



*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.*  
*Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: University of Oklahoma Board of Regents  
University of Oklahoma Alumni Association  
University of Oklahoma Foundation  
University Advancement  
Executive Officers  
Deans, Directors, Chairs - Norman and OU Health Campus  
Faculty Senates, Norman and OU Health Campus  
Staff Senates, Norman and OU Health Campus  
Student Government Associations, Norman and OU Health Campus

FROM: Gary E. Raskob, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President and Provost, OU Health Campus  
Chair, Honorary Degree Screening Committee 

CC: Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma  
André-Denis Wright, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman  
Honorary Degrees Screening Committee

SUBJECT: Honorary Degrees Nominations **Deadline: March 31, 2026**

DATE: January 21, 2026

By action of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the University of Oklahoma was authorized to confer honorary degrees for the first time in May 1991. Since then over 100 outstanding individuals have been honored at Commencement with this distinction, recognizing excellence and elevating the stature of the University.

The Honorary Degree Screening Committee will be meeting to review nominations and forward recommendations to President Harroz. The Chair of the Screening Committee alternates each year between the Norman and Health Sciences Center Provosts, and I am honored to serve as Chair for the May 2027 nominees.

We would welcome any nominations, utilizing the enclosed single-page form. Please send them to my office by email to [officeoftheprovost@ouhsc.edu](mailto:officeoftheprovost@ouhsc.edu) on or before **March 31, 2026**.

The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents has authorized honorary degrees to be awarded according to the policy and criteria enclosed with this memorandum, including the following:

- The University will award honorary degrees only in recognition of extraordinary achievement or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, State, nation, or world. A recipient may be any individual who has made outstanding contributions to a field or profession represented at the University.
- Nominations may be made by any individual, although no individual may nominate himself or herself.
- Honorary degrees shall not be conferred on any faculty member, administrator, or other official associated with the University before such individual has been separated from the institution for at least two years; nor awarded to any individual currently in state government.
- Honorary degrees will not be awarded in absentia unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Wheelbarger or me at 405.271.2332.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

University of Oklahoma  
**NOMINATION FOR HONORARY DEGREE**

Name of Nominee :

Present Position :

Address and Phone Number:

Education:

Nominated by :

Position :

Address and Phone Number:

**Brief Summary of Nominee's career and reason for nomination.** For example, education, experience, professional activities, appointments, honors, previous honorary degree awards, and all other information pertinent to the awarding of an honorary degree.

Forward this completed form and additional materials supporting the nomination and a dossier no later than **March 31, 2026**, via email to [OfficeoftheProvost@ouhsc.edu](mailto:OfficeoftheProvost@ouhsc.edu), to ensure consideration by the committee.

Gary E. Raskob, PhD, Chair, Honorary Degrees Screening Committee  
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

All nominations are treated confidentially by the Honorary Degree Screening Committee.

Additional Summary (if needed)