

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Honorary Doctorate Degree is the highest form of recognition granted by Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to recognize persons who are distinguished by their significant contributions and accomplishments and whose excellence will reflect positively upon Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The authorized degrees are as follows:

- Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*), (LL.D.), awarded in recognition of community and public service.
- Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*), (D.Litt.), awarded in recognition of contributions to the arts, humanities and social sciences.
- Doctor of Technology (*Honoris Causa*), (D.Tech.), awarded in recognition of contributions to science and technology and other related fields such as design.

Nominations for honorary degree candidates are invited from members of the University community and the community-at-large. Normally, nominations or letters of support will not be accepted from members of the nominee's family.

ELIGIBILITY

All persons who are distinguished by their significant contributions and accomplishments and whose excellence will reflect positively upon KPU are eligible for nomination.

Honorary degrees are not normally awarded to those who currently hold political office, including senators, or to current KPU employees.

Awards will not normally be granted posthumously.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria for the award are significant contributions, accomplishments, and excellence. Nominees must be exceptionally distinguished: scholars, creative artists, public servants, persons prominent in the community and the professions, or others who have made significant contributions locally, nationally, or globally.

In approving candidates for honorary degrees, Senate values diversity of backgrounds, disciplines, and spheres of contribution.

Honorary degrees are intended to honour individuals who are widely recognized for one or more of the following:

- outstanding and sustained achievements in their areas of expertise
- noteworthy public service
- a standard of excellence in one or more fields of endeavour
- distinguished and noteworthy achievement in their field of study or service during their career
- dedication to and recognition of academic excellence
- entrepreneurship
- a legacy of respect and understanding toward others

Honorary Degree: Nomination Guidelines

- a legacy of humanitarian contribution(s)

Honorary degrees may also be awarded for meritorious service to education or to KPU, where the service has brought distinction and honour to KPU.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominators must complete the [online nomination form](#) (or the [fillable pdf form](#), for non-KPU nominators) and submit a complete nomination dossier. Incomplete submissions may be returned without review.

Nomination Dossier

The nomination dossier provides expanded context and supporting details for the nomination. It must provide focused, outcome-based evidence of the nominee's significant contributions, accomplishments, and impact.

Each document submitted as part of the dossier must be in PDF format. All text prepared specifically for the nomination—including statements, letters of support, and summaries—must use a font size of at least 11 points.

Taken together, the entire dossier must not exceed 20 pages, including all appendices and supplementary material. Every page of every document counts toward this limit. Dossiers that are incomplete or exceed the 20-page limit will be returned.

A complete nomination dossier must include the following components:

1. A rationale for the nomination (not exceeding 2 pages) explaining why the nominee is worthy of an honorary degree and their connection to KPU, where applicable. This statement should summarize the nominee's contributions, accomplishments, and impact, rather than provide detailed supporting evidence.
2. Between two and five letters of support. Each letter must not exceed two pages and should describe the outcomes, impact, and significance of the nominee's contributions. Letters that focus only on positions held, titles, or participation are insufficient.
3. Evidence demonstrating the nominee's distinction in one or more of the following areas, as applicable to the nominee:
 - outstanding and sustained achievements in their areas of expertise
 - noteworthy public service
 - a standard of excellence in one or more fields of endeavour
 - distinguished and noteworthy achievement in their field of study or service during their career
 - dedication to and recognition of academic excellence
 - entrepreneurship
 - a legacy of respect and understanding toward others
 - a legacy of humanitarian contribution(s)

Honorary Degree: Nomination Guidelines

- meritorious service to education or to KPU

Supporting evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- Awards, honours, citations, or other formal recognition
- Publications, presentations, invited talks, media contributions, or public lectures
- Exhibitions, performances, creative works, technical works, or applied works
- Reports or records demonstrating public, community, humanitarian, professional, educational, or institutional service and impact
- Published profiles or other documentation that substantiates the nominee's achievements and influence

There is no separate page limit for the supporting evidence component. It may use any pages remaining within the 20-page dossier maximum after the other required components are counted.

Quality, relevance, and demonstrated impact—not the quantity of material provided—should guide the selection of evidence. Longer documents should be included in full only when the complete document is necessary to demonstrate the nominee's contribution or impact. Otherwise, include only relevant excerpts and provide sufficient context for the Committee to assess the evidence.

For materials not included in full, such as long-form articles or reports, or materials that cannot be included in a PDF, such as videos, provide an accessible link to the complete item. For each linked item, include its title, source, and date and provide a concise summary and an explanation of how it supports the nomination.

Please note: All information submitted on behalf of the nominee will be kept confidential.

Collection Notice:

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), through the Senate Office, collects personal information submitted through the Senate award nomination process under section 26(c) of British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). The information will be used to administer and adjudicate nominations for honorary degrees in accordance with section 35.2(5)(b) of the University Act and the AD5 Honorary Degrees and Awards Policy and Procedure. Personal information about a nominee may be collected indirectly through the nomination process under section 27(1)(c)(i) of FIPPA. Any personal information submitted as part of a nomination must be limited to what is specifically requested in the applicable nomination requirements. Questions about this collection may be directed to the University Secretary, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 20901 Langley Bypass, Langley, BC V3A 8G9, by telephone at 604-599-2357 or by email at senate@kpu.ca.

SELECTION PROCESS

All nominations will be considered by the Senate Standing Committee on Tributes. The Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to Senate for its consideration and inclusion in the approved honorary degree candidate pool.

Honorary Degree: Nomination Guidelines

Nominations approved by Senate but not yet conferred remain in the candidate pool for two (2) years, including the year of submission. During this time, the SSCT will review them for continued applicability and currency.

RECOGNITION

The Award will be acknowledged at one of the convocation ceremonies.