



## *Honorary Degree*

Purpose: Honorary Degrees are awarded:

- (1) to bring national recognition and renown to the University;
- (2) to recognize outstanding contributions to society such as scholarship, artistic production, or humanitarianism; and
- (3) to aid in attracting outstanding commencement speakers.

Eligibility for Consideration: Consideration will be given to qualified candidates without regard to race, sex, creed or national origin.

The most important single guideline determining eligibility is implied in the fact that the recipients of the degree are forever associated with the University, and therefore, must be of sufficient stature and character so as to honor the University by receiving an honorary degree from it.

Examples of such persons might be prominent graduates, important business leaders, outstanding professional persons, leaders in public affairs, statesmen, prominent educators, outstanding humanitarians, and persons distinguished in the arts, sciences, and the humanities.

There should be clear demonstration why these individuals should be recognized by an institution of higher learning and more specifically Virginia Commonwealth University. Also, the individuals considered should be recognized for their contribution to society.

There are a number of people who, because of positions held, should not normally be considered for honorary degrees. This group includes members of the Board of Visitors and present employees of the University. In addition, emeriti faculty and former members of the Board should only be considered for honorary degrees on an exceptional basis.

Number of Awards: No more than five (5) honorary degrees will be awarded within a one-year period.

Time of Awards: Conferral of honorary degrees may be made at Commencement or at other special occasions.

Public Announcements: Public announcement of the award is to be handled exclusively through the Office of the President.