

Policy Title: Honorary Credentials Policy
Policy Approver: Senate
Policy Holder: Office of the Provost and VP Academic
Executive Lead: Provost and VP Academic
Category: Academic Policy
Original Date: March 2020
Last Revised: December 2023
Next Review: September 2025

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 the Senate Executive Committee and approval of the Senate, this policy is hereby deemed in effect on December 13, 2023



Lesley Brown
Co-Chair, Senate
Yukon University

December 13, 2023

Date



Ernie Prokopchuk
Co-Chair, Senate
Yukon University

December 13, 2023

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. 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.

3. 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.

4. Other Related and/or Accompanying Documents

AW 5.1 Honorary Credentials Procedures

AW 5.1A Honorary Credentials Nomination Form

5. Document History

Include all updates here, including non-substantive changes, beginning with formal approval.

<i>Date (Month DD, YYYY)</i>	<i>Update (Approver: change)</i>
March 2020	New policy and procedures approved by Senate
January 2022	Procedures AC5.1 amended: section 4.2 (level of credential)
December 2023	Policy and Procedures revision approved by Senate By University Secretariat: policy code change from AC5.0 to AW5.0 to reflect the new policy classification