

American FFA Degree

A. Information

The American FFA Degree is the fifth and highest degree conferred on members by the National FFA Organization.

Each chapter in “good standing” is permitted to submit applications from all of its qualified candidates for the American FFA Degree.

Minimum Qualifications for Election (Article VI, National FFA Constitution)

“Section F. American FFA Degree—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, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.*
2. *Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or to have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in 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.*
3. *Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.*
4. *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.*
5. *A student after entering agricultural education must have:*
 - a. *earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or*
 - b. *earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 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.*
6. *Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of “C” or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.*
7. *Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least 3 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.*

B. Application Submission

In addition to the minimum qualifications and rules stated in the preceding introductory paragraphs and National FFA Constitution, the following rules must be followed:

1. Candidate must be an active member.
2. Candidates must complete the American FFA Degree application found at: <http://www.ffa.org/>. Applicants must have an online FFA account established to access the application—the chapter advisor should assist the candidate in establishing the online account.

3. Upon completion of the application, the candidate and the FFA Advisor must contact a current or former FFA Advisor from a different school to serve as the reviewer. This advisor must be familiar with SAE records and completing the American FFA Degree.
4. The reviewer must meet with the candidate and compare the SAE record book with the American FFA Degree application using the American FFA Degree review sheet found at <http://www.iowaffa.com/americandegree.aspx>.
5. Candidates must submit the “final”, reviewer approved, application along with the review sheet to the Iowa FFA by May 15th (Postmarked).
6. The Advisor must enter all applicants into Iowa FFA Online by May 15th. The website is: http://anfmp01.dmac.edu/fmi/iwp/res/iwp_home.html. Entry must be done on “DMRoster.”
7. No additional (partial or full) pages of information, pictures, records, news articles or other material will be permitted.
8. All signatures are required.
9. Application covers, including the official FFA Award cover, and individual page protective sheets of any sort are not permitted.
10. Responsibilities of the American Degree reviewer will be to:
 - Utilize the American Degree Review Form to verify that the candidate’s SAE records match the application
 - Verify that the candidate’s SAE exists
 - Complete the application review form
11. Responsibilities of the chapter Advisor will be to:
 - Review the application and records for accuracy and correctness utilizing the review resources available, but the chapter advisor should not complete the degree review sheet on the application.
 - Schedule the candidate’s record book review visit
 - Assist the candidate with making revisions as identified during the record book review
 - Enter all applicants into the Iowa FFA Online CDE system by May 15th. The website is: http://anfmp01.dmac.edu/fmi/iwp/res/iwp_home.html. Entry must be done on “DMRoster.”
 - Mail the final application and review sheet to the Iowa FFA by May 15th.
12. The American Degree Review Form is posted on <http://www.iowaffa.com/americandegree.aspx>.

C. Star American FFA Awards

1. Applicants with outstanding SAE projects are encouraged to complete the American FFA Degree Star Battery found at: <http://www.ffa.org/>.
2. The American FFA Degree Star Awards recognize applicants who excel in the areas of Star in Agribusiness, Star in Ag Placement, Star in Agriscience, and Star Farmer.
3. Each state may submit one candidate in each of the four areas. The candidates will be selected by a committee formed by the Iowa FFA Association.
4. Judging of the star candidate applications will take place at the National FFA Center in July. Four national finalists will be named in each of the four areas.
5. Those applicants named national finalists will be interviewed at the National FFA Convention.