



AP can set students apart in the college admission process.

Students who take AP courses send a signal to colleges that they're serious about their education and that they're willing to challenge themselves with rigorous course work. Eighty-five percent of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions².

The financial benefits of AP are important to consider.

Students who take five years or more to graduate can spend \$21,500 for each additional year in college, to cover tuition, fees, living expenses, transportation and other costs³. Research shows that students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time⁴.

AP teaches more than subject-area facts. Students build skills that last a lifetime.

AP courses give students access to rigorous college-level work, but with the support of high school teachers and peers. Students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success. Students have the opportunity to dig deeper into subjects that interest them, develop advanced research and communication skills, and learn to tap their creativity and their problem-solving and analytical skills to address course challenges. AP students learn what will be expected of them in college.

Tips for AP Success

Sometimes all it takes is a little encouragement.

Often, students don't believe that they're AP "material." But the truth is that many students have the ability and motivation to succeed in AP courses, if they give themselves a chance. Students do need solid academic preparation and, of course, the commitment to meet the challenge head on. Parents can build students' confidence by reminding them that they already show that determination when they do the things that matter to them in areas such as sports, music or school subjects they're passionate about. That commitment, creativity and curiosity can make all the difference in AP courses.

Talk to your child about AP.

It's always a good idea to remind students to pick courses that match their interests, talents and priorities. Remind them to consider the classes they've already taken and the ones they were strong in, enjoyed more or found to be most interesting. Chances are those courses can be launching pads for successful AP experiences.

Set reasonable expectations.

AP courses require students to do research and reading outside of class, and many students participate in study groups or tutoring sessions to stay on track. It's important for students to think about the amount of work they'll have so they can succeed in the courses they choose. You can support your child by designating specific areas in your home for schoolwork and study, and helping prioritize classes, activities, and home and work commitments.

It's never too early to start thinking about and planning for AP.

Students can consider taking AP throughout high school, but it's never too early to start the process. There may be honors-level courses or other academic opportunities that can start a student on the road to AP. You can talk to your child's counselor in middle school or high school to map out a course plan.

AP Resources and Supports

Financial help for AP Exams is available.

AP Exam fees for 2019/20 are \$94 per exam — for students with financial need, the College Board provides exam-fee reductions. There are also additional sources of federal and state funding that may be available for your child. Be sure to check with your child's counselor or AP Coordinator early to arrange for assistance if needed.

Connect AP, college majors and careers.

At <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/what-is-ap?>, your child can make connections between AP, college majors and careers that can open a world of ideas and inspiration.

Check out the AP credit policies of the colleges your child is exploring.

The College Board has created a website so you and your child can gather information about AP credit and placement policies at many colleges and universities. You'll find this resource at <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement>.

Take the next steps together.

Encourage your child to talk to peers, counselors and teachers to learn more about the challenges and benefits of participating in AP courses. Each school has specific processes for enrolling students in AP. Your child will need to speak with a counselor or teacher to get the details about your school's AP program. If your school offers AP informational events, take advantage of these to learn more. You might also want to get advice from parents of AP students.