

The Kansas Plant Systems Skills and Competencies Certificate documents skills and competencies gained by student participation in agriculture education, specifically within the Plant Systems Pathway. The program is an opportunity to quantify and qualify skills gained through the completion of all three segments of the agriculture education model.

During the next five years, U.S. college graduates will find good employment opportunities if they have expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, or the environment. Between 2015 and 2020, it is expected there will be an average of 57,900 annual openings for graduates with bachelor's or higher degrees in those areas.

Certificate Requirements

1. Must have completed three high school agriculture education classes, two of which must be from the following list:
 - 18052 – Horticulture
 - 18057 – Floriculture & Greenhouse Management
 - 18058 – Plant & Soil Science
 - 18071 – Applications in Horticulture
 - 18081 – Crop & Range Management
2. Must be an FFA member for at least 24 months at time of application
3. Complete either of the following Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) documentation:
 - a. Submitted district level Plant Systems Pathway specific proficiency award application
 - b. Earned State FFA Degree supported by a Plant Systems Pathway specific SAE
4. Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in all courses, not just agriculture education courses
5. Participate in one FFA leadership event or Career Development Event (CDE) above the chapter level and one technical FFA Plant Systems Pathway specific CDE above the chapter level, listed on the Plant Systems Qualifying Competencies support document
6. Satisfactorily complete the cPass Plant Systems Assessment. The level considered satisfactory will be determined by the KSDE Education Program Consultant, in consultation with KDA.
7. Students are asked to describe at least five skills and competencies they have gained technically and personally from agriculture education curriculum. Refer to the Plant Systems Examples of Pathway Skills support document for examples of pathway skills.



This certificate has been endorsed by the Kansas agricultural community, including Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Wheat, Frontier Farm Credit, Harris Crop Insurance, Hummert International, Scott Cooperative Association, Milliken Ag Concepts, Middle Creek Seed and other industry organizations and employers.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will receive applications anytime during the academic year. All applications should be submitted upon completion, but the annual deadline is **May 1**.

For an electronic application and support documents, please visit agriculture.ks.gov/ageducation under the Kansas Agriculture Skills & Competencies Certificates list.

Applications may only be mailed to the following address:

Kansas Department of Agriculture
c/o Education & Events Coordinator
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502

ROBIN BLUME

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