2026 Thornton FFA Collegiate Scholarship

Purpose

The Thornton FFA Scholarship was established in 1991 to encourage FFA members in the state of Oregon to pursue higher educational opportunities in agriculture with the ultimate goal of seeking a degree in agriculture. The Thornton family hopes that this scholarship will encourage people to physically work toward their goals and to responsibly contribute to excellence in production agriculture.

Criteria

1. **Applicants must be current full-time college students.** Eligible students must have a minimum 2.8 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and be currently enrolled full time (12 or more credits on the quarter system) in an Oregon community college or university either as undergraduates majoring in an eligible agriculture degree or master's degree students majoring in agricultural education planning to teach in Oregon.

   Eligible undergraduate degree programs include agriculture production and sciences, agriculture education, and agriculture business/entrepreneurship degrees, including, but not limited to the following: agricultural production, crop/plant sciences, animal sciences, range sciences, soil sciences, agricultural sciences, agricultural education/leadership, agricultural business/economics, precision agriculture, and pre-veterinary science/medicine.

   Forestry, fisheries, wildlife, natural resources, marijuana/hemp/hop production, food science, viticulture, enology (wine making), and zymology (fermentation science) are <u>not</u> eligible majors or career pathways for this scholarship.

2. Student selection shall be limited to Oregon high school graduates who completed a minimum of two years in an Oregon Agricultural Sciences and Technology Program (vocational agriculture). Applicants must have been members of an Oregon high school FFA chapter at least their junior and senior years.

3. Students must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

4. If equally qualified, a preference shall be given to students from the Yamhill-Carlton FFA program, then to students from Yamhill County, then to students from Polk County, then to students throughout the state of Oregon.

5. Recipients are eligible to receive the Thornton FFA Scholarship three times if they reapply and are reselected. If reapplying, please **significantly change your applications** by updating the financial section, adding recent pictures, updating your activities page, refreshing essays 2 and 3, and including current reference letters that highlight endeavors from the most recent year. Please ensure you are using the current year's application.

6. Agricultural interest, scholarship, service, honesty**,** integrity, initiative, and determination as evidenced through school, jobs, community activities and FFA participation will be major deciding factors in the final selection.

Award Information

Student recipients will receive their scholarship in one payment to their college account spring term of the current school year, contingent upon verification of full-time enrollment and the Thornton Family's receipt of a thank you note within 30 days of scholarship award notification. **The donor mailing address will be provided via email to scholarship nominees.**

Questions

If you have questions about the scholarship, application process or eligibility, please email AG.Education@oregonstate.edu. Indicate Thornton FFA Collegiate Scholarship as the email subject.

Application Process

Read all instructions. Answer all questions. Submit application, including required attachments in order **compiled into a single PDF file**. Use an online PDF combination tool to combine files if needed.

Email must be sent no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

Email applications to:
AG.Education@oregonstate.edu
Include "Thornton FFA Scholarship, *YOUR NAME*" in the subject line of the email.

2026 Thornton FFA Collegiate Scholarship Application

Application Type, please select one:

- ☐ Undergraduate Applicant
- ☐ Agriculture Education Master's Program Applicant (planning to teach in Oregon)

Full Name				Birth Date	
Other Names Used (Include Maiden Name)					
Current Address					
City		State		Zip	
Phone Number				Email Address	
Residence Growing Up:	Rural Farm ☐ Rural Non-Farm ☐ Urban ☐	List any year(s) you have applied for this scholarship.		List any year(s) you have received this scholarship.	
Are you a US citizen or legal permanent resident?	Yes ☐ No ☐	Were you a member in an Oregon FFA Program for a minimum of your junior and senior years?			Yes ☐ No ☐
Years as a paid FFA member	Middle School		High School		Alumni/ Collegiate	
FFA Chapter		FFA Chapter Advisor			
High School City		High School County			
High School Name			High School Graduation Date		
Senior Year Class Ranking	_____ out of _____ students		High School GPA*		
Current College Name			College GPA*		
Degree Pursued: e.g.: A.S., B.S, B.A.		Terms Completed at Current College		Class Standing e.g.: Jr., Sr.	
Major			Minor		
Post-Graduation Career Objective			Expected Graduation Date		
Credits taken this term		Credits planned Spring Term		College Student ID Number	
Other colleges you have attended:			Terms Completed		
Other colleges you have attended:			Terms Completed		

*Please use accumulated GPA on a 4.0 scale or note otherwise.

FFA ACTIVITIES

Highest FFA Degree Awarded

Supervised Agricultural Experience(s)

List a maximum of six major FFA activities and the level of participation in each.

Activity	Year in School (Fr, So, Jr, or Sr)	Chapter	District	State	National

AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

List up to six of your most significant agriculture-related activities and memberships from the **past four calendar years, excluding FFA**. Be sure to include any leadership roles or offices you have held. (Examples: agricultural organizations, county/state fairs, livestock breed associations, collegiate agriculture clubs, etc.)

Activity	Date(s) e.g. March-May 2018 or March 2018 – August 2019

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

List your six most meaningful community, service and church activities in the past four calendar years. Please include any offices held, do not duplicate activities already listed above in FFA or agriculture activities. (Examples: charity drives, volunteer work, fundraisers, mission trips, youth group leadership, etc.)

Activity	**Date(s)** **e.g. March-May 2018 or March 2018 – August 2019**

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summarize your most important work experience and duties **in the last four calendar years.**

Work Experience	**Length of Employment** **e.g. March-May 2018 or March 2018 – August 2019**	**Typical Hours Worked per Week** **e.g. 15 hrs/wk driving swather 20 hrs/wk computer input**

In the following spaces, or on an attached paper, please write 100-200 words on each topic.

1. Explain which three high school FFA activities most impacted your life and why.

2. Explain your long-range goals for school, employment, and life. Ten years from now, after you have graduated from college and are settled into your career, will you be in Oregon? How do you see yourself contributing to production agriculture? What specific skills are you working on now to achieve those goals?

3. Help us know YOU. Tell us about your current life. Besides college classes, how do you spend your hours? Do you work, compete, pursue a hobby, have outings with friends, exercise, or just relax?

ESTIMATED ANNUAL EXPENSES PER SCHOOL YEAR

Estimated Yearly Expenses		Briefly explain your financial philosophy and how you are paying for college. What are your long-term financial goals?
Tuition		
Books		
Housing		
Living Expenses		
Transportation		
Other		
TOTAL		

Required Documents <u>in Order</u> (Combine into a Single PDF File):

1. **Cover Page** listing your name, college currently attending, year in school, college major, your hometown, and the date of submission.
2. **Optional:** One page of current and past pictures showing your involvement with agricultural activities. Please include the year and caption with each photo and your name and college at the top of the page.
3. **Completed application, must be signed (typed signature acceptable).**
4. **ONE Current One-Page Letter of Recommendation** from one of your college agriculture instructors. (Freshman applicants may have their high school FFA instructor provide this letter.)
5. **ONE Current One-Page Letter of Recommendation** from a recent non-relative employer. If your employer is a family member, request a letter from an adult colleague or business associate familiar with your work experience.
   Note: Both recommendation letters must be dated and written within the last nine months.
6. **College Transcripts** for current college, listing courses, grades, credit hours, and accumulated GPA. Copies or unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
7. **High School Transcript** <u>only if</u> this is your first year as a full-time college student.

Additional Information:

- Essays may be typed on a separate paper and attached, <u>please include essay question and full name on all attachment pages</u> (e.g. Jon Smith #1 SAE). Reminder, 100-200 words per essay, please.

Where did you hear about this scholarship opportunity? (Check all that apply)

☐ Instructor/Professor ☐ Email ☐ Oregon FFA Website
☐ College Scholarship Website ☐ Poster/Flyer ☐ Friend/Peer ☐Other: _____

Statement of Applicant

I certify that all information given on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that selection committees may review information on this application and my transcripts. If requested, I agree to give proof of the information on this application. I hereby authorize those working with selection and administration of the scholarship to share information pertaining to my application as necessary for administrative or publicity purposes.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____