

## **FFA Degrees**

FFA is structured into a degree program which rewards active FFA members for progress in all phases of leadership, skills and occupational development. The Discovery FFA Degree (junior high school), the Greenhand FFA Degree, and the Chapter FFA Degree are awarded at the chapter level. State associations award top members with the State FFA Degree. The highest degree, the American FFA Degree, is conferred upon an elite group of members at the national level.

### **Greenhand Degree**

The California FFA Association Constitution outlines minimum qualifications for receiving the Greenhand FFA Degree. The greenhand degree is awarded at the chapter level.

#### **ARTICLE IV. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES**

Section B. Greenhand FFA Degree: On meeting the following minimum qualifications, the Greenhand FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter:

- Be regularly enrolled in a vocational education course for an agricultural occupation and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised agricultural experience.
- Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto, Salute, and the FFA Mission Statement.
- Describe the FFA emblem, colors, and symbols.
- Explain the proper use of the FFA jacket.
- Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
- Know the duties and responsibilities of FFA members.
- Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual.
- Submit written application for the degree for chapter records.
  
- 10 hours with their ag project by the end of their first year.
- 5 hours of community service.

### **Chapter FFA Degree**

The California FFA Association Constitution outlines minimum qualifications for receiving the Chapter FFA Degree. The chapter FFA degree is awarded at the chapter level.

#### **ARTICLE IV. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES**

Section C. Chapter FFA Degree: On meeting the following minimum qualifications, the Chapter FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter:

Must have held the degree of Greenhand for at least one complete semester of instruction and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.

- It shall be understood that conformance with the provisions of this article precludes a member from receiving both the Greenhand FFA and Chapter FFA Degrees during the same academic year.

- Must have satisfactorily completed at least one year of systematic instruction in agriculture education, at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised farming and/or other supervised agricultural experience program, have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised farming and/or other supervised agricultural experience program, and be regularly enrolled in an agriculture education class.
- Be familiar with the purposes and programs of activities of the state association and national organization.
- Be familiar with the provisions of the constitution of the local chapter.
- Be familiar with Parliamentary Procedure.
- Must have led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
- Must have earned at least \$150 by his/her own efforts from his/her supervised farming and/or other supervised agricultural experience program, and have it productively invested or deposited in a bank, or have worked 100 hours on his/her SAE in excess of scheduled class time.
- Have a 2.0 scholastic record in an agricultural course.
- Participate in activities for community improvement as evidenced by participating in at least two distinctly different activities, to the extent of spending at least 10 hours of personal time, which you seek to serve and/or improve the quality of life in the local community.

### **State FFA Degree**

The State FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the California State FFA Association and made significant accomplishments in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). Approximately 1,800 State FFA Degrees are handed out each year. That number represents approximately 3% of the California FFA association membership, making it the State's highest honor. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold State FFA Degree charm. The top State FFA Degree recipients may also apply for a Star Award.

### **ARTICLE IV. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES**

Section D. State FFA Degree: To be eligible to be elected to the State FFA Degree a member must meet all of the following minimum qualifications:

- Must have held the Chapter FFA Degree for at least one year immediately preceding application for the State FFA Degree.
- Have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years preceding application for the State FFA Degree. At the time of application for the State FFA Degree, must have completed at least two years of instruction in agriculture education, at or above the ninth grade level, which included an agricultural. Supervised Agricultural Experience Program; and must be regularly enrolled in an agriculture education class at the secondary education level, an agriculture course at the post-secondary education level, or be a graduate of a secondary agriculture education program who is engaged in an agricultural occupation.
- Have worked for a minimum of 500 hours, in excess of scheduled class time, on his/her Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, and must have earned by his/her own efforts from an agricultural enterprise or other agriculturally-related work and deposited in a bank or

otherwise productively invested at least \$1,000.00; or show an investment cost of at least \$2,000.00 in depreciable property inventory; or have earned by his/her own efforts from agricultural enterprise or other agriculturally-related work and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested a combination of dollars and unpaid labor hours which, when summed, equal at least \$1,000.00.

- Have a 2.0 scholastic record as certified by the local principal or superintendent.
- Have participated in the planning and completion of the Chapter Program of Activities.
- Have participated in at least five FFA activities above the chapter level.
- Written records of achievements shall be based on the member's own entries in AET. Such a record book is the only substantiation a member may use for the purpose of applying for advanced degrees and awards in this association.
- The member's Record Book entries must meet the verification process approved by the State FFA Advisor.
- It shall be the responsibility of the applicant, under the supervision of the local FFA advisor, to submit an application for the State FFA Degree which is thorough, complete, and accurate. Information which appears on the application form that is submitted to the State FFA office shall be the primary information which the scoring committee shall consider in its evaluation of the candidate's worthiness for the degree.
- There shall be four annual awards for the State FFA Degree recipients known as the California Star Farmer, California Star in Agribusiness, California Star in Agricultural Placement, and the California Star in Agriscience. is a Junior, Senior, or first year Graduate, is an active FFA member in good standing at the time of application, and has an ongoing supervised occupational experience program which has been continuously under the supervision of the local agriculture instructor.

### **American FFA Degree**

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs).

A student after entering agricultural education must have:

- 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 level.
- Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program, or 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.
- Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
- Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program, through which the member has exhibited comprehensive

planning and managerial and financial expertise. A student after entering agricultural education must have: (a) Earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested \$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.

- 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.
- Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
- Applicants must submit an application electronically through [ffa.org](http://ffa.org). Applicants must submit the signature page with the signatures of the chapter president, chapter advisor, superintendent or principal, and state advisor or state executive secretary, certifying accuracy of all statements in the application and that the applicant conducted him/herself in a manner to be a credit to the organization, chapter and community.