STATE FFA DEGREE

Guidebook
INTRODUCTION

THE STATE FFA DEGREE

The State FFA Degree is the highest degree a state association can bestow upon a member. It is a step in the FFA degree system that encourages personal growth and achievement. The degree is a high and rare honor, less than two percent of FFA members earn it. It requires commitment and hard work to attain but you don’t have to be a gifted student or live on a farm or ranch to reach this goal.

The FFA degree system is organized so that all FFA members have an equal chance at the State FFA Degree, no matter where they come from. The State FFA Degree is a culmination of experiences and opportunities across several years. To meet the degree requirements, plan and set goals early on in your FFA career. The requirements of the State FFA Degree are as follows:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least $1,250, or have earned and productively invested at least $150.00, and worked (other than class scheduled time) at least 376 hours, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program. Any combination of hours x $3.33 plus dollars must be equal to, or greater than, the number 1402. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree. Changes to the specifications by the National FFA Organization to earn the degree shall become effective at the time specified by the National FFA Organization, and shall be reported to the delegates at the next State Convention.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
   a) Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
   b) Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
   c) Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the Quality Chapter Plan.
8. Have participated in at least five FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in 25 hours of community service and two different activities.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

FFA MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Each year a student who wishes to be an FFA member must:

- Be enrolled in at least one secondary agricultural education course during the school year
- And/or must follow a planned course of study the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
- Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.

HOW STATE DEGREES ARE AWARDED

Chapter Verification

The procedure for selecting State FFA Degree recipients starts with the chapter advisor. The chapter advisor must check the accuracy of the completed application and sign the application to verify all requirements for receipt of the State FFA Degree are met. The signatures of the parent/guardian, student, chapter president, chapter advisor, school administrator, and administrator/counselor are all required for the degree to be considered. Always check with the chapter advisor for due dates and chapter verification procedures.

State Verification

The next step in the procedure for selecting State FFA Degree recipients is the signed application being submitted to the state association by the March 1st deadline. A member of the state staff must check the accuracy of the completed application and sign the application to verify all requirements for receipt of the State FFA Degree are met. If revisions are needed, revised applications may be submitted electronically. Revisions will not be accepted after April 1st. Revised applications can be submitted online by clicking here.

REVISION PROCESS

1. State Degree submission deadline to the Florida FFA Headquarters March 1st (Grace Period through March 8th) by close of business.
2. State staff will review each application as they are received and process it into the Application Tracker. This portal can be accessed on front page of our website at flaffa.org.
3. Once applications are reviewed and entered into the application tracker, the student will receive an e-mail regarding the status of their State Degree Application. Should there be a need for revisions, there will be a description in the e-mail of corrections needed. Please Note: Due to the security protocols on many school district e-mail addresses, please list your personal e-mail address on your application to ensure you receive communication regarding your degree.
4. Questions about revisions can be directed through our office by calling 352.378.0060 for assistance.
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ACCESSING THE APPLICATION

APPLICATION CENTER
You will access the State FFA Degree through your myFFA account on ffa.org. If you do not have an account, please see your FFA advisor. You can find the application center at https://www.ffa.org/application-center/. If your FFA Chapter uses The AET, you may generate from application in the Degree/Application manager.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

COVER PAGE
The cover page will collect general biographical information. Such as name, e-mail address, physical address, etc. If any of these boxes are greyed out, you will need to update that information in the profile section of your record book in The AET. Please Note: Due to the security protocols on many school district e-mail addresses, please list your personal e-mail address on your application to ensure you receive communication regarding your degree.

BASIC SETUP
This page interacts with and impacts all the following screens/pages in the application. It should be completed before trying to enter data into following screens/pages.

For the beginning date, you will enter the date that you began your first agriculture education course of the year you became an FFA member.

For the ending date, you will enter December 31st of the year prior to the State FFA Convention in which the degree will be awarded.

It is on this page that you will select the types of SAEs that are represented in your projects. The appropriate subsequent pages will appear when the correct type of SAE is selected.

5. Foundational - Job shadowing and other career exploration done outside of class time. Such hours should be very limited, typically less than 40 hours in total.
6. Research – this application type is for Research SAE projects.
7. Placement – this application type is for all Placement/Internship SAE projects and some Service-Learning SAE projects.
8. Entrepreneurship - the application type is for Ownership/Entrepreneurship SAE projects, School-based Enterprise SAE projects and some Service-Learning SAE projects.

For sections III, IV, and V, please refer to the National FFA American Degree Handbook beginning on page 10 for additional details. Click here.

SAE INFORMATION PAGES
Depending on the type of SAE you selected on the basic setup page, you will see new pages appear in the left-hand side of your application. For each project (and each year), you must enter the following:

- Project Name or Employer
- Job Title
- Responsibilities or Job Description
- No acronyms

It is important that the description provides enough information for the reviewer to validate the project as an approved SAE.

Examples of SAE entries that meet guidelines:

Placement Project -

Employer/Project title: C & M Rucks Dairy Farm-Laborer
Project description: This is my dairy farm general labor SAE conducted at the C&M Rucks Dairy. During this project, I gained skills in the areas of tending to sick cows, working in the milking parlor, helping in the process of hoof patches, and overall operating the dairy farm. The important outcomes of my project for the year are the skills that I gained, the growth of my appreciation for the dairy industry, and the help that I was able to provide through my work on the farm.

Entrepreneurship Project-

Project Name: Beef Production
Scope/Size: 8 head of cows, 4 heifers, 1 show steer
Project Description: Angus/crossbred cow calf operation. Producing show steers and heifers to sell for profit. Castrated bulls to use as show steers at my county fair.

Research Project-

Project Title: Increasing the growth rate of Red Mangrove propagules by propagating in a freshwater and saltwater aquaponics system.

For a full breakdown of each SAE screen/page, please visit the American FFA Degree Handbook beginning on page 11 by clicking here.

FINANCIAL PAGES
For details on Income/Expense, Ending Current Inventory, Ending Non-Current Inventory, Assets and Liabilities, Net Worth, Earnings & Productively Invested, please visit the American FFA Degree Handbook beginning on page 14 by clicking here.
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LEADERSHIP/FFA ACTIVITIES
The following are requirements:
- 5 activities above the chapter level.
- These activities may not include any SAE related activities.
- Examples: CDE/LDEs, leadership conferences, convention, etc.

An activity that is repeated for multiple years will only count as one. For example, if you attended the State FFA Convention in 2022, 2021, and 2019, that would count as one leadership activity.

COMMUNITY SERVICE
The following are requirements for approved community service:
- 25 hours of approved community service activities
- 2 distinctly different activities
- List name, individual, or group to whom the service was provided
- Provide a detailed description of the service performed
- The organization receiving service cannot be your own FFA Chapter or a group of which you are a member.
- For full details, visit the National FFA Community Service Guidelines by clicking here.

The following are examples of community service entries that were approved:

| Organization to whom the service was provided: |
| Upward Basketball |

| Description of service provided: |
| For the Upward Basketball season from September 2020 to November 2020, I served as the head coach of a basketball team. I worked with children from the ages of 5-7 years old. I was tasked with communicating with players' parents about upcoming basketball games, planning out practices, organizing team activities, and developing the basketball skills of each player. |

SUBMITTING YOUR STATE FFA DEGREE
Once your State FFA Degree is complete, you are ready to save and print.

1. The button labeled “Complete/Save Your App” is how application PDF versions are generated (created).
2. To view the generated application click the “Get PDF”. This generated PDF is what is actually printed, signed, and mailed to the Florida FFA Association Headquarters in Gainesville.