



Title: #V-14. Guidelines for the Granting of Honorary Degrees at WVU Parkersburg

Date: February 10, 2026 (Replaces version dated September 24, 2025)

I. Introduction and Purpose

WVU Parkersburg confers honorary degrees upon selected candidates who in the field of their endeavors have made distinctive contributions to the well being of humankind, higher education, and/or WVU Parkersburg. The honorary degree is granted for the purpose of promoting the image of the institution, and to recognize and thereby encourage a standard of excellence, which is exemplary to WVU Parkersburg students.

II. Candidates and categories (no preference indicated by order)

1. Graduates of WVU Parkersburg who in the fields of their endeavors have made distinctive contributions such as to reflect singular honor upon their alma mater.

Or

2. Persons whose contributions to the well being of humankind and/or the quality of life in society warrant recognition, and which recognition would in turn reflect honor upon WVU Parkersburg.

Or

3. Persons whose loyalty, dedication, and support to WVU Parkersburg warrant unusual and special recognition.

III. Honorary Degree Screening Committee

An Honorary Degree Screening Committee shall be appointed annually by the President for the purpose of accepting and screening nominations for honorary degrees. The committee shall be comprised of faculty, staff, administration, student, and alumni representatives.

IV. Nomination and Selection Procedures:

Nominations for honorary degrees may come from members of the faculty and staff at WVU Parkersburg and the Jackson County Center, from members of the Foundation Board, from alumni, and from others whose services to or interests in WVU Parkersburg are already established and recognized.

When submitting a name for consideration as a nominee to receive an honorary degree from WVU Parkersburg, a sponsor (whoever makes the nomination) is required to gather and to place in the Office of Academic Affairs all qualifying information:

- (1) Letter of Nomination
- (2) A one-page vitae
- (3) Other criteria-supporting information.

A one-page letter may be submitted at anytime during the year for pre-screening. If the candidate is considered viable, a full nomination will be requested.

For Degree Bestowal at the Spring Commencement:

All qualifying material for a nominee should be in the Office of Academic Affairs by the date specified in an annual memo for consideration of the candidates for degree bestowal at the Spring Commencement.

The screening committee shall forward no more than two nominations to the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate shall review the nominations **in executive session** and inform the President of their recommendation.

The President will present honorary degree recommendations to the Board of Governors whose decision is final.

Responsible Administrator: Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, 304-424-8242