

*(This is a new regulation)*

**AR 4110      AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES (ADOPTED 2000)  
New AR to SMC**

**NOTE:** *This administrative regulation is **optional** and applies only if the Board of Trustees has adopted a policy that allows for honorary degrees. Local practice may be inserted here.*

**NOTE:** *The following language in **blue ink** is included for consideration.*

**Sample 1 from another District:**

**Honorary Degree Nominations and Selection:**

Nominations for recipients of honorary degrees must be submitted in writing to the College President by February 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration for the May graduation ceremony.

1. The written statement must adhere to the criteria for awarding honorary degrees and include:
  - a. Name and contact information of person making nomination
  - b. Name of nominee
  - c. Clear explanation of why the individual should be awarded an honorary degree
2. The College President shall meet with the College Vice Presidents and the President of the Academic Senate for review, validation of merits, and final recommendation.
  - a. Further documentation may be requested of the person making the nomination as deemed necessary.
  - b. The Superintendent/President will forward the name(s) of the successful candidate(s) for recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
  - c. Approved honorary degrees shall specify "Honorary" on the diploma.

**Sample 2 from another District:**

Honorary degrees may be awarded to citizens on such occasions as graduation and other awards ceremonies. The degree awarded shall be an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree as appropriate. Recipients must have distinguished themselves in

education, community or national service, or in their profession. Their service must also support the mission, values, and objectives of the college.

Recommendations for an honorary degree shall be submitted to the President of the College. Recommendations shall include:

- Name of recipient;
- Educational and professional experience;
- Record of distinguished service that justifies awarding of an honorary degree; and
- Occasion at which degree is to be awarded.

The Superintendent/President shall review and submit the award request to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

### **Sample 3 from another District:**

The District currently does not issue Honorary Degrees.

*(NOTE: Also see sample language from other Districts included in the notebook)*

### **References:**

Education Code Sections 70902 and 72122

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## **Education Code Section**

### **70902**

(a) (1) Every community college district shall be under the control of a board of trustees, which is referred to herein as the “governing board.” The governing board of each community college district shall establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more community colleges in accordance with law. In so doing, the governing board may initiate and carry on any program, activity, or may otherwise act in any manner that is not in conflict with or inconsistent with, or preempted by, any law and that is not in conflict with the purposes for which community college districts are established.

(2) The governing board of each community college district shall establish rules and regulations not inconsistent with the regulations of the board of governors and the laws of this state for the government and operation of one or more community colleges in the district.

(b) In furtherance of subdivision (a), the governing board of each community college district shall do all of the following:

(1) Establish policies for, and approve, current and long-range academic and facilities plans and programs and promote orderly growth and development of the community colleges within the district. In so doing, the governing board shall, as required by law, establish policies for, develop, and

approve, comprehensive plans. The governing board shall submit the comprehensive plans to the board of governors for review and approval.

(2) Establish policies for and approve courses of instruction and educational programs. The educational programs shall be submitted to the board of governors for approval. Courses of instruction that are not offered in approved educational programs shall be submitted to the board of governors for approval. The governing board shall establish policies for, and approve, individual courses that are offered in approved educational programs, without referral to the board of governors.

(3) Establish academic standards, probation and dismissal and readmission policies, and graduation requirements not inconsistent with the minimum standards adopted by the board of governors.

(4) Employ and assign all personnel not inconsistent with the minimum standards adopted by the board of governors and establish employment practices, salaries, and benefits for all employees not inconsistent with the laws of this state.

(5) To the extent authorized by law, determine and control the district's operational and capital outlay budgets. The district governing board shall determine the need for elections for override tax levies and bond measures and request that those elections be called.

(6) Manage and control district property. The governing board may contract for the procurement of goods and services as authorized by law.

(7) Establish procedures that are consistent with minimum standards established by the board of governors to ensure faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level, to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, to ensure the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and to ensure the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

(8) Establish rules and regulations governing student conduct.

(9) Establish student fees as it is required to establish by law, and, in its discretion, fees as it is authorized to establish by law.

(10) In its discretion, receive and administer gifts, grants, and scholarships.

(11) Provide auxiliary services as deemed necessary to achieve the purposes of the community college.

(12) Within the framework provided by law, determine the district's academic calendar, including the holidays it will observe.

(13) Hold and convey property for the use and benefit of the district. The governing board may acquire by eminent domain any property necessary to carry out the powers or functions of the district.

(14) Participate in the consultation process established by the board of governors for the development and review of policy proposals.

(c) In carrying out the powers and duties specified in subdivision (b) or other provisions of statute, the governing board of each community college district shall have full authority to adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the regulations of the board of governors and the laws of this state, that are necessary and proper to executing these prescribed functions.

(d) Wherever in this section or any other statute a power is vested in the governing board, the governing board of a community college district, by majority vote, may adopt a rule delegating the power to the district's chief executive officer or any other employee or committee as the governing board may designate. However, the governing board shall not delegate any power that is expressly made nondelegable by statute. Any rule delegating authority shall prescribe the limits of the delegation.

(e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2014.

## 72122

The governing board of a community college district shall, unless a request by the student has been made pursuant to this section, hold closed sessions if the board is considering the suspension of, or disciplinary action or any other action in connection with any student of the community college district, if a public hearing upon the question would lead to the giving out of information concerning students which would be in violation of state or federal law regarding the privacy of student records.

Before calling a closed session of the governing board of the district to consider these matters, the governing board of the district shall, in writing, by registered or certified mail or by personal service, if the student is a minor, notify the student and his or her parent or guardian, or the student if the student is an adult, of the intent of the governing board of the district to call and hold the closed session. Unless the student, or his or her parent, or guardian shall, in writing, within 48 hours after receipt of the written notice of intention, request that the hearing of the governing board be held as a public meeting, then the hearing to consider those matters shall be conducted by the governing board in closed session. If the written request is served upon the clerk or secretary of the governing board, the meeting shall be public except that any discussion at the meeting that might be in conflict with the right to privacy of any student other than the student requesting the public meeting or on behalf of whom the meeting is requested, shall be in closed session. Whether the matter is considered at a closed session or at a public meeting, the final action of the governing board of the community college district shall be taken at a public meeting and the result of that action shall be a public record of the community college district.

The governing board of a community college district may hold closed sessions to consider the conferring of honorary degrees or to consider gifts from a donor who wants to remain anonymous.