



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER
NO. 16;
Series of 1996

SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES VIS-A-VIS CONFERMENTS BY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS) OF HONORARY DEGREES**

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and subject to the provisions of the laws creating State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and the Manual of Regulations of Private Schools, the following guidelines are hereby adopted by the Commission for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned, thus:

1. Honorary degrees shall be conferred only by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) upon persons who have exceptionally meritorious achievements in the fields of the arts, the sciences, the humanities, and in public service.
2. No honorary degree shall be awarded on a reciprocal basis and/or solely for publicity purposes and/or to boost the career and/or reputation of a particular person.
3. No honorary degree shall be conferred upon incumbent administrators and/or members of the faculty and/or staff of the HEI concerned nor to incumbent officials and/or employees of the Commission and/or the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.
4. Only HEIs which have proven track records of excellence may award honorary degrees.
5. Only the Commission has the prerogative to authorize HEIs to grant honorary degrees to qualified persons.
6. The Commission may withhold from the HEI concerned the authority to award an honorary degree if the conferment by the HEI appears to be excessive and not reasonable.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

7. The written request for authority by the HEI to confer an honorary degree shall be addressed to the Commission, through its Chair, signed by the head of the HEI concerned and filed fifteen days (15) days before the scheduled conferment and accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the conferee and a Resolution of the governing body of the HEI concerned approving the conferment and the reasons why the HEI is awarding to him the particular honorary degree.

8. Honorary degrees shall differ from the regular doctoral programs offered by the HEI concerned and/or from the earned doctoral degrees.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, Philippines, March 5, 1996


ANGEL C. ALCALA
Chairman


MONA D. VALISNO
Commissioner


KATE C. BOTENGAN
Commissioner

OUT OF TOWN
ESTER A. GARCIA 
Commissioner


ROLANDO S. DELAGOZA
Commissioner