

**Approved by:** President and Faculty

**Date Approved:** October 3, 2018

**Effective Date:** October 3, 2018

1. **Summary:** This policy establishes criteria for scholastic achievement, honors awards, and honorary degrees.
2. **Rationale:** This policy is necessary for establishing reasonable, consistent, and equitable criteria for scholastic achievement, honors awards, and honorary degrees given to students or other deserving individuals.
3. **Entities Affected:** students

4. **Definition(s):**

*CGPA:* Cumulative Grade Point Average

5. **Policy:**

**Scholastic Achievement and Recognition**

Excellent scholastic achievement for undergraduate and graduate students may be recognized at Commencement as follows:

<i>summa cum laude</i>	Candidates with a CGPA of at least 3.8
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Candidates with a CGPA of at least 3.7
<i>cum laude</i>	Candidates with a CGPA of at least 3.5

When a student retakes a course for credit, only the highest grade is calculated in the CGPA. However, for the purpose of determining scholastic achievement and/or academic honors, all of a student's attempted course work is calculated in determining the overall CGPA.

**Academic Honors Awards**

In order to qualify for an academic honors award, a graduating student must have at least a 3.0 CGPA. However, Academic Program Directors may set additional eligibility criteria for awards in their programs, including a higher CGPA. Similarly, faculty may set additional eligibility criteria for awards in their disciplines. Criteria for the upcoming academic year must be set between commencement and the beginning of the academic year. Program Directors and other relevant faculty must apprise Academic Affairs of such criteria and are responsible for implementing the criteria. Academic Affairs, in consultation with the Academic Cabinet, determines the current list of academic honors awards, and maintains that list along with criteria set by Program Directors and faculty.

Honors awards might pertain to a level of study (e.g., undergraduate or graduate), an academic discipline (e.g., preaching, Hebrew, or Greek), an academic program (e.g., B.S. Education, B.A. Psychology, Master of Divinity), or simply academic excellence (i.e., Who's Who), and might be named in honor of a particular person or entity.

During the spring semester, Program Directors determine whether to grant an award in their program for the current academic year, and faculty who teach in a specific discipline determine whether to grant an award in that discipline for the current academic year. Faculty vote on whether to approve award nominees. Any of the

awards may be presented at the end of an academic year. Academic Affairs determines whether to do so at an honors ceremony, at commencement, via a letter to the student, or via some other method.

### Honorary Degree Awards

Through a vote of the faculty and the Board of Trustees, the College may identify and cite the distinguished contributions of individuals by awarding the honorary Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Divinity, and Doctor of Humane Letters. When the College decides to grant such an award, the award is granted at a Criswell College commencement ceremony.

The Doctor of Laws (**LL.D.**), first conferred in 1773, is the most popular honorary doctorate now awarded. It is regarded as the most appropriate award for persons distinguished in general service to the state, to learning, and to humanity.

The Doctor of Divinity (**D.D.**) is the oldest and most traditional honorary degree awarded to persons who have made major contributions, both by service and example, to the Gospel ministry over an extended period of years.

The Doctor of Humane Letters (**L.H.D.**) is the oldest and most traditional honorary degree awarded to persons who have made major contributions, both by service and example, to the field of Humanities over an extended period of years.

#### 6. Procedure:

- a. **Implementation:** The Academic Affairs Office is responsible for developing and maintaining procedures, if necessary, for the implementation of this policy.
- b. **Responsibility for Compliance:** Vice President of Academic Affairs
- c. **Notification:** This policy will be posted on the College's website and excerpts and/or summaries of this policy will be published in the College's *Catalog*.
- d. **Policy Review:** This policy will be regularly reviewed according to the College's policy review procedure.

For the Office of the President only:

Policy version: 2.0

Policy number: 3.015

Related policies:

#### Policy History

Version 1.0	May 3, 2017
Version 2.0	October 3, 2018