

Frequently asked SAE questions

1. What is an SAE?

“Supervised Aquacultural Experience (SAE) programs are teacher-supervised, individualized, hands-on, student-developed activities that give students real-world work-based experiential learning experience directly applicable to careers in the broad field of agriculture/aquaculture. An SAE may involve student ownership of an agriculture or aquaculture-related enterprise, a placement or internship in an agriculture or aquacultural-related job, research, a school-based enterprise, or service learning.

An SAE is a...

- career exploration and planning system for all students.
- student-led, teacher-supervised path to college and career readiness.
- tool for measuring student progress toward college and career readiness.
- method for authentically enhancing the high school experience.
- small business incubator for young entrepreneurs.
- path to connect students to STEM careers and mentors.
- critical component of a comprehensive Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.”

Taken and adapted from [Supervised Agricultural Experience | Agriculture Teacher's Resource \(agteacherresources.org\)](https://agteacherresources.org)

2. What are the benefits of the SAE?

An SAE is an opportunity for students to explore an area of interest and begin accumulating experiences related to a career or profession. “Students can experience in aquacultural-related fields, earn money, achieve independence, advances in the FFA, establish a background in aquaculture and/or aquaculturally related area, develop competencies needed for careers, develop a record of employment, gain self-confidence, learn to work with others, gain an understanding of the scope of projects, earn adequate income related to needs of student, and compliment home situations.”

Taken and adapted from [sae_placement_manual.pdf \(ct.gov\)](https://sae.placement.manual.pdf)

3. What is the time commitment?

Students are responsible for logging a minimum of 20 hours each marking period. In the summer, students log an additional 20 hours (beginning the summer after their freshman year). The bulk of the SAE hours are accumulated outside of the classroom through volunteer work, research, project building, and so on.

4. Are SAEs mandatory?

Any student who is enrolled at the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center (BRASTEC), or any other Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, is expected to complete an SAE.

5. Who can help me with my SAE?

All of our teachers are equipped to help students make progress on their SAEs throughout their time at BRASTEC.