- c. ~~The following categories of honorary degrees shall be recognized for conferral by the Board of Trustees:~~
 - i. ~~Associate of Arts~~
 - ii. ~~Associate of Science~~
- d. **Honorary degrees shall be awarded as an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science in a particular discipline and be issued in the name of one of the two Colleges in the District.**

II. Purpose For Which Honorary Degrees May be Conferred

- a. To recognize **inspirational character**, excellence, and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are the mission, ~~and goals~~ **vision, and values** of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.
- b. To honor meritorious and outstanding **public** service to ~~California community colleges; collectively, or to Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, individually; to the State of California; to the United States; or the District, its~~ **Colleges**, and to humanity-at-large.
- c. To recognize ~~women and men~~ **those** whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's aspirations for its diverse student body.

III. Criteria for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees

- a. **The basis for the selection of a degree recipient shall be consistent with the Purposes of Honorary Degrees stated above.**
- b. Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in all parts of the world. Honorary degrees awarded ~~may represent a wide diversity of endeavors~~ **must be both relevant and appropriate to the nominating campus..**
- c. Nominees for honorary degrees must be distinguished in their respective fields.
- d. Service or benefactions to the District ~~itself~~ do not ~~alone in themselves~~ justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, ~~nothing in these criteria shall~~ **do not** preclude nominees who are in political life, or who are benefactors of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, or who have assisted the District in noteworthy ways.

IV. Limitations on Eligibility

- a. Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:
 - i. Incumbent members ~~of the Board of Trustees~~ of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. **Board of Trustees.**
 - ii. Any current employee of the ~~college district~~. **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.**
 - iii. Incumbent elected officials **or active candidates for elective public office..**

V. Procedures for Selecting Honorary Degree Recipients

- a. In all steps of these procedures, utmost care will be taken to ensure confidentiality. A breach of confidentiality could seriously ~~embarrass~~ **harm** the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and those individuals under consideration for the receipt of an honorary degree. Recommendations of persons to receive honorary degrees are encouraged from any member of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District community, including Trustees, the Chancellor of the District, faculty, students, administrative staff, classified staff, alumni, campus Advisory Board members, Foundation Board members and ~~other~~ friends of the District.
 - i. All recommendations shall be submitted through the Chancellor of the District. The recommendations will be in writing and will include relevant backup material.
 - ii. The Chancellor will consult with the Academic Senate for selecting honorary degree recipients.
 - iii. The Board of Trustees, meeting in Closed Session, shall make the final determination and will, by virtue of its exclusive authority in this matter, “award” the degree to the nominees they feel are most deserving.

VI. Conferral of Degree

- a. Honorary degrees may be conferred during any Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District function that the Board of Trustees considers appropriate.
- b. Normally, the following will participate in the conferral ceremony:
 - i. The Chancellor of the District (or designee) will read the Citation.
 - ii. The President of the Board of Trustees (or designee) will confer the honorary degree and issue the diploma.
 - iii. The Vice President of ~~Instruction~~ **Academic Affairs** or Vice President of Student Services will cap the degree recipient.