

**Honorary Credentials Survey**  
**Grant MacEwan College**  
**October 25, 2007**

MacEwan is currently reviewing a policy for the awarding of honorary credentials and would like to share the following responses from other post secondary institutions to the following questions:

1. Does your institution award honorary credentials?
  2. If you do award honorary credentials, do you award them with a specific program name? i.e. Honorary Diploma, Management Studies or Honorary Degree, Bachelor of Arts
  3. If you award honorary credentials with the specific program name, could you please provide some examples of the wording used on your parchment?
  4. If you award honorary credentials without a specific program name, could you please provide some examples of the wording used on your parchment?
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**RESPONSES**

**Corinne Callihoo, Assistant Registrar, Academic Awards and Ceremonies,  
University of Alberta**

1. Does your institution award honorary credentials? **Yes**
2. If you do award honorary credentials, do you award them with a specific program name?  
**We award three honorary degrees: Doctor of Laws (LLD), Doctor of Letters (DLitt) and Doctor of Science (DSc). We do not attached a specific program to the degrees.**
3. If you award honorary credentials with the specific program name, could you please provide some examples of the wording used on your parchment? **Not applicable.**
4. If you award honorary credentials without a specific program name, could you please provide some examples of the wording used on your parchment?  
**On our honorary degree citations we personalize them with a statement that precedes the degree given. This statement is specific to the honorary degree recipient and their accomplishments. I have attached some samples.**

**Barbara Gordey, Registrar, Lakeland College**

- We do not currently offer honorary degrees; however, we are serious considering doing so.

**Dorothy Robertson, Convocation Officer/Office Manager, University of Calgary**

At the University of Calgary we do award degrees "With Distinction, Honours and First Class Honours" with undergraduate degrees and specific programs. The principle aim of an Honours program is to prepare the student in the field of major interest for entry to higher degree programs. High standards of performance are required. - A student must be in an Honours program and if their grades are high enough then their degree is awarded with First Class Honours - the With Distinction is given to those students not in an Honours program and it is awarded at the discretion of the Faculty - the GPA is usually 3.60 or higher and in some Faculties they use a grading system based on the top students. The reason some faculties deviated away from the 3.60 is that some faculties (for example Social Work and Nursing) was awarding With Distinction to just about all of their graduates.

**Our degrees read:**

JANE DOE  
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE  
WITH DISTINCTION

JOHN DOE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
HONOURS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

JOHN DOE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
FIRST CLASS HONOURS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Graduate program do not award this on their degrees and also the diploma programs do not annotate Honours or With Distinction. If you have a U of C Calendar you can read on page 44 regarding Honours Degrees and Degrees with Distinction.

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**Don Yurchuk, Registrar, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT):**

NAIT awards honorary diplomas.

We choose a specific name for the honorary diploma that reflects the reasons we chose the recipient. There is no need to stay with a credit diploma name.

Honourary Diploma in Hospitality  
Honourary Diploma in Business Administration (we do not have a credit diploma in business administration)

One decision we did make early days was to award an honorary diploma instead of an honorary degree. Since most of our parchment is diploma, we felt an honorary diploma was appropriate. An honorary degree, when we only award a half dozen degrees, was felt to be pretentious.