

DEGREES

Discovery:

The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for use in state associations and local chapters where middle school membership is offered. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees. To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter Program of Activities.
6. Submit written applications for the degree.

Greenhand:

Greenhand FFA Degrees are given out at the chapter level. To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, FFA Mission & Moto and FFA Salute.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the Organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the Official FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Chapter:

The Chapter FFA Degree is given to a FFA Chapters qualified members. To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours (or the equivalent) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level,
3. Have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
5. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official FFA Chapter Activities.
6. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof,
7. Have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
8. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
9. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.

10. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
11. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
12. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
13. Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service activities. These hours in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

State Degree:

GETTING STARTED

To receive the State FFA Degree in Oregon, members must:

1. Meet minimum qualifications for the degree as outlined below (taken directly from the Oregon FFA Bylaws)
2. Accurately fill out the correct application for review by their district for approval, substantiating all information contained in the application with a minimum of two years of records.
3. Pass a test with at least 70% accuracy covering agriculture and FFA knowledge, based upon a test bank provided by Oregon FFA.
4. Present to a group of individuals, including any of the following: advisory committee members, business and industry representatives, school personnel, state officers, and alumni members.
5. E-mail your final application to your advisor.

In order for FFA members to begin preparing for the State FFA Degree, it is important that they first know all the requirements for this degree. The following has been taken from the Oregon FFA Bylaws:

SECTION D. "State FFA Degree"

The State FFA Degree is given to the qualified members of the state FFA association. To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the State Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

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 high 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.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1500 or worked at least 900 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience. A minimum of 500 hours must be worked in the last two years regardless of the type of SAE project.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing 10 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. Must have an accumulative GPA of 2.0 as of December 31st of the year applying. GPA is based on the last term/semester completed.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter's program of activities.
8. Have participated in a total of 30 activities with at least five FFA activities above the chapter level. Chapter meetings do not count. Example: The same activity completed for 3 years, counts as three activities.
9. Have participated in a minimum of 5 school and/or community activities. Example: The same activity completed for 3 years, counts as three activities.
10. Completed at least 25 hours of community service in a minimum of two different activities. All hours are cumulative. i.e. – the 10 hours used to obtain the chapter degree can be used towards the state degree. The community service hours must be in addition to hours spent on paid or unpaid SAE projects. The hours cannot serve a dual purpose in fulfilling both community service and SAE requirements.

All members meeting the qualifications may receive the State FFA Degree each year. The Oregon FFA Association state executive committee shall continue to establish the guidelines and qualifications for selecting the candidates submitting the required forms, completing the required interviews and tests.

Records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the district FFA advisor. The State Advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State Association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

PREPARING FOR THE TEST AND PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION

1. State FFA Degree Test

FFA members will take the written test on FFA knowledge, general agriculture knowledge and Parliamentary Procedure. Degree candidates must score at least 70%. The test bank and answer key will be available on the Oregon FFA website (www.oregonffa.com).

- a. The test will be administered by the district advisor or a chapter advisor designated by the district advisor, or two or more chapter advisors who are from different chapters. Testing dates will be determined by each district.
- b. Special Needs Requests: The Oregon FFA Association provides opportunity for students with special needs to be accommodated based on their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students with an IEP must follow the conditions of their IEP during the State Degree process. A member of the student's IEP Team may be present during the on-site process to make the necessary IEP modifications. Certain modifications may not require the IEP Team representative to be present, however prior notification and approval from the district advisor is required. Prior notification and costs associated with accommodating and meeting the needs of these candidates are the responsibility of the local school district. Please let the district advisor know of any special needs at least one week prior to the test and/or presentation.

2. Presentation:

The purpose of this portion of the State Degree process is to verify members' FFA experience including SAE, leadership, activities, and school and community involvement.

- a. Each FFA District will arrange for presentation times and locations. Evaluation committees can consist of any of the following, but **must** have at least one community member present: Alumni, school personnel, business and industry representatives, or advisory committee members.
- b. **During the State FFA Degree SAE Presentation, the Evaluation Committee:**
 - Will listen to Portfolio Presentations
 - Will verify FFA membership and activities
 - Will verify knowledge and skills gained through FFA activities
 - Will validate SAE project and verify growth in at least one area
 - Will verify participation in school and community activities
 - May check record books
 - May ask additional questions for clarification
- c. During the State FFA Degree Portfolio Presentation, candidates will:
 - Arrive in complete FFA Official Dress for the Portfolio Presentation.
 - Have available completed SAE record books, with all necessary components, for the past two years. Record books must accompany the member to the presentation and may be used to answer questions asked by the evaluation committee
 - Present information regarding their SAE, FFA and Ag Education experiences to the evaluation committee.
 - Candidates choose how they wish to convey their entire FFA experience to the evaluation committee. The following is a list of possible media to be used during the Portfolio Presentation and are examples only:
 - ✓ PowerPoint presentation
 - ✓ Skill/knowledge demonstration
 - ✓ Display board
 - ✓ Video
 - ✓ Review of member's record book
 - ✓ Scrapbook
 - ✓ Review of member's submitted application including what and how they have learned
 - ✓ Combination of methods

This presentation is an opportunity for members to verify the contents of their application and to demonstrate to the evaluation committee that they are worthy of this degree. Members are evaluated on the communication of information about their FFA experience, not by having an elaborate presentation. Individual candidates are encouraged to limit their presentation to 15 minutes. However, the evaluation committee may probe for additional clarification on any issue/question for an additional period of time.

If any of the above standards are not met in the Portfolio Presentation, candidates will be considered ineligible for the degree.

PREPARING THE APPLICATION

The application, which is used by the Oregon FFA Association for the State FFA Degree, can be found on the National FFA Website under the Application Center or through AET. Only applications submitted through this form will be considered.

DISTRICT LEVEL EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND RECORDS

1. All applications and record books for the previous two years, will be evaluated by the local district's advisors at a meeting set by the District Advisor, prior to the State Association due date.

2. Only those applications that meet minimum requirements and are complete will be approved and recommended to the State Association for final approval.
3. The District Advisor will insure that the names of all State FFA Degree Applicants from their district will be submitted by the date posted in the state FFA calendar, and membership on all applicants will be checked by the Oregon FFA State Office. Candidates who are not paid FFA members or are missing membership from a previous year will not be considered for the degree.
4. Candidates will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Two full years of completed record books to verify information contained in the application
 - Completed Oregon State FFA Degree application. Make sure all signatures have been obtained and the check sheet is completed with no 'errors'.

FINAL STEPS

All state degree applications of qualified candidates will be e-mailed to the state office by the district advisors along with a final candidate list. The due date for the list and applications can be found in the state FFA calendar.

**State FFA Degree
Portfolio/Presentation Guide**

Name _____

Chapter _____

This form may be used to aid in the evaluation for state degree applicants in the final phase of the Oregon FFA Association State Degree process. The purpose of this form is to show evidence of what is written on the applicant’s application form and their records.

Members must ‘Meet’ all standards in order to qualify for the State FFA Degree.

Standard	Does Not Meet	Meets
Verify and communicate FFA, School and Community activities.		
1. Member presents information to support that he/she has participated in FFA activities at and above the chapter level. Member identifies Career Related Learning Standards met by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as a chapter officer or committee chair • Participating in at least 5 activities above the chapter level (30 leadership activities total) • Participating in at least 10 school and community activities 		
2. Member communicates experiences met in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Work.		
Communicate and/or demonstrate knowledge and skills gained from their FFA experience.		
3. Member can give specific examples of knowledge and skills gained from participation in CDE’s, if applicable		
4 Member provided evidence of his/her preparation for and performance of a 6 minute speech or presentation relating to agriculture or the FFA. (manuscript, CIM score, verification from teacher, etc)		
Verify existence of SAE and show SAE growth (could include scope, responsibility, wages, experience, investment, etc.).		
5. Member is able to describe his/her SAE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows knowledge of the project area by describing knowledge and skills used in his/her SAE • explains how his/her SAE is related to their agriculture education curriculum or coursework 		
6. SAE growth and development is effectively shown and communicated by evidence of the application of skills learned in a new or different situation. Indicate Areas of Growth (at least one area): <input type="checkbox"/> Scope <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> Wages <input type="checkbox"/> Investment <input type="checkbox"/> Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
7. Completed application and record book is provided		

NOTE: Members should prepare a state degree presentation of their portfolio to deliver to a group of evaluators. Members should not expect the group to conduct an interview. Members must have available completed SAE record books, with all necessary components, for the past two years. Record books must accompany the member to the presentation and may be used to answer questions asked by the evaluator following the presentation.

Evaluators Signature

**State FFA Degree
District Checklist**

Name _____

Chapter _____

This form may be used to aid in the evaluation for state degree applicants in the district check of the Oregon FFA Association State Degree process. The purpose of this form is to show evidence that the applicant has met all requirements to receive their degree

Members must 'Meet' all standards in order to qualify for the State FFA Degree.

Requirement	Does Not Meet	Meets
Applicant has received the Chapter FFA Degree.		
Applicant has been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.		
While in high school, the applicant has 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.		
Applicant has earned and productively invested at least \$1500 or worked at least 900 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience. A minimum of 500 hours must be worked in the last two years regardless of the type of SAE project.		
Applicant has demonstrated leadership ability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law. • Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA. • Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee. 		
Applicant has a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent. Must have an accumulative GPA of 2.0 as of December 31 st of the year applying. GPA is based on the last term/semester completed.		
Applicant has participated in the planning and completion of the chapter's program of activities.		
Applicant has participated in a total of 30 activities with at least five FFA activities above the chapter level. Chapter meetings do not count. Example: The same activity completed for 3 years, counts as three activities.		
Applicant has participated in a minimum of 5 school and/or community activities. Example: The same activity completed for 3 years, counts as three activities.		
Applicant has completed at least 25 hours of community service in a minimum of two different activities. All hours are cumulative. i.e. – the 10 hours used to obtain the chapter degree can be used towards the state degree. The community service hours must be in addition to hours spent on paid or unpaid SAE projects. The hours cannot serve a dual purpose in fulfilling both community service and SAE requirements.		
Applicant has presented to a group of individuals, including any of the following: advisory committee members, business and industry representatives, school personnel, state officers, and alumni members.		

American:

Those wishing to apply for their American FFA Degree must:

1. Submit an electronic version of the completed application (as required by National FFA) to state staff no later than May 15 for review and approval.
2. Once application is approved electronically, submit the hard copy version with signatures to state staff by June 1 for submission to National FFA.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their SAE. To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the State FFA Degree
2. Have been an active member for the past three years (36 months), and have a satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the secondary school last attended.
4. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
5. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
6. Have earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. 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.
7. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.
8. Completed at least 50 hours of community service in a minimum of three different activities. All hours are cumulative. i.e. – the 25 hours used to obtain the state degree can be used towards the American degree. The community service hours must be in addition to hours spent on paid or unpaid SAE projects. The hours cannot serve a dual purpose in fulfilling both community service and SAE requirements. These hours also may not be duplicated to fulfill the Directed Lab requirement. All hours must take place outside of regularly scheduled class time
9. Have achieved a high school scholastic record of “C” or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.