

Policy Title: Honorary Credentials
Policy Approver: Senate
Policy Holder: Senate
Executive Lead: Vice-President, Academic and Student Services
Category: Academic
Original Date: March 2020
Next Review: June 2022

Policy Statement

Yukon University acknowledges and celebrates exceptional service and contributions to the greater good, as well as excellence in scholarship, scientific inquiry, and artistic achievement, through the conferring of honorary credentials.

Individuals selected to receive an honorary credential will have a record of contribution and accomplishment that, while reflecting the mission, aspirations, ideals, or values of Yukon University, will serve as an inspiration to our students, graduates, and our community as a whole.

Approval Statement

With the consent of Senate and approval of the Senate co-chairs, this policy is hereby deemed in effect the 1st day of June, 2020.

Karen Barnes

March 11, 2020

Co-chair, Senate

Date

Ernie Prokopchuk

March 11, 2020

Co-chair, Senate

Date

1. Purpose of Policy

Honorary credentials are conferred *honoris causa*, or “for the sake of honor,” and are the highest academic award a university can grant. Yukon University awards honorary credentials, on a highly selective basis, to distinguished individuals who deserve special recognition for outstanding achievement. Because an honorary credential is an academic award that reflects the highest ideals and values of Yukon University, recipients shall exemplify qualities that embrace diversity, respect, excellence, accountability, integrity, leadership, or service.

The goal of inviting and awarding an honoree to convocation is to bring credit to the University, inspire students, graduates, and the community, and to highlight the University’s values and aspirations.

2. Governing Legislation and Relevant Documents

Yukon University Act

Yukon University Institutional Values

3. Scope

Under the University Act, the conferring of credentials falls under the powers of the Senate. This policy will guide the actions and decision-making of the Senate regarding the issuance of any honorary credential.

4. Definitions

- **Honorary Credential:** The most prestigious academic award the University can offer. While the name suggests the recipient is worthy of holding the same earned academic credential, the recipient does not gain the professional privileges that an earned credential would entail. An honorary credential can be at the diploma, certificate, or degree (baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral) level.
- **Greater Good:** The concept, broad in nature, of providing a benefit to the public, including the communities that comprise it.

5. Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the interpretation of this policy:

- Honorary credentials are reserved for individuals who have made a significant and lasting contribution;
- The recipient’s contribution is not valued solely by its scale; it can be at the community or local level, at the global level, or anywhere in between;
- Awarding an honorary credential reflects the contemporary understanding of Yukon University’s character and values at their best; and
- The recipient of an honorary credential should inspire graduates and the broader community.

6. Other Related and/or Accompanying Documents

Addendum A – Policy Communication Checklist

AC 5.1 – Honorary Credentials Procedures

Appendix A: Honorary Credential Nomination Form

7. Document History

Include all updates here, including housekeeping changes, beginning with formal approval.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Update</i>
March 2020	Approved by Yukon University Senate.

ADDENDUM A - POLICY COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

Policy Name: Honorary Credentials Policy

Number: AC 5.0

Submitted by: Michael Kulachkosky, on behalf of Senate/Internal Academic Governance

List those consulted with in preparation of this policy:

Name	Department	Date
Internal Academic Governance subcommittee	Academic Council/Senate	Throughout fall of 2019
Davida Wood and Jenilee Cook	First Nations Initiatives	September 25, 2019
Jacqueline Bedard	University and External Relations	October, 2019
YCStaff	(All employees)	December 10, 2019

This checklist must be completed prior to the final draft of a policy being presented to Senate for approval.

Body	Communication Planned	Completed	Comments
SEC			
Student Union	Yes	Yes	
Employee's Union	No	/	
Occupational Health and Safety	No	/	
Senate	Yes	Yes	
Board or a Board subcommittee	Yes	Yes	
Other			
Senate for Final Review	March 2020		