

## **STATE DEGREES**

All proficiency and degree applications must derive from a valid SAE as defined by the Oregon FFA Association Board of Directors SAE Policies and must fit into one of the National FFA Proficiency Award areas.

### **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. 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.
4. 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 un-paid placement hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 1,500. 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. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 10 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 PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION**

### **1. 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
  - Will verify agricultural knowledge with regards to the Oregon Skill Sets
  - 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 and Agricultural Knowledge with regards to the Oregon Skill Sets 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 agricultural knowledge 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. A completed applications will include the following:
  - Completed State Degree Application with Signatures
  - Completed and Signed (by local advisor) Checklist
  - Completed & Signed Presentation Rubric
2. 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.
3. Only those applications that meet minimum requirements and are complete will be approved and recommended to the State Association for final approval.
4. 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.
5. 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**

Each candidate must have a completed and signed checklist, signed and completed presentation rubric, application, and approval by the majority vote of the advisors in the district and signed off by the district advisor,

All state degree applications, checklist, and presentation rubric of qualified candidates will be e-mailed to the state office by the district advisors. 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 is required 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"> <li>• Serving as a chapter officer or committee chair</li> <li>• Participating in at least 10 activities above the chapter level (30 leadership activities total)</li> <li>• Participating in at least 10 school and community activities</li> </ul>		
2. Member communicates experiences met in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Work.		
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)		
5. Members is able to communicate their agricultural knowledge in regards to the Oregon Skills Sets.		
5. Member is able to describe his/her SAE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shows knowledge of the project area by describing knowledge and skills used in his/her SAE</li> <li>• explains how his/her SAE is related to their agriculture education curriculum or coursework</li> </ul>		
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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Advisor Completing the Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

This form is required 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.		
Applicant has submitted at least two years of SAE records which have been verified by the district process.		
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.		
SAE answers yes the SAE Polices adopted by the Oregon FFA Association		
SAE fits into a current National Proficiency Area		
SAE projects are all listed as the correct type ( Entrepreneurship, Placement or Research) with the correct type of supporting records included in application. Example: Animals owned by the applicant may not be listed as Placement projects. Research projects conducted by applicant must be listed as Research projects not Placement projects.		
SAE projects are not duplicated as multiple SAE types or as both paid and unpaid hours. Examples: Same project listed as both Research and Placement. Same project listed as Entrepreneurship and Placement. Same Placement project hours listed as both Paid and Unpaid.		
Applicant has earned and productively invested at \$1500 or unpaid placement hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 1,500. 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. A minimum of 500 hours must be worked in the last two years regardless of the type of SAE project.		
Each project included in the application provides enough detail for an outside reviewer to understand what it is and how it is agriculturally related. (i.e. Description should include name of employer/project, duties and responsibilities of applicant, description of employment/project.)		
Each project included meets state guidelines to be considered a Supervised AGRICULTURAL Experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of the National Council for Agricultural Education AFNR standards to determine if the project is agricultural.</li> </ul>		
Are unusually high numbers of hours or income/expense explained in the box provided on the Checklist page of the application? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If application claims over 2,080 hours per year</li> <li>Appropriate amount of operating expenses for each Entrepreneurship project</li> </ul>		
Applicant has demonstrated leadership ability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.</li> <li>Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.</li> <li>Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.</li> </ul>		

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 <sup>st</sup> 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 10 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.		
Listed activities meet Community Service Guidelines for FFA Degrees. (Guidelines Below)		
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.		
Applicant has met all the above criteria and has received approval from the majority of the advisors in the district to receive the Oregon FFA State Degree		

**Community Service HINTS:** Applications need to list “Individual/Group/Organization to whom service was Provided” in the first column, not who service was performed with. Applications which list FFA, 4-H or applicant’s own school in the first column are wrong and will be questioned by national reviewers.

**Example of Bad Entry:**

- Individual/Group/Organization to whom service was PROVIDED: FFA chapter
- Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable: Helped with fundraiser
- Hours: 3
- If true, this is not acceptable within the guidelines. A common error is for applicants to list who they served WITH in column 1. If what they actually did was participate in a fundraiser for something acceptable with their chapter, it meets the guidelines but is entered incorrectly leading reviewers to believe the service was provided to the chapter.

**Example of Acceptable Entry:**

- Individual/Group/Organization to whom service was PROVIDED: XYZ Local Children’s Hospital
- Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable: Raised money for play area.
- Hours: 3
- In this example reviewers can reasonably assume the service was provided to a community group which meets the guidelines.

**Example of Good Entry:**

- Individual/Group/Organization to whom service was PROVIDED: XYZ Local Children’s Hospital
- Service performed and whom you performed the service with if applicable: Volunteered with my FFA Chapter to hold a BBQ fundraising dinner. All money earned was used to clean and repair the children’s play area in the pediatric wing of the hospital.
- Hours: 3
- In this example reviewers can clearly determine the service meets the guidelines.