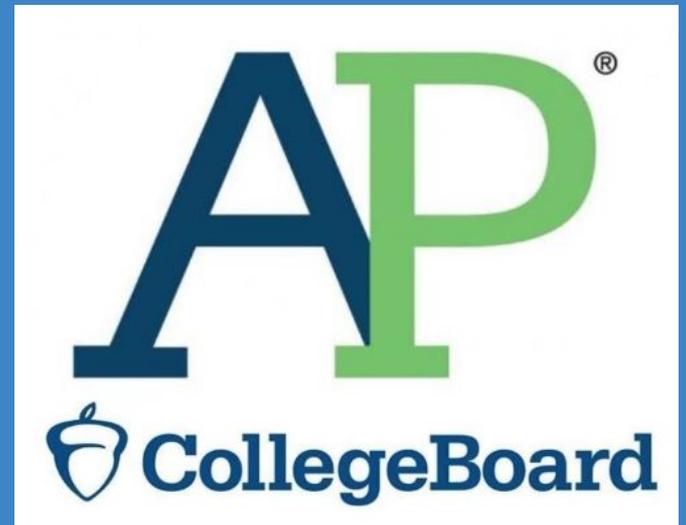


GRANT
COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT
UNIVERSITY
2019-2020



An Introduction to the
Advanced Placement
Program®



Welcome

Grant Community High School is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous coursework 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[®] Exam Registration**
- **Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices**
- **Informational Sessions**



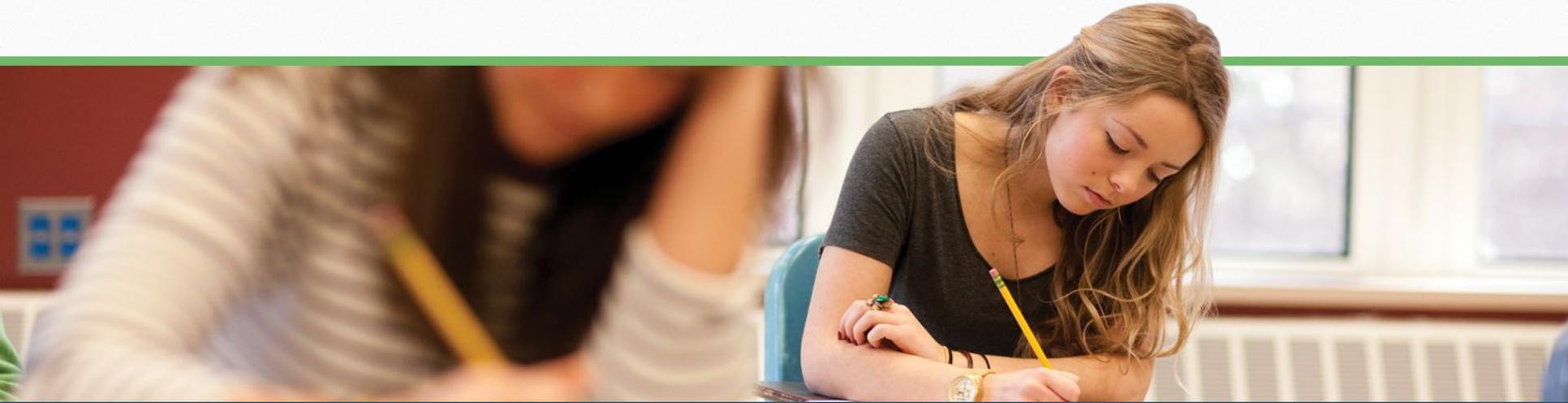
What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®] : The Basics

- 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

- 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[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

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[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	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.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	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.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	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.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	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.



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, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics C (Electricity & Magnetism/Mechanics)
- **World Languages:** Spanish Language

Math Beyond AP[®] Courses

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
- You can find out about this course during the first rotation tonight.

AP[®] at Grant Community High School

- Last year 505 AP exams were administered at Grant to 290 students.
- Last year over 71% of the students taking an AP exam scored a 3 or better.
- A total of 80 students earned AP Scholar honors last year with 27 of those students earning AP Scholar with Distinction Honors or National AP Scholar Honors. Those students received 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.
- Currently for this spring we already have 495 exams ordered not including the spring courses.

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



Why take the AP[®] Exam?

- 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
- 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.

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.

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.

- 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 that offer credit or placement for AP scores. For the most up-to-date AP credit policy information, check the institution's website.

Search by Course

Accepted AP Course

--Select Course--



Find Your College

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.

New AP Exam Registration Procedures

Beginning this fall, AP and the College Board instituted new registration procedures to register for the AP exams.

- Students sign up for the exam by November 1st for year-long and fall semester classes via their College Board account. Spring semester classes will register during January and February.
- Students pay their \$40 preregistration exam fee via Grant's Webstore (Revtrak for charging or via the SST Office for cash/check)
- Balance of exam fee must be paid before the exam is administered.
- Exams canceled or unused result in a forfeit of the \$40 fee.



**Next Steps: Help Your Child
Make the Best Choices**

AP Potential Tool

- 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 2019 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.

Attendance for AP Classes

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.

Advanced Placement Work Load

- Each Advanced Placement class will have a minimum of 5 hours of homework per week.
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- Some Advanced Placement classes have a summer work requirement prior to the beginning of the course.

AP Course Registration

- Students must turn in a completed AP Contract by Friday, February 28, 2020 in order to sign up for AP courses.
- Students will sign up for AP courses with their counselors.
- No schedule changes after Friday, March 20, 2020
- Withdrawal from course (if given permission)
 - Prior to first progress report date – grade of W (Withdrawal)
 - After first progress report date – grade of WF (Withdrawal Failing)
 - Transcript will reflect withdrawal from course

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

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?

CONCLUSION

- 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 157 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.