



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

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO)

NO. 56

Series of 2006

**SUBJECT: POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON THE CONFERMENT OF
HONORARY DEGREES BY HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)**

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”, and by virtue of Resolution No. 805 s. 2006 of the Commission en banc, dated November 13, 2006, the following are the policies and revised guidelines that are hereby adopted by the Commission for information, guidance and compliance for the grant of honorary degrees by higher education institutions in the Philippines.

1. Any honorary degree to be awarded by a qualified private and public higher education institution shall be for a doctorate level only. The degree shall be any of the following and shall be indicated as follows:

Doctor of Humanities	(H.D.)
Doctor of Laws	(LL.D.)
Doctor of Music	(Mus. D.)
Doctor of Literature	(Litt. D.)
Doctor of Science	(Sc.D.)
Doctor of Pedagogy	(P.D.)
Doctor of Technology	(D.Tech.)

2. The higher education institutions (HEIs) that shall award an honorary doctorate must possess the following qualifications:
 - a. Whether a university or a college it must have existed for at least twenty-five (25) years and;
 - b. Must offer at least one (1) doctoral program with government recognition, in the case of private higher education institutions and with approval of the Board of Trustees/Regents, in the case of state and local colleges and universities.
3. The honorary doctorate degree shall be conferred upon persons who have attained exceptionally meritorious achievements in the arts, the sciences, the humanities and /or public service with tangible and relevant accomplishments.
4. The written request for authority to confer an honorary degree shall be addressed to the Chairman of the Commission, Attention: The Office of Programs and Standards, through the CHED Regional Office duly signed by the head of the concerned HEI. This

shall be filed at least forty-five (45) days before the scheduled conferment and accompanied with:

- a. A copy of the curriculum vitae and accomplishments of the candidate,
 - b. A resolution of the governing board of the HEI; and
 - c. The reasons/justifications why the award is being made.
5. The conferment of honorary degree by higher education institutions shall be limited to two honorary degrees per year per HEI except in cases when a prior written approval is granted by the Commission En Banc for the grant of more than two honorary degrees per year per HEI.
6. The Commission has the prerogative to withdraw and declare null and void the conferment of an honorary degree by an HEI due to any of the following causes:
- a. When awarded on a reciprocal basis;
 - b. When awarded solely for publicity purposes;
 - c. When designed to boost the career and/or reputation of a particular person;
 - d. When the granting institution has awarded an honorary degree three times in a year without obtaining prior written approval from the Commission En Banc;
 - e. When given to incumbent administrators and/or members of the faculty and/or staff of the granting HEI;
 - f. When given to incumbent officials and/or employees, especially to the incumbent Chairman and/or Commissioners of the Commission on Higher Education
7. When the application is not acted upon by CHED within 45 days upon receipt, the application will be considered approved by the HEI.
8. All issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed amended and/or repealed accordingly.

This CMO shall take effect immediately.

Pasig City, Philippines, December 08, 2006



CARLITO S. PUNO, DPA

Chairman

References:

i. CHED Memo Order No. 16 & 50, s. 1996

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