

The logo of Sikkim Sardar Patel University is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "SIKKIM SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY" in blue capital letters. The inner circle is divided into four quadrants: top-left (blue with a white book), top-right (yellow with a blue graduation cap), bottom-left (yellow with a blue lamp), and bottom-right (blue with a white portrait of Sardar Patel). A blue banner at the bottom contains the Sanskrit motto "विद्या योगेन रक्ष्यते" in white.

Sikkim Sardar Patel University
Pakyong (Sikkim) India
Ordinance: Honorary Degrees
Ph.D./D.Litt./D.Sc./LL.D. (Honoris Causa)

(Effective from the Academic Year 2025-26)

Revised in 2026

Sikkim Sardar Patel University, Pakyong (Sikkim) India

Ordinance: Ph.D./D.Litt./D.Sc./LL.D. (Honoris Causa)

Preamble:

This Ordinance is established to define the criteria, procedures, and considerations for the awarding of Honorary Degrees by Sikkim Sardar Patel University, Pakyong (Sikkim), India.

The conferment of an Honorary Degree is one of the most distinguished honours that the University may bestow upon an individual. This distinction is intended to acknowledge a person of eminence who has consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement and significant contribution in their chosen discipline or in service to humanity over a sustained period.

Section 1: Purpose and Scope

1.1 The primary purpose of conferring Honorary Degrees is to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to their respective fields, society, or to the ideals and mission of the University.

1.2 This Ordinance shall apply to all academic and administrative units within Sikkim Sardar Patel University, Pakyong (Sikkim), India, that are authorized to recommend or confer honorary distinctions.

1.3 The rank of *Honorary Degree* or *Ph.D./D.Litt./D.Sc./LL.D. Honoris Causa* is an honorific title granted through a special procedure. Historically, such distinctions were conferred to acknowledge the intellectual eminence and exemplary wisdom of distinguished scholars, while also bringing honour to the University that recognized them.

1.4 Serving as a means of inspiration to students and the academic community, Sikkim Sardar Patel University confers the *Ph.D./D.Litt./D.Sc./LL.D. Honoris Causa* distinction on a selective basis to individuals of outstanding merit who have made profound and enduring contributions to knowledge, culture, or public service, in consonance with the core values and vision of the University.

1.5 Moral integrity, professional excellence, and recognition by peers constitute key considerations in the selection of candidates for an honorary distinction. Eligible fields include—but are not limited to—arts, fine arts, science and technology, education, literature,

music, sports, social service, public administration, humanitarian activities, leadership, and civil rights.

1.6 The University's Honorary Degrees are intended to honour leaders of national and international eminence whose distinguished achievements have substantially advanced knowledge, culture, or social welfare. Through its choice of honorary awardees, SSPU publicly affirms its values and commitment to excellence, humanity, and intellectual integrity.

1.7 Honorary distinctions may be conferred at varying levels of recognition, the most prestigious being the *Ph.D./D.Litt./D.Sc./LL.D. (Honoris Causa)*. Other distinctions, such as *Professor Emeritus* or equivalent honorary designations, may also be conferred upon recommendation and approval through statutory processes.

Section 2: Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Nominees for Honorary Degrees must have demonstrated exceptional achievement, distinction, and impact in their area of expertise or contribution.

2.2 Eligible nominees may include distinguished individuals from diverse fields such as academia, science and technology, commerce and industry, social service, literature, arts, public administration, law or any other discipline that contributes to human welfare and societal advancement.

Section 3: Nomination Process

3.1 Nominations for honorary degrees may be initiated by any member of the University Faculty, Staff, Students, or Governing Bodies at any time.

3.2 Each nomination must include a comprehensive dossier containing:

- A detailed curriculum vitae of the nominee.
- A statement of justification explaining the basis for the recommendation.
- Evidence of achievements or documentation of distinction in the nominee's field.

3.3 While not all areas of accomplishment can be represented each year, the cumulative list of recipients over time should reflect the diversity of SSPU's academic programs, research domains, and social engagement, as well as the cultural plurality of the region and nation.

Section 4: Screening and Recommendation

4.1 All nominations shall first be reviewed by the **Departmental Research Advisory Committee (DRAC)** for preliminary assessment of merit and relevance.

4.2 The **DRAC** shall forward its recommendations, with justification, to the **Academic Council** for further evaluation.

4.3 The **Academic Council** shall deliberate upon the recommendations and, if satisfied, forward the approved name(s) to the **Vice-Chancellor** and/or **Chancellor** for consideration and final approval.

Section 5: Approval and Conferment

5.1 The final authority for the conferment of honorary degrees shall rest with the Vice-Chancellor and/or Chancellor of the University.

5.2 The honorary degree shall be formally conferred during a Convocation Ceremony or a Special Ceremony or any Institutional Event convened for the purpose.

5.3 During the ceremony, a Citation shall be read highlighting the achievements and distinguished contributions of the recipient.

Section 6: Record and Documentation

6.1 The University shall maintain an Official Register of Honorary Degrees, recording the name of each recipient, field of contribution, and date of conferment.

6.2 Appropriate certificates and documentation shall be issued to recipients, duly signed by the Authorities and bearing the University seal.

Section 7: Confidentiality and Communication

7.1 All nominations and supporting documents shall be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality by the Academic Council, Vice-Chancellor, and Chancellor.

7.2 Only the Chair of the Academic Council (normally the Vice-Chancellor) or an authorized representative shall communicate decisions and announcements pertaining to honorary degrees on behalf of the University.

Section 8: Withdrawal of Honorary Degree

8.1 The University reserves the right to withdraw an honorary degree if credible evidence emerges that it was conferred on the basis of misrepresentation, fraud, or conduct unbecoming of the recipient.

8.2 Such withdrawal shall require a two-thirds majority resolution of the Board of Management, followed by the Chancellor's approval.

Section 9: Amendments

9.1 This Ordinance may be amended by the Academic Council, followed by approval of the Board of Management and the Governing Body, through due consultation and established procedure.

Section 10: Interpretation

10.1 Any question relating to the interpretation or application of this Ordinance shall be referred to the Chancellor, whose decision shall be final and binding.

