

STATUTE 6 - ADMISSION TO DEGREES

- 6.1 Admission to degrees and granting of diplomas and other awards of the University after examination
- 6.2 Admission to honorary degrees
- 6.3 Revocation and relinquishment of honorary degrees

- 6.1.1 Candidates who have fulfilled all the conditions prescribed by the Statutes and Regulations of the University relating to any Current Awards of the University shall be admitted to such degree or be granted such diploma or other award in the manner provided in this Statute.
- 6.1.2 A candidate for admission to a degree or for the granting of a diploma or other award shall be presented by the Executive Dean of the relevant Faculty at a University graduation ceremony, either in attendance or *in absentia* or, in exceptional circumstances and with approval of the Vice-Chancellor, by administrative conferral, after the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Academic Board has certified that the candidate has fulfilled the conditions prescribed for admission to that degree or granting of that diploma or other award.
- 6.1.3 Subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor a degree may be conferred and a diploma or other award may be granted posthumously if:
- (a) the Executive Dean of the candidate's Faculty certifies that the candidate had fulfilled the conditions prescribed for admission to that degree, or granting of that diploma or other award; or
 - (b) in rare and exceptional circumstances, the candidate was in the final stages of their degree, diploma or other award.
- 6.1.4 Subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, and in rare and exceptional circumstances, a degree may be conferred and a diploma or other award may be granted to a candidate who has become incapacitated and who is certified by the Executive Dean of the candidate's Faculty as being in the final stages of that degree, diploma or other award.
- 6.1.5 In the absence of the Executive Dean the duties under this Statute shall be discharged by:
- (a) a senior member of the same Faculty of the rank of senior lecturer or above who is nominated by the Executive Dean; or
 - (b) failing such a person, by the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Academic Board or his or her nominee.
- 6.1.6 Where any degree is conferred both as an ordinary degree and as a degree with honours candidates for each kind of degree shall be presented at the University graduation ceremony separately.

ORIGINATED BY SENATE RESOLUTION: 91/83
DATED: 29-30 October 1991

**COMMON SEAL AFFIXED
BY SECRETARY**

AMENDMENT NO: 3
SENATE RESOLUTION: S 2016/006
DATED: 11 February 2016

- 6.2.1 There shall be an honorary degree of Doctor of the University (*HonDUniv*), an honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (*HonDLaws*) and an honorary degree of Master of Arts (*HonMArts*).
- 6.2.2 The titles referred to in Section 6.2.1 of this Statute are honorific titles only and not formal qualifications under the Australian Qualifications Framework. Accordingly, it is not permissible for an individual who is awarded an honorary degree to use the title "Doctor" or "Dr". The official award abbreviation as referenced in brackets in 6.2.1 may be cited as a post nominal.
- 6.2.3 The Senate may approve the awarding of honorary degrees under Section 6.2.1 of this Statute to any person, whether or not such person has graduated at a university, on a recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee.

Essential Criteria

- 6.2.4 All nominees proposed for consideration for an honorary degree must support the Mission of the University in addition to satisfying at least ONE of the following:
- (a) a person who has provided outstanding support to, or enhanced, the standing of the University or the Catholic Church; and/or
 - (b) a person of academic eminence; and/or
 - (c) a person demonstrating distinguished creative achievement; and/or
 - (d) a person who has provided an outstanding contribution beyond the expectations of the person's particular field of endeavour which has influenced the thinking or general wellbeing of the wider community.

Persons to Whom an Honorary Degree Should not be Awarded

- 6.2.5 Honorary degrees should not be awarded to the following persons:
- (a) Politicians in office.
 - (b) Visitors and scholars or visiting scholars, UNLESS they were / are at the University for an extended period and the Essential Criteria detailed in Section 6.2.4 has been satisfied **independently of their role** as a visitor / scholar / visiting scholar.
 - (c) Retiring Members of the ACU Senate, Professoriate, Corporation and others associated with the University, UNLESS the Essential Criteria detailed in Section 6.2.4 has been satisfied **independently of their role** as a Senator / Professor / Corporation Member / associate of the University.
- 6.2.6 Where Senate has resolved to award an honorary degree under Section 6.2.3 of this Statute, the degree shall be conferred at a graduation ceremony or other ceremonial occasion by the Vice-Chancellor and President or other Presiding Officer who shall first cite the grounds for such admission.
- 6.2.7 With the exception of the Vice-Chancellor and President, Honorary Awards Committee members should not participate in the nomination process.
- 6.2.8 An honorary degree may be conferred in the absence of the candidate or posthumously subsequent to a resolution passed by the Senate.

6.2.9 Senate may make Regulations consistent with this Statute 6.2 prescribing the processes to be followed in relation to the nomination and conferral of honorary degrees.

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6.3.1 Senate reserves the right to revoke an honorary degree conferred under Section 6.2.3 in accordance with this Statute 6.3.

6.3.2 Senate may, by resolution, revoke an honorary degree in circumstances where:

- (a) the details provided in support of the nomination are subsequently found to be false, inaccurate or incomplete; and/or
- (b) the person awarded the honorary degree has been convicted of a crime or offence under a law of Australia; and/or
- (c) the person awarded the honorary degree has behaved in such a way, whether before or after the conferral of the degree, that has brought or is likely to bring, the University into disrepute.

6.3.3 Any person awarded an honorary degree may relinquish the honorary degree at any time by notifying the Secretary in writing of that person's intention to relinquish the honorary degree. In all such cases Senate must accept the relinquishment of the honorary degree and shall resolve that the relinquishment takes effect from the date of the resolution of Senate.

6.3.4 Senate may make Regulations consistent with this Statute 6.3 prescribing the processes to be followed in relation to the making of a decision to revoke or accept the relinquishment of an honorary degree.

ORIGINATED BY SENATE RESOLUTION: S 2016/035
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DATED: 12 October 2017

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BY SECRETARY**