



SAE/Directed Lab Hour Limits

Created: 03/2017

In reviewing applications for awards and degrees, applicants sometimes present a completely unrealistic number of hours dedicated to paid and/or unpaid placement SAE. In a single year, a person working a full time 40 hour per week job will work a total of 2,080 hours (52 weeks X 40 hours = 2,080). In order to assist students and teachers in evaluating students Directed Lab/Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) hours, it is important to consider the hours a student must also dedicate to school, sleep, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

1. For award and degree purposes, no unpaid or directed lab/SAE hours dedicated to owning and managing an entrepreneurship/ownership type project are eligible for consideration.
2. For award and degree purposes all unpaid or directed laboratory/SAE hours must occur outside of teacher directed instruction time.

CONSIDER THE BREAKDOWN OF HOURS FOR A TOTAL YEAR.

Hours Per Year:	365 days a year	X	24	=	8,760 hours
Sleep Hours:	365 days a year	X	8	=	2,920 hours
School Year	180 days a year	X	7	=	1,260 hours (36 week school year)
Vacation	14 days	X	24	=	336 hours
Holidays:	Christmas/New Years				96 hours
Family time/recreation	15 hours per weeks				780 hours
Homework and study time	5 hrs/wk/36wks				180 hours
Personal care time (meals, bathroom,)	3 hrs/day				1,095 hours
				Total =	2,093 hours remaining in the whole year

In addition to the previous list, the following activities also subtract from the time a student could devote to their Directed Lab/SAE in a year.

FFA Activities Outside of Classroom Time	=
Sports Participation:	=
Extra Curricular Activities:	=

Federal – Child Labor Laws			
Age Range	School in Session	School Not in Session	Notes
12-13	Zero hours	8 hours per day 40 hours per week	May be employed <u>only during school holidays and vacations</u> (usually construed to include weekends). May never be employed on any school day/either before, during, or after school.

14-15	3 hours per school day outside of school hours 8 hours on any non-school day 5 hours per day of sports participation 18 hours per week WEE (Work Experience Education) students may work during school hours and up to 23 hours per week.	8 hours per day 40 hours per week	
16-17	4 hours per day on any school day 8 hours on any non-school day, or on any day preceding a non-school day. 5 hours per day of sports participation 48 hours per week WEE (Work Experience Education) students and personal attendants may work more than 4 hours on a school day, but never more than 8.	8 hours per day 48 hours per week	

Employed by Parent:

The [Fair Labor Standards Act's \(FLSA\)](#) minimum age requirements do not apply to minors employed by their parents, or by a person acting as their guardian. An exception to this occurs in mining, manufacturing and occupations where the minimum age requirement of 18 years old applies. State laws often follow the same pattern as the Fair Labor Standards Act with regard to minors working for their parents. Consult your state department of labor for specific guidance.

Provide Excessive Hour Explanations:

When an applicant legally and legitimately works hours well beyond the limits discussed above provide a reasonable and clear explanation in the application. Proficiency Award applications provide ample opportunity to explain while answering the questions in the Performance Reviews. For an American FFA Degree application provide an explanation on the *Degree Review Sheet (last page of the application)* in the space provided.

Common examples include:

- Training an assistance dog, the applicant is required to work with the animal constantly, a claim of 16 hours per day for the duration of working with the animal can easily be explained (*in no case will 24 hrs per day be accepted*).
- An applicant who has graduated from high school can easily show additional hours for years after graduation since overtime becomes legal.
- An applicant working for their own family can exceed the limits set by Child Labor laws but still needs to provide a reasonable explanation of excessive hours.