

Merit Award Program

Summary of Minimum Standards

The following summary of standards are in effect for the Merit Award Program.

1. All chapter advisors with a student entering a written event or Merit Award Project, are strongly encouraged to attend and assist with the written event screening on Saturday, February 18, 2012. Advisors assisting on the 18th may bring their events to the screening. Advisors with written events who are unable to attend the screening, or who arrive after 10:30 a.m. will be required to pay a \$50.00 screening fee. The screening will be held at Eastern Michigan University.
2. If you are mailing the entries, then they must be received by Friday, February 17th (There is no delivery service to Eastern Michigan University on Saturday). *We recommend mailing with a return receipt or using a tracking method.*
3. Only projects of students completing all three levels need to be submitted by the annual deadline. Students completing only in the bronze and/or silver levels only need to have their names and occupational areas submitted to receive a certificate of participation.
5. The first page is the completed and signed Statement of Assurances. The second page is the title page. The third page is the completed Bronze Progress Form, followed by the activities for the bronze level, followed by the Silver Progress Form and the activities for the silver area, followed by the Gold Progress Form and the gold activities. All activities must be in the order indicated on each of the progress forms.
6. Each level must have its own Progress Form with page numbers. Activities must be arranged in the same order as the MAP Progress Form. A separate Table of Contents should **not** be submitted.
7. Each level must have its own bibliography in a recognized format.
8. Headings of each activity must consist of and be in the following order:
 1. Award Level
 2. Career Pathway
 3. Activity Title
 4. Member's Name
 5. Completion Date
9. All activities must be documented by an average of:
(Activity Cover/Title Pages should **not** be used)
 - 2 typed or original student work pages - Bronze level
 - 3 typed or original student work pages - Silver level
 - 4 typed or original student work pages - Gold level
10. Examples of Original Work consist of the participant's drawings, photos of the participant's work or student generated computer illustrations. Photos of products, business maps, internet down loads, etc., may be included but are not included in the minimum page count.
11. Pages must have at least 2/3 page of text to count as a page. If the participant is making a PowerPoint presentation, the pages must be printed as a handout with a minimum of 3 slides per page. Please note that 6 slides on a page does not count as two pages. Hands-on projects must have at least a one page narrative to support the photos of the hands on-work.
12. **NEW: All 22 activities must fit within a 1-inch DECA binder [DECA Images catalog #DSBND-1 or #DSB-1]. Only the original project needs to be submitted for state screening.**

13. All 22 activities submitted must be typed.
14. Tabs **must be used** for the different levels, (Bronze, Silver & Gold) and are optional for the different areas. Sheet protectors are optional.
15. Projects with more than 40 penalty points will not be allowed to advance to the next level of competition. Projects receiving less than 60 points will not advance on to the International Conference.
16. Projects not meeting the minimum standard as indicated on the MAP Checklist will be returned and the student **will not** be allowed to attend the State Conference as a Gold Merit Award Participant.
17. Participants will give a 10 minute presentation at the State and International Career Development Conferences. The presentation should cover the five gold level projects. The presentation will be followed by a 5 minute question/answer period.
18. The participants may use not more than three (3) standard-sized posters not to exceed 22 1/2 inches by 30 1/2 inches each and/or one (1) standard-sized presentation display board not to exceed 36 1/2 inches by 48 1/2 inches. Participants may use both sides of the posters, but all attachments must fit within the poster dimensions. Only visual aids that can be easily carried to the presentation by the actual participants will be permitted, and the participants themselves must set up the visuals. Participants are allowed to make use of a desktop flip chart presentation easel 12 inches by 10 inches (dimensions of the page). Participants are also allowed to make use of a personal laptop computer and/or a hand-held digital organizer they provide. No set-up time will be allowed. If sound is used, the volume must be kept at a conversational level. If participants use a personal computer, they must bring their own battery power pack, as electrical power will NOT be supplied. No other materials may be brought to or used during the presentation by the participants.
19. Materials appropriate for the situation may be handed to or left with the judge.
21. Participants may bring notes with them into the presentation.
22. If a MAP delegate qualifies in a competitive event or is elected as a State Officer they will **not** be allowed to compete in the Merit Award Program at the International Conference.
23. Special consideration during the evaluation will be given for special needs students that are unable to complete the above guidelines. Such a request needs to be communicated by the chapter advisor to the Michigan DECA State Director.
24. Awards will be given to the outstanding projects and will be evaluated using the Outstanding Gold Project Evaluation form, which can be found on Michigan DECA's website at www.mideca.org
25. Attachments such as video and/or audio cassettes may be shown as a reference during your presentation. They are **not** to be included in the project when it is turned in.

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Gold Evaluation Procedures

Gold Level Projects - International Career Development Conference Evaluation

1. All items for the State Conference apply, plus the additional points listed below.
2. **NEW: Two copies of only the gold level activities are to be submitted in a DECA written event folio, at the specified meeting at the International Conference.**
3. Any project that receives penalty points at the State Conference, be corrected prior to being submitted at the International Conference.
4. Each project will be re-examined for penalty points at the International Conference.
5. Two advisors will evaluate each project.
6. Participants must follow the International Conference Dress Code. This includes wearing a DECA blazer when being judged.
7. The top participants will be recognized as an outstanding project at Michigan DECA's State Recognition Session at the International Career Development Conference.
8. The decision of the judges is final. Students and Advisors are not to ask judges for justification of their scores.