



Old North State Degree Guidelines

Overview

The Old North State Degree is the highest degree active members can earn from the North Carolina FFA Association.

Activity Eligibility

All eligible activities (supervised agricultural experience (SAE), FFA, community service hours, etc.) included on applications must have been completed before December 31 of the year prior to the application deadline.

Application Timeline

March 1 - Submission via AET

March - Applications reviewed by committee

April - Corrections can be made to applications

May - Final list of recipients announced

Authority

Article VI., Section E of the [National FFA Constitution](#) outlines the minimum requirements to earn the State FFA Degree. Article VI., Section E of the [North Carolina FFA Association Constitution](#) provides additional guidelines to earn the Old North State Degree. The requirements below are aligned to these two constitutions.

Qualifying Requirements

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active member and paid membership dues for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
 - a. At minimum an applicant must be in their third year of FFA membership to earn this degree.
 - b. To retain membership in high school, a student must be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study, and maintain a supervised agricultural experience program.
 - c. Members may retain active FFA membership after high school until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention since their high school graduation.

3. Have completed at least two (2) years of instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. A student after entering agricultural education must have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000; or have worked at least 300 hours outside of scheduled class time; or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Demonstrated leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law.
 - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA.
 - c. Serving as an FFA 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.
 - a. E-signatures of a school official must be present in order to meet this requirement.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter Program of Activities.
8. Participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level.
 - a. FFA activities above the chapter level must be officially conducted by the Federation, Region, State, or National FFA.
 - b. Attending a career expo, fair, farm show, livestock show, or university visit are not considered FFA activities above the chapter level.
9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
 - a. Defining Community Service:
 - i. The activity includes tangible community involvement by the applicant.
 - ii. The applicant has an opportunity to gain skills and competencies or apply skills and competencies learned in the classroom setting.
 - iii. The activity has a demonstrated positive impact and is focused on helping others, improving community resources or improving community infrastructure.
 - iv. Community members impacted may not primarily be members of the applicants own family.
 - v. The applicant must voluntarily donate his/her time, energy and knowledge outside of any class time, including non-agricultural education class time.
 - vi. If the applicant is allowed to perform service in place of other required activities (classwork for example) it is not donated time and should not be counted.
 - vii. Service required for reparations or punishment is not voluntary and cannot be counted.
 - viii. Community Service activities can be organized by a group the applicant is a part of (FFA Chapter, church congregation, sports team, etc.), but the activity cannot be for the benefit of the group itself.

- ix. Activities listed/hours counted as Community Service cannot be duplicated in the FFA activities section of the application or as unpaid SAE hours. Activities/hours may only be used in one section of an application.
- b. For additional community service information and examples. [LINK](#)