

Occidental College

Statement on Honorary Degrees

In keeping with the traditions of American higher education, Occidental College awards honorary degrees to recognize extraordinary individual accomplishments across the wide spectrum of human endeavor. Specifically, the College seeks to honor outstanding achievement and leadership in three areas:

Leadership in the Liberal Arts: As a liberal arts college committed to intellectual excellence, Occidental awards degrees to those whose extraordinary accomplishments have advanced the scope of human understanding within and across the academic disciplines represented in the curriculum.

Leadership in Public Service: As an institution committed to the growth of a diverse, just, and equitable civil society, Occidental awards honorary degrees to those individuals who have made a positive difference in the lives of their and our community, whether on the world's stage or more locally.

Leadership in Service to Occidental: As an institution with deep historical roots and high contemporary aspirations, Occidental awards honorary degrees to those who have led the College in pursuit of its most cherished goals, especially those whose work has helped to create and sustain opportunities for those to whom opportunity is often denied by history, policy, or circumstance. As an institution committed to opportunity and access, Occidental awards honorary degrees to individuals in celebration of diversity in all its manifestations.

In these ways, the conferring of an honorary degree associates the College with each generation's outstanding individuals and, in so doing, reinforces Occidental's own proud history of achievement and acknowledges the high aspirations for our work and lives whether as faculty, students, or alumni.

Honorary degrees will be awarded each year at commencement.