An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

GRANT COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT UNIVERSITY
2017-2018
Grant Community High School is committed to every student’s success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.
What We’ll Cover

• What are Advanced Placement® Courses?

• The Benefits

• What Is It Like to Take AP?

• The Grant Community High School AP Program

• AP® Exams and the new Illinois Law

• Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

• Informational Sessions
What Are Advanced Placement® Courses?
AP® courses are college-level courses offered in high school.

Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses.

Students may take the AP Exam at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.

A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.
AP®: The Benefits
AP®: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college
AP® from the College Admissions Perspective

• 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student’s AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.

• Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.

• AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers.
• Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success.

• Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor’s degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is $21,500** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, The College Board, 2008
**The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1
AP® Expands Students’ Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

• Move to upper-level college courses sooner
• Pursue a double major
• Gain time to study and travel abroad
AP®: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

• Opportunities to explore topics in depth

• More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects

• High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications
What is it like to take AP®?
## AP® Myths & Realities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Reality</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP courses are for students who always get good grades.</td>
<td>AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.</td>
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<td>AP courses are too stressful.</td>
<td>It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.</td>
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<td>I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam</td>
<td>You don’t need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.</td>
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<td>to get college credit.</td>
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<td>Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.</td>
<td>AP courses at Grant are weighted higher than any other level of course. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you’re willing to challenge yourself academically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I can’t take AP because no one has recommended me.</td>
<td>If you think you’re ready to take an AP course, then you’re ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.</td>
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The Grant Community High School
AP® Program
What’s the difference between AP and Honors?

• Honors classes are Grant’s own designation.
• AP courses are audited annually to reflect what’s being taught in college courses.
• Students receive an external evaluation—the AP Exam—that verifies the student has mastered college-level studies.
• AP courses provided college-level work experiences.
• In order to use the designation of AP for a course on the high school transcript, the school must have approval from the College Board.
Our AP® Courses

• **Art:** Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio or Drawing

• **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition

• **History and Social Sciences:** World History, United States History, Psychology, U.S. Government & Politics (1 semester), Microeconomics (1 semester), Macroeconomics (1 semester)

• **Mathematics:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics

• **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics C

• **World Languages:** Spanish Language
Calculus 3/Multivariable Calculus

• Not an AP course but carries AP grade weighting
• Must have completed AP Calculus BC to enroll
• Possibility of earning dual credit through the University of Illinois (Champaign/Urbana) if student scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam
Last year 569 AP exams were administered at Grant to 330 students. This was the highest number of students and exams in Grant history.

Last year over 68% of the students taking an AP exam scored a 3 or better. This beats the state average of just under 66%.

A total of 84 students earned AP Scholar honors last year with 3 of those students earning National AP Scholar Honors. Those students took 8-10 AP courses at Grant earning an average score of 4 or higher on all of the exams and at least 8 scores of 4 or 5.
AP® Exams
AP® Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

• Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
  • Multiple-choice questions
  • Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response
Colleges and universities give credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP Exam grades, NOT AP course grades.

Most of the nation’s colleges and universities, plus colleges and universities in 24 other countries, grant students admission, credit, and/or placement for qualifying AP Exam grades.

Qualifying AP Exam grades may allow a student to:
- Graduate in three or three-and-a-half years
- Enter upper-level courses
- Complete a double-major
What’s the cost of the AP Course vs. the AP Exam?

• There is NO fee to take an AP Course.

• There is a fee to take an AP Exam.

• There is an $94 fee this spring for each AP Exam. This fee is determined by the College Board for administration and scoring of exams. It could change each year.

• Students with financial needs can receive assistance to reduce the exam fees. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch can receive a $41 fee reduction.
Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP® credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies.

- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school’s Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy
AP Credit Policy Search

Find colleges and universities that offer credit or placement for AP scores. Begin your search by entering the name of the institution below. For the most up-to-date AP credit policy information, be sure to check the institution's website.

Find a college's credit policy

Please enter at least two characters to view a preliminary list of matches. Click Search to see a complete list of results. The number in parentheses is the school's College Board code.

Enter college name or 4-digit code  Search
What’s the difference between credit & placement?

• Some colleges award “credit” for qualifying AP Exam grades. This means you actually earn points toward your college degree.
• Others award “advanced placement.” This means you can skip introductory courses, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.
What about the Illinois law about AP exam scores?

• Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, scores of 3, 4, and 5 on the College Board Advanced Placement examinations shall be accepted for credit to satisfy degree requirements by all public universities or public community colleges located in Illinois.

• Each institution of higher education shall determine for each test whether credit will be granted for electives, general education requirements, or major requirements and the Advanced Placement scores required to grant credit for those purposes.
Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
Your scores on the PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 can help you decide which ones might be right for you. When you access your scores online at College Board, their AP Potential tool shows you which AP courses you’re likely to do well in.

October 2017 PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 8/9 will be available online to students in mid-December if they have set up their College Board account.

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/ap-potential

The AP Potential tool gives you just one indicator of your readiness for AP. You may show readiness for AP in other ways — your grades, your interest in the subject, or your success in earlier courses, for example.
90% attendance or better is expected which allows 18 days (about 9 each semester) for illness, college visits, athletic absences, activity absences, conferences, field trips, doctor visits, meetings with counselors, family vacations. Students who are in the habit of missing more than 18 days a year for any reason are not good candidates for AP classes.
• Each Advanced Placement class will have a minimum of 5 hours of homework per week.
• Some Advanced Placement classes have a summer work requirement prior to the beginning of the course.
Students will sign up for AP courses with their counselors.

No schedule changes after Friday, March 23, 2018

Withdrawal from course
- Prior to first progress report date – grade of W
- After first progress report date – grade of WF
- Transcript will reflect withdrawal from course
Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

**What AP course is right for me?**
Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

• Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
• What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

• In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
• Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

**What steps do I need to take?**

• What is our school’s enrollment deadline?
• May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
• Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
• What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?
AP®: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT® results: My College QuickStart™
  www.collegeboard.org/quickstart
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:
  https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies
- AP Potential: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/ap-potential
For the next part of the program, we invite you to proceed to the math hallway to attend 15-minute informational sessions about the courses.

Schedule yourself for the desired courses. You will have time to visit 4 different courses.

You can visit Room 159 to use a Chromebook to view the AP websites.

Go home tonight and discuss the benefits and your commitment to the AP program.

Information from tonight’s program will be posted on the Grant website under the Academics tab along the top.
Explore AP®: Take the Next Step