

Garden State FFA Degree Application



The State FFA Degree is the highest degree a state association can bestow upon a member, recognizing their high level of commitment to the FFA through leadership, community service, and an outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.



Requirements

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree and have been a student member for two years.
2. 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.
3. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000.00 net income by the member's own efforts from their supervised agricultural experience program or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time in a supervised agricultural experience or a combination thereof.
4. Be familiar with the provisions of the constitution of the State Association and National Organization.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing 10 parliamentary procedure activities or earning 80% or better on the Parliamentary Law Test in AET.
 - b. Giving a six - minute presentation on an agriculture topic.
 - c. Serving as an officer and/or committee chair, or participating member of a major committee.
 - d. Participating in student, chapter, school, or community activities.
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 chapter Program of Activities.
8. Have participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in at least 25 additional, unduplicated hours of community service activities within at least two different community service activities.

The Application

Awards

- Certificate
- Charm

Additional Information

- There is no limit to the number of state degree applications submitted by a chapter.
- Only applications generated in AET will be accepted.
- The application must be submitted through AET (Submission List) by March 15th or date listed in the current Calendar of Events. Late applications will NOT be accepted.
- An appropriate headshot, preferably in official dress, MUST be uploaded to the portfolio section of their AET so graphics can be created to celebrate their accomplishments. Photos where students are cropped out of a larger group, photos that are too close-up, selfies, etc. are not permissible.
- PLEASE review the second page of this document and the resources listed below BEFORE submitting the application.
- Feedback on applications will take place directly in AET. Once all evaluations have taken place, a blanket email will be sent to ag teachers alerting them to check the "Submission Lists & Feedback" section of AET.
 - A = Approved
 - R = Resubmit
 - N = Not Approved

Resources

- [Checklist](#)
- [From Records to Recognition](#)
- [Handbook](#)

Due March 15



877-AgEd FFA



www.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/



Common Errors

- **SAE Entry Errors**
 - Relationship to ag is unclear; Must be tied to a National AFNR Career Cluster Content Standard
 - Not enough information is provided in the annual review to understand the project; no growth is shown
 - Hours are not reasonable for a HS student or for the project as described
 - Gross earnings and hours are not realistic or don't meet minimum wage
 - Lumping entries weekly or bi-weekly (equivalent to a pay period) are permissible. Monthly, quarterly or yearly entries will get flagged.
- **Parliamentary Procedure**
 - Parliamentary Procedure activities listed are not outlined in the Official FFA Manual
 - Use of gavel, second and debate do not count as activities
 - Each activity must be listed separately and location of where the it was demonstrated must be listed
 - If utilizing the AET exam, an entry with your score and the date you took the exam is needed
- **Missing POA Activity or Committee Involvement**
- **6-Minute Speech**
 - Must be on an agriculturally related topic (speeches about FFA, leadership, etc. don't met this requirement)
 - Team speeches are not permissible
 - There is a box for hours and for minutes in the journal, be sure to enter the correct length of speech
- **Leadership Role**
 - Fails to list leadership role
 - Start/end year isn't provided
- **Type of SAE**
 - Foundational SAEs include: career awareness, financial management, employability skills, workplace safety, ag literacy activities (only 45 hours count)
 - Research SAEs are for SCIENTIFIC only (hypothesis, abstract and written report are required)
 - Entrepreneurship SAEs are for ALL ownership projects, even if the parents buy the supplies
- **Placement Projects**
 - Placement SAEs can be paid or unpaid but students cannot earn both within the same project
 - Unpaid hours cannot be duplicated as community service
- **Entrepreneurship Projects**
 - Income & Expense Summary must be completed
 - Inventory is NOT a listing of all items used throughout the duration of an SAE; Inventory is what you have on hand as of December 31, 2022; items you purchased throughout the duration of your SAE should appear as expenses
- **School-Based Enterprise Projects**
 - Must be very clear the project is not taking place during scheduled ag course time
 - Cannot be an activity on the chapter's POA (i.e. Plant Sale Fundraiser)
- **Financial Balance Sheet**
 - Records should only be reflective of what a student earns in an SAE, money a student uses to support an SAE, and expenses that are paid using money from an SAE
 - If a student is attending postsecondary, confirm that they don't have any education experiences
 - If a student has a paid project, ensure any expenses they have are listed (this includes for personal use)
- **Community Service**
 - Hours must come from two different activities (doing the same activity two different times does not meet the requirement)
 - Hours cannot be used for SAE hours and for FFA chapter activities
 - Each instance of the community service should be entered separately
 - Activities cannot benefit the group the applicant is a member of
 - Ensure students are completing the journal entry correctly (group that you served) and including a description that clarifies the activity
 - Review National FFA's [Community Service Guidelines](#)
- **Profile & AET Data**
 - Enrollment in ag courses for all years of membership
 - Year FFA membership and Ag Enrollment started need to match
 - Basic profile is complete
 - Personal emails are preferred (required for American Degree)
 - SAE plans and Annual Review are complete in the Experience Manager for each project