



AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

HOUR CONVERSION FACTOR EXPLAINED

The current (2026) conversion rate for American FFA Degree unpaid hours is: number of hours x 3.56. It is important to understand that this does not represent an hourly pay rate in any way.

The conversion factor is simply a formula to determine whether the number of unpaid hours a candidate has worked, combined with the amount of dollars they have earned, meets the required eligibility level to earn the degree. At the national level, it is used only for the American FFA Degree.

The conversion factor is used to determine the eligibility of candidates using two of the three ways specified in the constitution to meet the minimum requirements for the American FFA Degree.

- Work 2,250 unpaid hours and earn at least \$2,000, equaling a factor of 10,000 or more (*not dollar amount*)
- Work a combination of unpaid hours and earn dollars in any amount that equals 10,000 or more (*not dollar amount*).

The 3.56 factor is the amount by which, when 2,250 hours are multiplied, and \$2,000 is added, a candidate meets the 10,000 factor to qualify for the American FFA Degree. If the \$10,000 minimum dollar earning amount is changed, the conversion factor must automatically change to maintain the formula.

Stated in reverse, the 3.56 factor is the amount 8,010 is divided by to obtain the minimum 2,250 hours + \$2,000 required.

EXAMPLES

- Example A: Applicant earned \$2,000 in cash and worked 2,250 unpaid hours ($2,250 \text{ hrs} \times 3.56 = 8,010$) + \$2,000 = 10,010. Applicant qualifies.
- Example B: Applicant earned \$4,296 in cash and worked 953 unpaid hours. ($953 \text{ hrs} \times 3.56 = 3,392.68$) + \$4,296 = a factor of 7,688.68. Applicant does not qualify.
- Example C: Applicant earned \$2,890 and worked 2,629 unpaid hours. ($2,629 \times 3.56 = 9,359.24$) + \$2,890 = 12,249.24. Applicant qualifies.
- Example D: Applicant earned \$1,893 in cash and worked 3,082 unpaid hours. ($3,082 \times 3.56 = 10,971.92$) + \$1,893 = 12,864.92. Applicant does not qualify as they have not earned the minimum \$2,000 of cash currently required by the constitution, regardless of the number of unpaid hours.