

# Iowa FFA Degree

## A. General Information

The Iowa FFA Degree is the highest rank that can be conferred upon active members by the Iowa FFA Association. Those to receive the degree will be selected for nomination by the State Committee according to provisions in the Iowa FFA Constitution. Awards will be presented with appropriate ceremony to the successful candidates at the annual Iowa FFA Leadership Conference.

Candidates may be nominated by submitting service and achievement records on official application forms. Applications are to be prepared by the candidate and verified by the chapter advisor and executive committee.

In any year, all active members who are candidates meeting minimum qualifications may be elected to the Iowa FFA Degree (There are no chapter quotas).

The minimum qualifications for election to the degree according to the Iowa FFA Constitution are:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree and have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the Iowa FFA Degree.
2. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in Agriculture Education of above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
3. A student after entering agricultural education must have: 1.) earned and productively invested at least \$1,500, or 2.) worked at least 375 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or 3.) a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have participated in at least 25 additional, unduplicated hours of community service activities within at least two different community service activities.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - i. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
  - ii. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
  - iii. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or a 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.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of chapter Program of Activities.
8. Have participated in at least five approved FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Meet other requirements as established by the Iowa FFA Association.

## B. Rules

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

1. Active membership dues for candidates must have been paid to and received by the Iowa FFA Association on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the year applications are submitted.
2. Candidates must submit the correct application form for the year the degree is to be received.
3. One copy of the completed application must be received, by the District FFA Advisor prior to the evaluation. Each candidate's SAE record books covering the period of the applications must be in possession of the District record book review committee prior to the time of evaluation.
4. Only paper record books and computer print outs of records will be accepted; electronic versions will not be accepted as SAE records at the District Review.
5. Applications will be judged as originally submitted with no additions or changes permitted after the District FFA Advisor receives them.
6. No additional pictures or additional (partial or full) pages of information, pictures, news articles or other material will be permitted as a part of the Iowa FFA Degree application; however, these additional items may be included in record books.
7. Candidate's earned net worth cannot exceed total earned net income.
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. Star Candidates: Candidates wishing to be considered as a Star Finalist shall advance three additional copies of their approved application to the State FFA Staff on or before February 15<sup>th</sup>.
11. Applications that are altered in any way may result in disqualification.

**C. Procedure for Verifying Iowa FFA Degree Applications with SAE Record**

1. Only SAE record books will be evaluated; there will be no interview process.
2. Require no specific record keeping system; however, require specific records to be kept for all ownership and ag placement programs.
  - a. business agreements
  - b. inventories (beginning and ending) – when appropriate
  - c. itemized income
  - d. itemized expenses
  - e. number of hours—when appropriate
3. Evaluation of applications and SAE record books at the district level:
  - a. Three evaluation representatives from each sub-district will serve on a rotational basis (three-year terms).
  - b. Each sub-district shall elect evaluation representatives at IAAE Conference.
  - c. In case of a resignation, the sub-district advisor will appoint a replacement for the balance of the term.
  - d. The district FFA advisor will chair the evaluation process; he/she will be given instructions and review the process.
  - e. Each sub-district will evaluate another sub-district's applications. If necessary, advisors may evaluate applications from their own sub-district. Advisors may NOT evaluate applications from their own chapters.
  - f. The district advisor will be responsible to see that all sub-district committees are consistent with their evaluation process.

- g. No additional instructors are permitted at this evaluation and review.
- h. Review all sections of the Iowa FFA Degree as outlined on the Iowa FFA Degree Review sheets.
- i. Each district will submit the name and school post office of each candidate that qualifies for the degree.
- j. Candidates that meet the qualifications of the Iowa FFA Degree Review, as verified by the district verification committee, will be awarded the Iowa FFA Degree.
- k. Appeals will be conducted at the district level.

**D. Iowa FFA Degree Process**

- 1. Applicant Responsibilities
  - A. Completing the Iowa Degree Application is the responsibility of the individual FFA member, not the local FFA advisor. Each applicant is the ultimately responsible for using the Iowa Degree Review sheets, at the end of this file, to review their own application BEFORE submitting.
  - B. Applicants should seek their advisor's assistance, as needed, to correct problems and improve the quality of the application.
  - C. Each student applicant should review his or her own application using the Iowa Degree Review sheets.
  - D. Sign your application and obtain your parents' signatures after you and your advisor have reviewed your application and corrected mistakes. These signatures verify that the information is correct and accurate.
  - E. Obtain your superintendent, principal, or guidance counselor's signature after your parents have signed the application.
  - F. Obtain the signatures of your chapter advisor, president and secretary.
  - G. Organize your SAE records so information can be verified quickly. A three-ring binder, organized and tabbed by year is recommended. (The District Review Committee is NOT obligated to spend excessive amounts of time shuffling through unorganized records. Applications may be denied if the records are too disorganized to verify the information in the application.)
  - H. Deliver your signed Iowa Degree Application and SAE records to your chapter advisor.
  - I. Your primary goal is to deliver a complete and accurate application to your chapter advisor.
- 2. Advisor Responsibilities
  - A. Have each applicant review his or her own application using the Iowa Degree Review sheets attached to this document.
  - B. Utilize the Iowa Degree Review sheets to review each application. (Consider having past recipients or alumni help with this process.)
  - C. Review each application for accuracy and correctness BEFORE signing.
  - D. Register each applicant for the degree on the Iowa FFA On-Line System.
  - E. For each applicant, deliver one copy of the Iowa Degree Application and all SAE records to the District Advisor. **NOTE:** Mail 3 copies of STAR CANDIDATE(s) applications and 3 copies of the approved Iowa Degree

- application to the FFA Enrichment Center by February 15<sup>th</sup> (Non-Star Candidates should NOT mail anything to the FFA Enrichment Center).
- F. Your primary goal is to deliver a complete and accurate application(s) to the District Advisor.
  - G. **CAUTION: Do not use the District Review process only as a way to review your application, prior to completing an appeal. Delivering pre-reviewed applications will allow the process to proceed much more smoothly.**
  - H. Appeals: The chapter advisor is responsible for coordinating potential appeals with the District Advisor within one week of the District Review.
3. Local Chapter President and Chapter Secretary Responsibilities
- A. To aid in verifying the information in the application, each applicant should have completed an Iowa Degree Review sheets. Review this form BEFORE signing the application.
  - B. Your primary goal is to verify that the information contained in the application accurately represents your fellow FFA member's SAE records and FFA accomplishments.
4. District Advisor (or designee) Responsibilities
- BEFORE THE REVIEW PROCESS**
- A. Identify the members of the District Review Committee. (Note: The reviewers are typically identified during one of the district meetings at the summer agricultural education conference. Beginning instructors are welcome to observe and participate at the review, but avoid using too many beginning instructors on the review committees.)
  - B. Identify the members of the District Appeal Committee. Identify three experienced advisors who will serve as the Appeal Committee. Identify advisors that have a strong understanding of record keeping and the Iowa Degree application. These individuals will review all applications that receive a "NO" on Step 3 of the review sheet. (Step 3. NO = This candidate's application does NOT appear to meet all qualifications of the Iowa Degree.)
  - C. Notify the District Review Committee so they know when and where they are expected to attend.
  - D. Notify all advisors so they know when and where they are to deliver the applications and record books.
  - E. Make copies of the Iowa FFA Degree Review sheets (one per applicant). This form is attached to the end of this document.
- DURING THE REVIEW**
- F. The District Advisor should not serve on any of the Sub-District review committees. The District Advisor should be free to work with any review committee as questions arise.
  - G. The Appeal Committee members may serve on the Sub-District review committees. However, they may be called to assist the District Advisor in answering questions.
  - H. Sub-District review teams are encouraged not to review applications from their own Sub-District.

- I. An advisor on a review committee SHALL NOT review applications from their own chapter.
- J. Sub-District review teams will review each application and associated record books.
- K. Sub-District review teams will complete one review sheet for each applicant.
- L. Sub-District review team MUST provide written explanation for any applications that receive a “NO” on Step 3 of the review sheet. Applications that receive a “NO” shall be reviewed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-District review team for verification.
- M. The signed review sheets will be given to the District Advisor upon completion.
- N. The Appeal Committee and the District Advisor will decide what action is to be taken on applications that receive a “NO” in Step 3 of the review sheet.

**AFTER THE REVIEW**

- O. Within 48 hours, update the status of each candidate on the Iowa FFA On-Line System.
- P. Within 48 hours, notify all advisors that the results of the review can be reviewed via the Iowa FFA On-Line System and instruct that unapproved applicants have a right to appeal (Directions for the appeal process are later in this document). It is the applicant’s responsibility to initiate the appeal process.
- Q. Within 48 hours, provide the advisors of the unapproved applicants with information about the time, place, and process of the appeals.
- R. Identify advisors that will conduct the appeal interviews (Recommend: 2-3 advisors, District Advisors may participate, District Convention would be the recommended, but not required time and location).
- S. Applicants that are approved by the District Committees will receive their Iowa FFA Degree.

**AFTER THE APPEAL**

- T. Appeals must be completed at or before the District Convention. Status of newly approved applicants must be updated on the Iowa FFA On-Line System within 48 hours after the District Convention.
- U. Applicants that are also being considered as a Star Finalist that submit an appeal must be reviewed PRIOR TO February 15<sup>th</sup>. This will ensure that every Star applicant is eligible for consideration for final Star selection.

**5. Appeal Committee Responsibilities**

- A. The Appeal Committee will only review applications that receive a “NO” on Step 3 of the review sheet.
- B. The committee will determine whether or not the applicant must appear in person for the appeal.
  - i. Simple omissions or corrections (ie. a missing signature) do not require personal appearance. The corrections may be emailed, faxed or mailed to the District Advisor. The District Advisor has

the power to approve all applications, which have met the identified corrections, when personal appearance is not required.

- ii. Personal appearance by the applicant is required when:
  - a) The applicant needs to explain unique or confusing situations
  - b) The record books must be reviewed and explained
  - c) When the Appeal Committee feels a personal interview is needed to verify the application.

C. Appeals requiring personal appearance by the applicant: upon completion of the applicant interview, the Appeal Committee will identify each application as approved or not approved. The Appeal Committee will provide the District Advisor with a final list of approved and not approved applicants.

6. Iowa FFA Board of Directors Responsibilities

- A. The Iowa FFA Association Board of Directors will rule on appeals that are not decided (or cannot be decided) at the District level, or denied applicants that ask for a state board ruling.
- B. The Iowa FFA Association Board of Directors will not guarantee to handle these requests before the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference.
- C. Applicants must submit a written request for a state board review.
- D. Written requests for a state board review must be postmarked within 72 hours of the district convention.

**E. Awards**

**State:** Degree Recipients      State Degree Pin (Awarded on Stage at SLC)  
State Degree Certificate (Awarded in SLC Packet)

**All awards subject to available sponsorship through the Iowa FFA Foundation.**

**F. Event Hosting Guidelines/Checklists**

**Needed Materials Checklist:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa FFA Degree Applications and Record Books
- \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa Degree Review Sheets (1 per application)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of rules
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tables for Reviewers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chairs for Reviewers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Calculators
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pens/Pencils for Reviewers

**G. Review Sheet/Review Process**