

AP Notes & Qs

1. Is it required that students taking AP courses sit for the AP exams? NO. And you can take an AP test without taking an AP class.
2. Scores on Advanced Placement Exams range from 1 to 5 and a score of 3 is considered passing. The College Board has given the following definitions for each score:

5 – Extremely well-qualified
4 – Well-qualified
3 – Qualified
2 – Possibly qualified
1 – No recommendation
3. A student who has been accepted and committed to a college but is enrolled in an AP class(es) as a senior, and who *knows* their college will not give them college credit for an AP score lower than 5, and who strongly believes he won't achieve a 5 on the AP test, should not have to take the AP test. S/He enjoyed the rigor of the AP coursework, but taking the test will not help him/her in this case and spending money to do so seems unfair.
4. If York does not offer an AP course you are interested in, and you want to test for it, you can take an AP course online and arrange for local test taking elsewhere.
5. If you take the test and you think you scored poorly, like a 1 or a 2, you should cancel it! You have up until June 15th to do so with the College Board and this must be done in writing. If you cancel the score, the test won't count towards your AP average (which determines your AP designation).
6. If you're a student who got six 5's, two 4's, and one 2, hide the outlier. You can do this even after you find out the score. For \$12 per school, you can withhold that score from being submitted to schools. Just don't reference the colleges you would like your AP scores sent to in May. This way, there won't be a chance that colleges will get the scores. Unfortunately, that outlier score will still impact your AP average since you didn't cancel the score shortly after the exam and instead waited for it to be scored.
7. Find out which of the schools you're interested in will give credits for AP test scores and which ones don't. Having said that, even if they don't give credits for a 4-5 test score, many colleges view the AP score as a way to validate grades in the face of uneven grading policies between schools and grade inflation, and good scores can advantage a college application to certain schools.
8. Even if your target schools don't give credits, you may be able to waive prerequisite courses once you're enrolled, making time for a double major or early graduation (the latter of which can definitely save \$). Note that getting placed in higher level courses as a freshman comes with its own challenges – food for thought.
9. Not all colleges believe that AP classes reflect college-level work, so those will not offer credit for them.
10. Which colleges give credit for AP courses? Look here:
<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>