



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence in Education

UNDERSTANDING AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

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WHAT IS ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)?

- **Advanced Placement (AP)** is a program in the United States and Canada, created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.
- American colleges and universities often grant placement and **course** credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations.





WHAT IS AP EXAM?

- AP Exams are rigorous, multiple-component tests that are administered at high schools each May.
- High school students can earn college credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores.
- Each AP Exam has a corresponding AP course and provides a standardized measure of what students have learned in the AP classroom.





WHAT IS AN AP COURSE

Hillsborough County Public Schools offer courses designed to prepare students for the AP exams called AP courses.

- Courses are approved by The College Board
- Teachers are trained at AP Institutes and AP Summer Workshops
- Courses incorporate The Florida Standards to prepare students for college and careers as well as the AP exams





WHAT IT TAKES TO TAKE AP

Students are already using some of the skills it takes to succeed; AP just takes them to entirely new levels. What you need is:

- Character - Curiosity, creativity and commitment are key ingredients for success in AP courses
- Academic Preparation – Students don't need to be top of the class to be an AP student, but should be prepared for additional homework and study time not typical in Regular or Honors classes
- Motivation – Students show determination when they do the things that matter to them
- AP Contract – Cannot drop course after 10 days





AP EXAMS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE AP COURSE EXPERIENCE, AND HELP STUDENTS:

- **Stand out** in the admission process
- Earn **academic scholarships and awards** from colleges and universities
- **Experience college-level academics now, while they're still in high school**
- **Save time and money** once they get to college, providing them with more study options and allowing them to **move directly into upper-level courses** in their field of interest
- Earn **AP Scholar Awards**, an academic distinction granted each September by the College Board to students with exemplary AP Exam scores.





WHAT IS AN AP SCORE?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Your AP score shows how well you did on the AP Exam. It's also a measure of your achievement in your college-level AP course.
- This score will be used by colleges and universities to determine if they will grant you credit for what you've already learned, or allow you to skip the equivalent course once you get to college (this is known as advanced placement).





WHAT IS AN AP SCORE?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Your score is a weighted combination of your scores on the multiple-choice section and on the free-response section. The final score is reported on a 5-point scale as follows:

5 = Extremely Well Qualified

4 = Well Qualified

3 = Qualified

2 = Possibly Qualified

1 = No Recommendation

- "Qualified" means that you have proven yourself capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college. Many colleges and universities grant credit and placement for scores of 3, 4 or 5; however, each college decides which scores it will accept.





AP COURSE GRADES & AP EXAM SCORES

While grades in AP courses CAN BE an indicator of success on an AP exam, there is not a direct correlation between a grade in an AP course and an AP exam score.

Course grades take into account a much wider variety of elements such as class participation, classwork and homework, essays, labs, and other teacher requirements. Each of these elements vary according to teacher and course.

AP courses add .08 to the weighted GPA each semester – .16 to the weighted GPA over the course of the year. Honors courses add .04 per semester and .08 over the course of the year. Colleges reconfigure a student's GPA using their own scale – but AP courses often receive extra weight.





COLLEGE CREDIT POLICY

- This varies extensively by college and university.
- Find colleges and universities that offer credit or placement for AP scores by going to the following link:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

- For the most up-to-date AP credit policy information, be sure to check the institution's website.





COLLEGE CREDIT POLICY:

AN EXAMPLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

University of Florida Credit Policy			
Exam Title	Min. Score Required	Number of Credits	Equivalent Course
Art History	3	3	ARH 2002
	4	6	ARH 2050 & 2051
Biology	3	4	BSC 2005/2005L
	4	4	BSC 2010/2010L
	5	8	BSC 2010/2010L and BSC 2011/2011L
English Language and Composition	3	3	ENC 1101
	4	6	ENC 1101, 1102
English Literature and Composition	3	3	AML 2070
	4	6	AML 2070 and LIT 2120





SCORING THE AP EXAMS

- After the May AP Exams, schools return all AP Exam materials to the AP Program.
- The multiple-choice section is scored by computer. Each answer sheet is scanned and the total number of correct responses equals the multiple-choice score.
- The free-response section (essays and open-ended questions) is scored at the annual AP Reading held during the first two weeks in June. Specially appointed college professors and experienced AP teachers score this section of the exam.
- The total scores from the free-response section and the multiple-choice section are combined to form a composite score. These composite scores are then translated into the 5-point scale using statistical processes designed to ensure that, for example, a 3 this year reflects the same level of achievement as a 3 last year.





THE BENEFITS OF TAKING AP CLASSES

- Competitive Advantage in College Admissions
- College Credit for Qualifying AP Exam Scores
- Financial Benefits
- Greater Course Depth in High School
- Preparation for College-Level Work
- Added .08 To DISTRICT GPA Per Semester
(Honors Courses Add .04 Per Semester)

I ♥
AP



THE AP COURSES



AP Capstone

- AP Research
- AP Seminar

Arts

- AP Art History
- AP Music Theory
- AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
- AP Studio Art: 3-D Design
- AP Studio Art: Drawing

English

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition

History & Social Science

- AP Comparative Government and Politics
- AP European History
- AP Human Geography
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Psychology
- AP United States Government and Politics
- AP United States History
- AP World History

Math & Computer Science

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Statistics

Sciences

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
- AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

World Languages & Cultures

- AP Chinese Language and Culture
- AP French Language and Culture
- AP German Language and Culture
- AP Italian Language and Culture
- AP Japanese Language and Culture
- AP Latin
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture





AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

- The AP Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through AP courses and exams with the AP Scholar Awards. Although there is no monetary award, each award-winning student receives a certificate, and the award is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to colleges after the award has been conferred.
- AP Scholar Awards are added to students' online score reports in late August. If you earned an award, you will be notified by email. Award certificates are sent by mail in September





AP SCHOLAR AWARD LEVELS

Award	Criteria
AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
State AP Scholar	Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.
National AP Scholar	Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.





AP /VS/ DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Dual Enrollment is a program where eligible high school students attend college classes and earn high school credit and college credit at the same time. The credits that students earn must be applicable toward high school graduation and acceptable toward a college Associate or Baccalaureate degree, or Technical Certificate.
- More Information on Dual Enrollment HERE:
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/progressionplan>

Deadline for Summer is April; for Fall is May





BENEFITS OF DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Saves parents and students money because tuition and lab fees are waived
- Shortens the time to earn a college degree
- Gives students the opportunity to earn high school credit and college credit at the same time
- Awards students with college credit that is transferable to any Florida public college or university and most out of state universities
- Ensures that **grades earned become part of the student's permanent** high school and **college transcripts**
- Provides free college textbooks for students



HOW MANY IS TOO MANY?

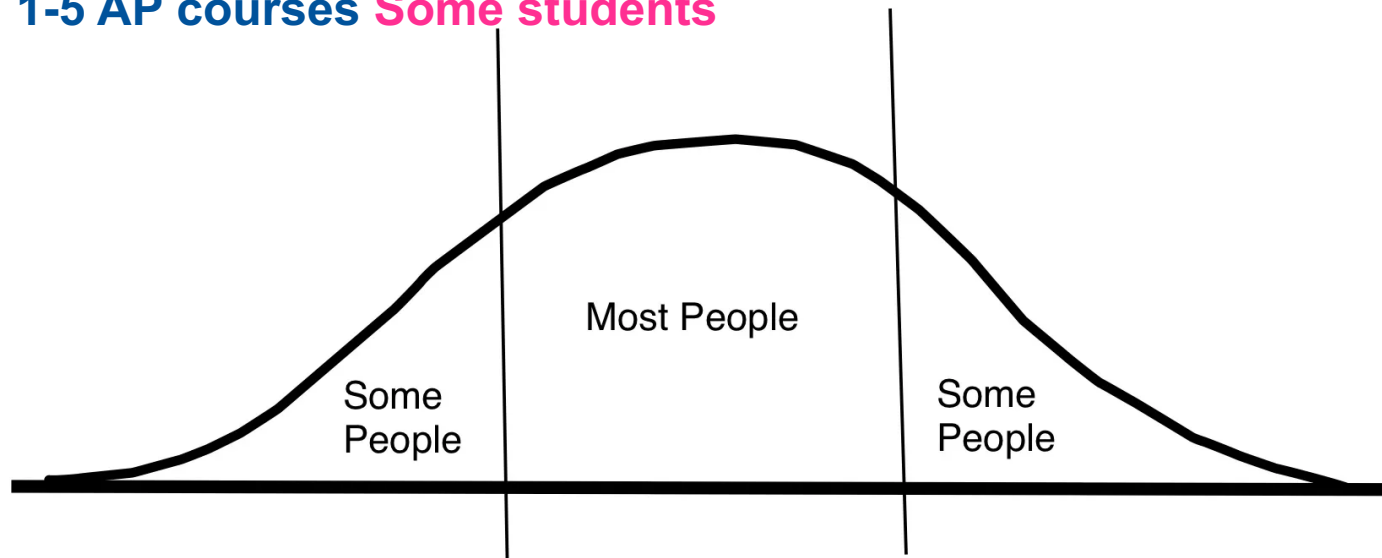
- One of the biggest questions EVERY year to teachers and counselors is HOW MANY AP CLASSES SHOULD MY CHILD TAKE?
- There is NO ONE ANSWER.
- Considerations:
 - Schedule as a whole.
 - Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities.
 - Commitment.
 - Ability.
 - Strengths.
 - PARENTAL HOPES /vs/ STUDENT REALITY
 - College Aspirations



PLANT AP COURSE BREAKDOWN

****Over the course of 4 years (9-12)**

- + **11-15+ AP courses** **Some students**
- + **6-10 AP courses** **Most students**
- + **1-5 AP courses** **Some students**



DIFFICULTY OF AP COURSES

- Some AP exams are more difficult than others and knowing which ones are the most challenging could help with choosing the right ones for your students.

% Getting 3 or Above

Psychology	55%
Human Geography	54%
Art History	54%
Macroeconomics	52%
World History	52%
Calculus AB	51%
Chemistry	51%
Gov. and Politics - United States	49%
United States History	48%
Environmental Science	48%
English Literature and Composition	44%
Physics 1	42%

% of Score of 5

United States History	11%
Chemistry	11%
Latin	10%
Art and Design: 2-D Design	10%
World History	10%
Spanish Literature	8%
English Language and Composition	8%
Physics 1	7%
Art and Design: 3-D Design	7%
Biology	7%
Environmental Science	6%
English Literature and Composition	5%





AP POTENTIAL

AP Potential is a research-driven tool that helps high schools identify AP students. This appears on the PSAT Score Report. This powerful tool will enable us to:

- Identify students likely to succeed on AP Exams
- Improve access to AP
- Analyze data and PSAT/NMSQT scores
- Ensure that no student with the potential to succeed in AP is overlooked
- Help make determinations as to which AP courses to offer at your school
- Allow teachers to measure performance vs Potential





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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