

5.0 Section V Rules Relating To Attending The University

5.4.0 DEGREES, HONORS, GRADUATION

A Commencement Convocation shall be held annually

5.4.1 RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

For an undergraduate degree a minimum of thirty (30) of the last thirty-six (36) credits presented for the degree must be taken from the University, but not necessarily on the Lexington campus....[].....

5.4.2 GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT HONORS (these rules are established by and may only be amended by the elected faculty senators in the University Senate)

5.4.2.1 Authority. Pursuant to KRS 164.240, the University Faculty is assigned by law the authority to recommend to the Board of Trustees those conditions of merit and circumstance that the Board may establish relating to certain honors associated with degrees. Pursuant to KRS 164.240, the University Faculty is also assigned the authority to recommend to the Board of Trustees those persons upon whom the Board may confer these honors. For the purposes of these *University Senate Rules*, and within the meaning of KRS 164.240, such honors conferred to students upon their graduation are referred to as "degree honors," while such awards to others are referred to as "Honorary Degrees" (capitalized).

The Board of Trustees has delegated to the body the "University Faculty," the Board's final approval authority in the establishment of conditions of merit and circumstance for "degree honors" as well as its final authority to confer such honors, within the framework of the University Senate (BOT 12/10/1917). The Board of Trustees has specifically identified the elected faculty senators (as the representatives of the University Faculty) as being the body authorized to act for the University Faculty in making final policy and decisions concerning "degree honors" (BOT 06/10/2005; GR IV.A,C)

With respect to "Honorary Degrees," the Board of Trustees has reserved its statutory authority to make final approval of conditions of merit and circumstance for, as well as final approval of the award of, such degrees, with the proviso that as per KRS 164.240, its final action on either conditions or nominees is contingent upon the recommendation by the elected faculty senators in the University Senate (BOT 06/10/2005; GR IV.A,C).

5.4.2.2 Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors

- A Students shall be graduated "Summa Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.8 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). (US: 10/11/94; US: 4/11/94)
- B Students shall be graduated "Magna Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.6 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). (US: 4/11/94)

- C Students shall be graduated "Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.4 to 3.6 for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). (US: 4/11/94)
- D Students with a minimum of two but less than three years of work at the University shall receive the appropriate commencement honors if they attain a grade point average of 0.2 greater than the above.
- * Courses taken under the auspices of the National Student Exchange program (and for which students pay their tuition to the University of Kentucky) can be considered as courses taken at UK for purposes of both Rule 5.4.1's residence requirement and for conferring graduation honors under Sections A - D of Rule 5.4.2. (RC: 2/14/01)
- E The degree with honors from a professional college shall be based solely upon work done in the professional college.
- F The bachelor's degree with honors in a student's major or a degree with honors from a professional college will be conferred upon a student whom the faculty or the student's department, or college in the case of a professional college, and the dean of the student's college recommend receive the degree. A student may be required to complete work in addition to that required for the bachelor's or professional degree to receive a degree with honors. (US: 12/13/82)
- G All students in the Honors Program of the University who do not have a grade point standing of 3.5 or better but are in the top ten percent (10%) of their college's class are eligible to graduate in the Honors Program if they satisfy the other requirements and have approval of the Honors Program Director.
- * A student who has invoked the academic bankruptcy rule (V - 5.3.1.7) during his/her University career shall be considered, for the purposes of commencement honors, as having attended the University only for those hours earned subsequent to readmission. (RC: 6/21/83)
 - * A student need not be enrolled full-time to fulfill the years of work necessary to receive commencement honors. Two years of work means 60 credit hours; three years means 90 credits. (RC: 5/8/85)
- ~~H Work done at Lexington Community College shall be counted as work at the University of Kentucky in calculating the grade point average for honors. [RC: 11/20/87] (US 4/10/00)~~
- ~~The associate degree with honors from Lexington Community College shall be based solely upon work done in the College or the University of Kentucky. (US 4/10/00)~~
- ~~Students shall be graduated "With High Distinction" who attain a grade point average of 3.6 or higher based on at least 48 credit hours of work at Lexington Community College or the University of Kentucky. (US 4/10/00)~~

~~Students shall be graduated “With Distinction” who attain a grade point average of 3.4 or higher based on at least 48 credit hours of work at Lexington Community College or the University of Kentucky. (US 4/10/00)~~

5.4.2.3 Conditions of Circumstance for Honorary Degrees

A Role of the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD).

The elected faculty senators in the University Senate here opt to incorporate by reference the composition and charge to the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees as described in AR III-XXX. Using the conditions of merit for Honorary Degrees specified SR 5.4.2.4 below, the UJCHD develops recommendations on nominees for Honorary Degrees. The UJCHD submits its recommendations to the elected faculty senators in the University Senate.

The UJCHD may submit to the elected faculty senators, through the elected faculty representatives to the Senate Council, policy recommendations concerning conditions of merit and circumstance for the award of Honorary Degrees.

B. Role of the Elected Faculty Senators in the University Senate

1. Within the framework of a University Senate meeting, and prior to consideration of any specific nominations, the elected faculty senators may exercise its option to decide that no nominees for honorary degrees will be recommended to the Board of Trustees that academic year.

2. If the elected faculty senators do not opt for the above outcome (SR 5.4.2.3.B.1), then the elected faculty senators shall consider the UJCHD recommendations concerning

- the qualifications of the submitted nominees,
- the appropriateness of the recommended honorary degree title for each,
- the alternative occasion on which the degree is recommended to be conferred (if not at Commencement), and
- any other recommendations of the committee for departure from the conditions of circumstance specified herein.

3. The respective recommendation for each nominee shall be considered and voted on individually by the elected faculty senators. The elected faculty senators may in addition approve, or may modify, the recommendation on the degree title or other circumstance of award of the degree. Those nominees, degree titles, and circumstances of award that are approved by the elected faculty senators shall be forwarded through the Chair of the Senate (the President) to the Board of Trustees for final action. Prior to the vote by the elected faculty senators, the Chair of the Senate (or that Chair’s designee), may address the University Senate as to the qualifications of a particular nominee or as to exceptions to the conditions of circumstance.

4. Under extraordinary circumstances, and with written justification to the Board of Trustees through the Chair of the Senate, the elected faculty representatives in the University Senate may through a deliberative process commensurate to the

circumstance recommend for an honorary degree a person not among the nominees recommended by UJCHD. This option is not dependent upon the exercise of SR 5.4.2.3.B.2, above.

C. Circumstances for Award of Honorary Degrees

- 1. The number of honorary degrees awarded at any given ceremony shall be limited to three.
- 2. The honoree must be present to receive the honorary degree.
- 3. The honorary degree shall be conferred at the regular university commencement ceremony.

D. Titles of Honorary Degrees

The titles approved by the elected faculty senators for Honorary Degrees are:

- Honorary Doctor of Arts
- Honorary Doctor of Laws
- Honorary Doctor of Science
- Honorary Doctor of Engineering
- Honorary Doctor of Humanities
- Honorary Doctor of Letters

5.4.2.4 Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees [to be considered later]

5.4.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

To be eligible for any degree, a student must have completed the requirements,[]

5.4.5 DIPLOMAS

Diplomas may be issued at the annual Commencement Convocation. They may be issued by the University Registrar at other times when the degrees have been recommended by the elected faculty senators in the University Senate and approved by the Board of Trustees.

A Diplomas Issued to Graduated Students

Pursuant to delegation from the Board of Trustees, the University Senate establishes final policy on the informational content to be included on diplomas (GR IV.C. 3). Diplomas attesting the award of degrees and honors may be issued at the annual Commencement Convocation. They may be issued by the University Registrar at other times when the degrees have been recommended by the University Faculty through the elected faculty senators in University Senate and approved by the Board of Trustees (KRS 164.240; GR IV.A).

Diplomas shall display the name of the University, the name of the degree being conferred, the authority under which the indicated degree is being conferred, and signatures representing that authority (i.e., the University Senate being represented by the signature of the President who is Chair of the University Senate, and the Board of Trustees being represented by the signature of the Chair of the Board).

Each college dean shall attest to the Registrar the names of graduates in their college who have met the conditions for the "degree honors" prescribed above in SR 5.4.2.2.A-F. The Registrar shall ascertain the names of graduates who have met the conditions for Honors Program recognition (SR 5.4.2.2.G). The honors specified in SR 5.4.2.2.A-G shall be displayed on the diploma, along with the signatures of the attesting college dean and Registrar.

Upon the recommendation of the elected faculty Senators in the University Senate, the Board of Trustees may award, and prescribe conditions for, new categories of academic honors that are conferred only upon final Board action (pursuant to KRS 164.240 and GR IV.A).

B Diplomas Issued to Recipients of Honorary Degrees

Diplomas attesting to the award of an Honorary Degree shall include the name of the University, the date of the award of the degree and its title, that the authority under which the Honorary Degree is being conferred is that of the "Board of Trustees" and the "University Faculty", and signatures representing that authority (i.e., the University Faculty being represented by the signature of the President who is Chair of the University Senate, and the Board of Trustees being represented by the signature of the Chair of the Board).