

Advanced Placement (AP) course FAQ

[What is the Advanced Placement program?](#)

Advanced Placement (AP) **courses** are **college-level courses** offered in high school. AP courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses. The College Board offers the AP program to high schools around the world.

At the end of the course, students take **AP exams**—standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered college-level course work. Students who do well on AP exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses at four-year colleges.

[What are the advantages of my son/daughter taking an AP course?](#)

The main advantage of taking an AP course is better preparation for college. It has been shown that students are more successful at the college level after completing AP courses in high school.

AP courses can be challenging, but it is work that pays off:

- AP courses offer intellectually challenging and intriguing material
- Students develop confidence and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college
- College credit earned through AP exams allows students to move into upper-level college courses sooner, pursue a double major and gain time to study and travel abroad
- Students who receive college credit for their AP exams will save both time and money in college

[How does an AP class compare to other high school courses?](#)

In AP classrooms, the focus is not on memorizing facts and figures. Instead, you'll engage in intense discussions, solve problems collaboratively and learn to write clearly and persuasively.

AP courses typically demand more of students than regular or honors courses:

- Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typically high school classes
- More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments and homework
- AP teachers expect their students to think critically, analyze and synthesize facts and data and weigh competing perspectives

[How will taking an AP class affect their GPA?](#)

Many high schools, including HUHS, allow for weighted grade points on the GPA for taking an AP course. Colleges look favorably on students who tackle AP courses in high school.

[How many AP classes can/should a student take?](#)

This varies by students. HUHS does not limit the number of AP courses that students can take, but students must talk with their teachers to ensure they understand the work required for any single AP

course. It is not uncommon for a student taking even one or two AP courses to have to adjust their commitments outside of school to make more time for these courses.

[What preparation does my son/daughter need in order to succeed in an AP course?](#)

Students should have had practice in analyzing content, drawing comparisons and reasoning through problems. They must be able to read perceptively and independently. Additionally, students will need to be proficient in writing clear, concise essays. The keys to success in an AP class are motivation, self-discipline and academic preparation.

[What AP courses does HUHS offer?](#)

AP Art History	AP Literature & Composition
AP Art Studio	AP Economics
AP Biology	AP Physics I
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics II
AP Calculus BC	AP Psychology
AP Chemistry	AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP Computer Science	AP Statistics
AP Computer Science Principles	AP US Government & Politics
AP Language & Composition	AP US History

[What if I am unsure if my son/daughter is prepared to take an AP course?](#)

Please contact your child's academic teachers to discuss whether or not your child is prepared to take an AP course. For example, if a student is considering taking an AP English class, please contact their current English teacher to discuss whether or not your child seems prepared to take an AP class in that area. The teacher can also give you a sense of how much work time outside of school will be required for the course.

[Can a student later drop the AP class if they are not successful?](#)

After students have enrolled in an AP course, they will be asked to submit an "AP agreement" with a parent signature prior to the end of the school year. The "AP agreement" will ask for the student's commitment to the AP course and an understanding of the time required to be successful in the course. The last opportunity students have to make changes to their schedule is late May; students are not able to drop any course once the semester begins. Students are strongly encouraged to seek out help from their teachers if they need additional support for their AP course.

[How can I assist my son/daughter with doing well in AP courses?](#)

First and foremost, ensure that your son/daughter understands the time and effort required to be successful in an AP course. In addition:

- Encourage time management
- Remind them to prioritize their responsibilities both in and outside of school
- Recommend they form study groups
- Designate specific areas for homework and studying
- Stay in regular contact with their AP teacher and check grades on Skyward Family Access

How much does it cost to take an AP exam?

AP exams are scheduled for May 1-12 and the College Board determines pricing for AP exams. The 2017 AP exams will cost students \$93 per exam. Exam fee waivers are available to students who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program.

Does my child have to take the AP exam for their AP course?

No. Students are strongly encouraged to take the corresponding AP exam for their AP course, but they are not required to do so.

Will my son/daughter receive college credit?

Most two-and four-year colleges and universities in the US offer credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP exam scores.

- **Credit:** Students earn credit toward their college degrees
- **Advanced placement:** Students can skip introductory courses and move directly into higher-level classes and/or fulfill general education requirements
- Scores are reported to colleges, designated by the student, and range from 1 (no recommendation) to 5 (extremely qualified)
- Each college determines the scores to be accepted for credit, but most consider a score of at least 3
- Students should visit college websites to learn about their AP credit policy.

Please contact the HUHS AP Coordinator, Elizabeth Figarsky, or Holly Oleshko with questions: Elizabeth.figarsky@huhs.org or holly.oleshko@huhs.org