I. PURPOSE OF HONORARY DEGREE AWARD

Honorary degrees may be awarded by the University to persons who merit special recognition in line with the University’s mission, vision or values.

II. HONORARY DEGREE DESCRIPTION

An honorary degree may be awarded by the University to persons who have not met the University’s graduation requirements. The degree is a type of award, and as such does not allow the recipient to practice in the respective profession or to apply for licensure. The University may award an honorary degree for any degree available through any of its Colleges.

III. CRITERIA

An honorary degree may be awarded to a person who satisfies the following criteria:

- For an individual whose contributions of time and effort to the University or their profession are extraordinary; or
- For an individual who has accomplished a genuine achievement and distinction in a field, activity or public service; or
- An adequate reason for recognition by the University for the person’s achievements in line with the University’s mission, vision and values.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND APPROVAL

Nominations for honorary degree recipients shall be made from any member of the University community. Nominations should be made directly to the Provost with a letter of support explaining why the individual should be considered for an honorary degree. Nominations may be submitted on a rolling basis at any time during the year.

If the Provost approves of the nomination, the nomination shall be forwarded to the President for review. 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. After such approval, the President, Provost, or designee, may award
such degree either at the next commencement ceremony for the University’s Colleges or in extraordinary circumstances at another time during the year.

- Policy Owner: Provost
- Effective Date: 8/12/2019
- Approval by Provost Date: 8/14/2019
- Approval by the President: 8/14/2019
- Approval by Board of Trustees: 8/12/2019