# Minnesota FFA Degree Award Handbook

Updated and Edited October 2025

# Minnesota FFA Degree Handbook

This handbook calls attention to important points in completing and submitting the application for the Minnesota FFA Degree. Careful study by applicants and advisors may prevent misunderstanding and possible disappointment. All applications must be in the hands of the regional Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) representative on or before the regional due date.

#### General Information

A regional association will determine a method of selecting their Minnesota FFA degree candidates which is fair and equitable to both placement and entrepreneurship candidates. One composite list of all candidates alphabetical by chapter and last name (include all regional star candidates) and a separate list identifying the regional star candidates must be submitted to the state office on or before third Friday in February.

The applications are to be delivered to the region MAAE SAE Committee representative and/or region designee, who will have them evaluated by a committee. A committee selected by the region MUST interview all candidates. The committee will reject any candidates who failed to meet the constitutional requirements. The committee will approve all qualified candidates.

The MAAE SAE Committee representative will submit the list of qualified applications to the State FFA Advisor and the Board of Directors by third Friday in February for their recommendation to the delegates at the State FFA Convention.

If the candidate feels the action of the state committee at the state level is in violation of the constitutional requirement, individuals may file an appeal to the MAAE SAE Committee. Appeals must be filed no later than the third Friday of March of the application year. The SAE committee will then decide on the appeal.

Those responsible for recommending candidates to receive the Minnesota FFA Degree will base their recommendations on the application, verbal interviews, and/or visits to the candidate's SAE employment site or farm. It is critical that the information in the application be complete, definitive, neat, and understandable. All records of the candidates Supervised Agricultural Experience, both paid and unpaid, must be accurate and the financial records must balance. Do not include supplementary materials. All Minnesota FFA Degree candidates are required to have their records with them and available for study when being interviewed by the regional interviewing committee.

Each region may nominate a Regional Star Farmer, a Regional Star in Agribusiness, a Regional Star in Production Placement, and a Regional Star in AFNR Sciences. It is highly recommended that the regional advisor or SAE committee member and regional selection committee arrange visits to the candidates being considered for star awards. The Final Four and State Stars (Farmer, Agribusiness, Production Placement, and AFNR Sciences) will be selected from the regional candidates.

## Qualifications for election to the Minnesota FFA Degree

#### Minnesota FFA Association State Constitution - Article VI, Section D

- Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
- Be on record as having been an active FFA member at the local, state, and national level for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the FFA State Degree. Applicants may receive their degree during the convention occurring within the spring of their second year of membership provided they are at least a junior in high school.
- Have completed, or be in the process of completing, the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in AFNR education at or above the 9th grade level. If out of school, candidates must have completed the equivalent of two full years of agriculture and agribusiness instruction (360 hours) grade 9-12.
- Have in operation an approved SAE program aligned to skills outlined in the National AFNR standards. If out of school, at least one year of SAE records must have been completed during high school.
- AFTER entering AFNR education, must have earned & productively invested at least \$2000 by the member's own efforts, worked at least 600 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof. Hours are valued at \$3.56/hour.
- Demonstrate leadership ability by performing 10 procedures of parliamentary law, giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA; serving as an officer, committee chairperson or participation member of a chapter committee; and participate in the planning and/or completion of the chapter's Program of Activities.
- Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local AFNR education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
- Have participated in at least 10 different FFA activities above the chapter level.
- Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours and should be done to benefit someone other than the FFA chapter.
- Submit a written an electronic application for the degree on the AET.

## Regional Responsibilities Regarding the Minnesota FFA Degree

- All applications must be delivered to the Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative on or before the regional review date. Applications submitted at a later date are to be automatically rejected.
- The Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative is responsible for selecting committees and setting a date for screening the applications and interviewing the applicants. Note: If possible, this should be two different committees. An advisor should neither review nor evaluate candidates from their own chapter. Where possible, representatives from agribusiness should be involved on the committees.
- A regional association may determine the evaluation their Minnesota FFA Degree candidates, which is
  fair and equitable to both entrepreneurship and placement candidates with Production, AFNR
  Sciences or Agribusiness SAE's. One composite list of all candidates, alphabetical by chapter and last
  name (include all regional star candidates) and a list identifying the regional stars must be submitted to
  the state office by the third Friday in February. Please check all names for correct spelling and chapter.
   Report all errors in names ASAP.
- All candidates should be interviewed by the same interviewing committee, when possible. The
  committee will be responsible for scoring the applicant in each of the areas outlined on the score sheet.
  The committee will also ask any questions raised by the application screening committee and review
  the records of each candidate. If the applicant cannot show a year by year record or has deliberately
  improvised his/her records, this application must be rejected and returned to the candidate's advisor
  immediately.
- The Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative and the interview committee must verify student enrollment and completion of agricultural education courses.
- The Committee should put the applicant at ease; candidates should feel this is a positive experience. The interview committee questions should pertain to the candidate's knowledge of FFA, leadership, skills and competencies identified in the application, and clarification of information contained in his/her application.
- At the conclusion of the interview, the application and interview will be reviewed and the committee should recommend or reject the candidate's application for the Minnesota FFA Degree.
- If a serious error is found in the application, which can be satisfactorily explained and corrected by the candidate, the interviewing committee should allow the application to be corrected.
- It is the duty of the Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative, with the help of the reviewing committee, to identify on the regional level all applications that do not meet the minimum qualifications or for other reasons shall not be considered for the Minnesota FFA Degree.

## Regional Responsibilities Regarding the Minnesota FFA Degree

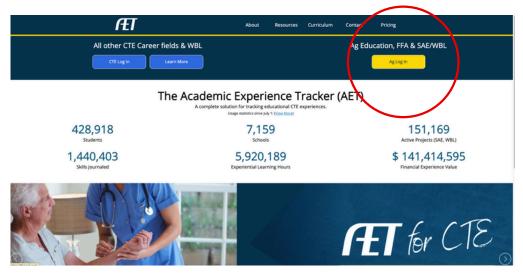
- The selection of the Regional Star in Agribusiness, AFNR Sciences, Farmer, and Production Placement candidates is the responsibility of the Regional Advisor, the Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative, and the Regional Adult Board Member. They shall establish a method of selection that is fair, equitable, and agreeable to all concerned. When the candidate(s) are from the chapter of the Regional Advisor or Adult Board Member, an unbiased person should be selected. This method should include a visit to the SAE site by the committee responsible for star selection.
- The Region MAAE SAE Committee Representative is responsible for sending a list of all recommended applications for their region to the State FFA Office on or before the state deadline.

#### Star Candidates

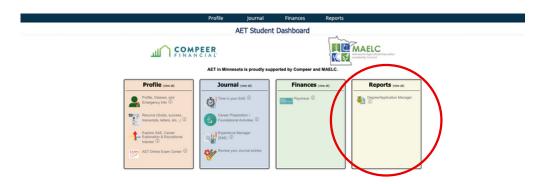
- Star Candidates with Placement SAE earnings in their Minnesota FFA Degree application are to be considered for Star in Agribusiness, AFNR Sciences, or Production Placement.
- Students whose Entrepreneurship SAE earnings in their Minnesota FFA Degree application are to be considered for Star in Agribusiness, AFNR Sciences, or Farmer.
- Star in Agribusiness definition The SAE earnings must be related to an enterprise that is identified as an agribusiness and considered a non-production agricultural enterprise. Businesses of this type typically transport, process, service, sell, or add value to an agricultural or natural resources commodity. SAE earnings may be from placement or entrepreneurship enterprises.
- Star in AFNR Sciences definition The SAE earnings must be related to an enterprise that is identified as Natural Resources, Environmental Science, science based directed lab or research/experimentations. SAE earnings may be from placement or entrepreneurship enterprises.
- Star Farmer definition The SAE earnings are from entrepreneurship production agriculture (i.e. Crop, Livestock, or Poultry Production Operation) and are found on the Income and Expense enterprise page/tab (Income and Expense Summary of Entrepreneurship Programs) of the Minnesota FFA Degree application. Earnings found on the Placement and Exploratory enterprise page/tab should not be considered as a part of the selection of the Star Farmer.
- Star in Production Placement definition The SAE earnings are from production agriculture placement (has a placement SAE on a Crop, Livestock, or Poultry Operation) and are found on the Placement and Exploratory enterprise page/tab of the Minnesota FFA Degree application. Earnings found on Income and Expense enterprise page/tab should not be considered as a part of the selection of the Star in Production Placement.

## Completing the Minnesota FFA Degree

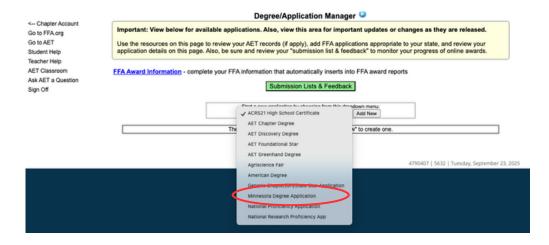
Cadidates for the Minnestoa FFA Degree will complete the Minnesota State Degree Application online at theaet.com



Once signed in, students should select reports, then Degree/Application Manager



From the drop-down menu you will be able to select a new Minnesota State Degree application. If the member has started their application it will appear on the bottom screen.



If you are starting a new application – select – Add New Application and select the application you wish to begin – American Degree, Minnesota Degree Application, National Proficiency Application, Star Application (Star Battery). Slect the appplication – Click Add.

From the menu bar on the left side of the screen open the Cover page. You can import your information from AET if you have SAE records in AET or you can add them directly into the application if you do not have an individual AET record account. The FFA member's identification number will appear, if the student's name is the same on the application and on the chapter roster. A. Proceed to complete all boxes and tabs on the cover page.

B. Each will save automatically as you enter information.

Melrose John Doe	Cover Page			
Return to App Mgr	Review Profile in AET	Review Award Info in AET	Load From ffa.org	
structions	Review Prome in AET	Review Award Into In AET	Load From Ha.org	
ver		THE RESIDENCE OF STREET	Contact County to the Att County	
Membership Check	Use the Tab key to go to the next cell that will:	otes before you begin this p accept entries.	page:	
Basic Setup				
Additional Requirements				
AE - Placement	Name as you want it to appear on the certificate Name on	the FFA Chapter Roster (if different)	Chapter ID: MN0172 FFA Member ID #:	
ssets	First: John			
abilities	Middle:		Area or Section # District or Region	
	Last: Doe		3	
Net Worth	Gender:			
arned & Prod. Invested	O No O O Non-	nunciation	Home Telephone Number	
lls, Comp., Knowledge	Answer Male Female Binary	The same of the same		
ctivities	Mailing Address		Email Address	
ommunity Service				
fanual Review Upload	City State	Zip Code		
Checklist		<u> </u>		
lectronic Signatures	Physical Address (required if your mailing address is a PO Box)			
ave a New Version #				
TO UTTON TOTAL TH	City State	Zip Code		
< Chapter Account	Father/Parent/Guardian Name	Father/Parent/Guard	ian Occupation	
Go to FFA.org	Tatien Faleno Guardian Haine	Paulei/Paleile Guald	lail Occupation	
Go to AET	Mother/Parent/Guardian Name	Mother/Parent/Guard	dian Occupation	
Student Help		\$17 Jag	Markey Sir Cartiff Landing Landing Landing Landing	
Teacher Help			V. P. C. S. V. P. C. S. V. C. S. V. S. S. C. S. V. S. S. C. S. V. S.	
AFT Classroom				

As you begin to enter data, and you find that the application does not allow you to enter information, check for the unlock feature on line 11 on the instruction page. You will need to click on the icon on line 11 to open and unlock the application. Only do this if you plan to enter in all information manually.

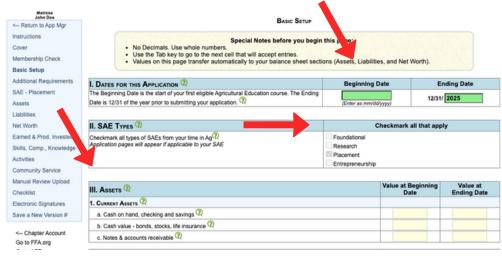
If you unlock the application in AET, don't ever lock it again. This will erase anything you added manually into the application. Also, if you unlock it, anything added into AET after that, will not show up in the application.

#### **Basic Setup Page**

Beginning Date: Should be the day/month you started your first ag class and joined FFA.

SAE Type: If using AET for records, this will already be filled out. If not using AET for records, select the corrent project areas.

Enter Assests, Liabilities, and Personal Cash Income and Expenses



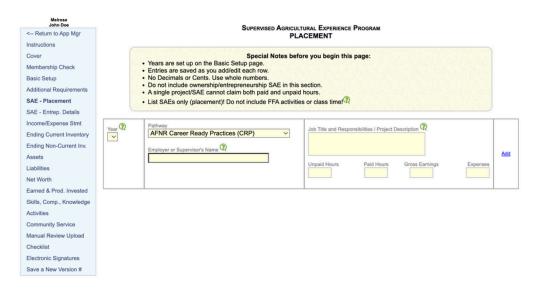
#### Additional Requirements

Complete the Additional Requirements Page



#### **Placement Applications ONLY**

In an <u>unlocked application</u>, students are able to put in their SAE(s), the project description, hours worked, and gross earnings. Do this for each placement SAE the student has.



In an <u>locked application</u>, students can use the Experience Manager to add their SAE and project description.



In an <u>locked application</u>, students should use the Time In Your SAE option to add their hours.

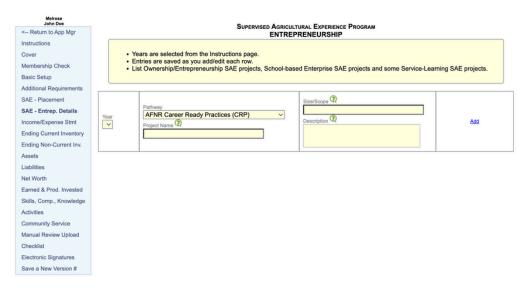
In an <u>locked application</u>, students can use the Cash Income and Expenses options to put in their paychecks.



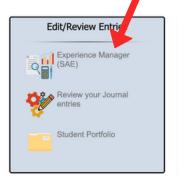


#### **Entrepreneurship Applications ONLY**

In an <u>unlocked application</u>, students are able to put in their SAE(s), the size/scope, and description. Do this for each entrepreneurship SAE the student has.



In an <u>locked application</u>, students can use the Experience Manager to add their SAE and other necessary information.



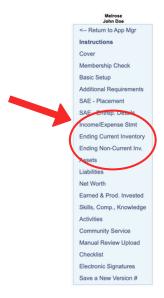


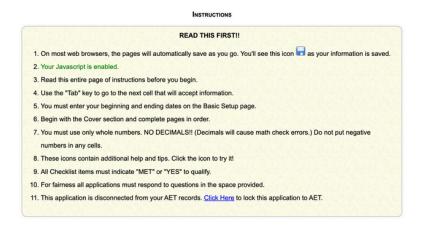
In an <u>locked application</u>, students can use the Cash Income and Expenses, Non-Cash Expenses, and Non-Current Manager options to put in their financial information.





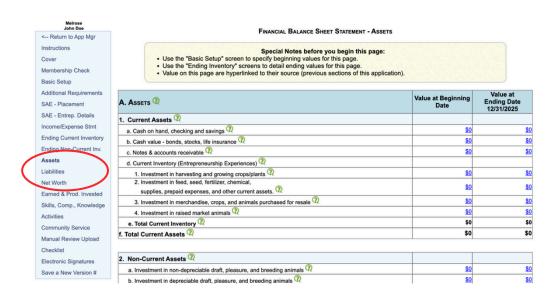
Entrepreneurship projects should also fill out the Income/Expense Stmt, Ending Current Inventory, and Ending Non-Current Inventory pages



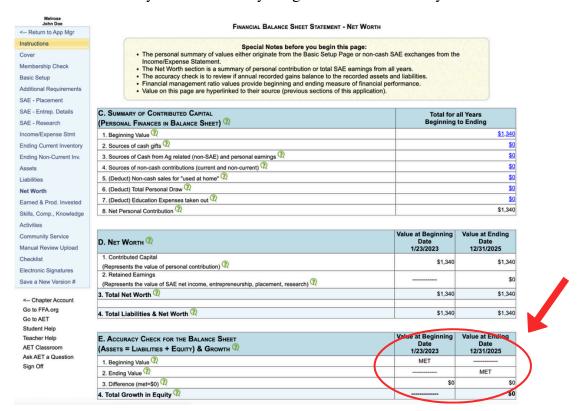


## All Applications - Financial Balance Sheet Statement

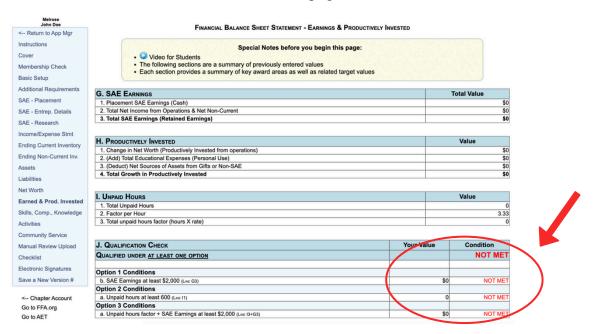
All applicants will fill out the Assets and Liabilities portions of the application.



The Net Worth page will update based off of the data from the previous pages. Section E, lines 1 and 2 should say "MET" if everything is balanced correctly.

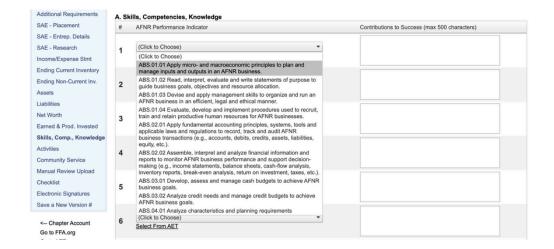


The Earned and Productively Invested page will show if an applicant qualifies financially. A minimum of \$2,000 should have been earned and a minimum of \$2,000 should have been invested. Look for 4 METs at the bottom of this page



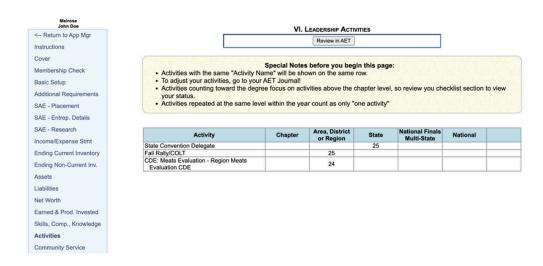
#### Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

Complete the Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge section by using the drop down menu to select 10 different AFNR Performance Indicators (sorted by AFNR Pathway). Then, on the right, explain how that specific indicator contributed to success in your SAE.



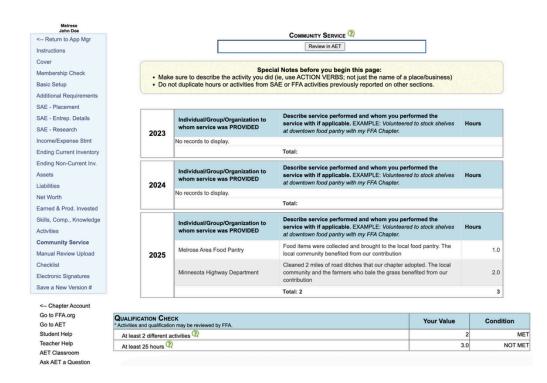
## FFA Leadership Activities

Complete the FFA Leadership Activities section. Applicants should have a minimum of 10 FFA activities above the chapter level.



## **Community Service**

Complete the Community Service section. Applicants should have a minimum of 2 difference community service activities equalling a minimum of 25 hours.

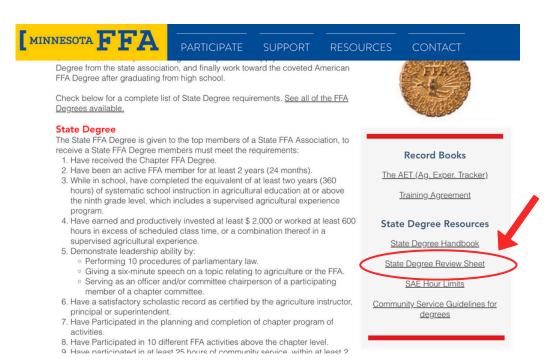


## Manual Review Upload

To access the manual review template, click on the link listed.



Select the State Degree Review Sheet, fill it out, and save it as a PDF file.



Select the State Degree Review Sheet, fill it out, and save it as a PDF file. Make sure that all areas are correctly filled out, including the hours spent in each class.



#### Minnesota State Degree

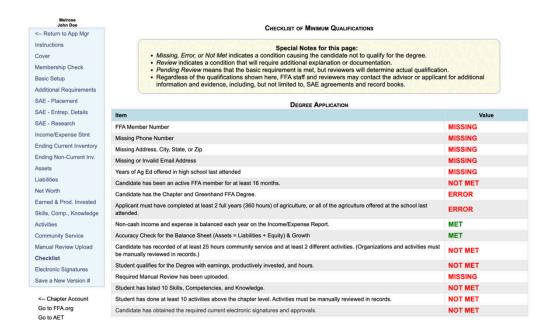
State Degree Manual Review Sheet & Advisor Approval

The applicant must complete each area and their agricultural education teacher must approve the following checklist for the candidate to qualify. See each section below.

Advisor Initials	Student (Y/N)		or will be enrolled in during the current school year and hours per course?  List all agricultural education courses and hours completed?  [e.g., Animal Science (90 hours)]		
	No	1.			
			A.	F.	
			B.	G.	
			C.	H.	
			D.	L.	
_		_	E.	J.	
	No	2.	List 10 Parliamentary Procedure activities you can perform:		
			A.	F.	
			B.	G.	
			C.	H.	
			D.	L.	
			E.	J.	
	No	3.	List the (a) title, (b) year, and (c) group to whom you gave a six minute presentation:		
			a)		
			b)	c)	
	No	4.	The record book represents the values listed in the application.		
	No	5.	The required training agreements are included in the record book.		
	No	6.	The candidate maintained records that represent all aspects of this application.		
	No	7.	List the (a) role and (b) responsibilities as an officer and/or		
			committee chair, or participating member of a chapter committee.		
			a)		
			b)		

#### Checklist

Once all areas of the application are complete, the checklist should have all green METs. Any missing or unmet sections need to be reevaluated. You cannot move on to collect signatures until all areas are MET.



#### **Electronic Signatures**

When completing this page, make sure that all emails are correct. Parents and Administration will receive an email to approve the application.