

Woodinville High School

Advanced Placement

Frequently Asked Questions



A. What is the Difference?

- What is the difference between AP and Tech Prep?
 - Tech-Prep classes are articulated with local colleges. Teachers follow the syllabus set by the college. Students who earn a B or better and pay the \$46 consortium fee (cost may be subject to change - <http://www.techprepcc.org/>) automatically receive the credit. AP teachers follow a syllabus approved by the College Board. In order for students to receive any type of college credit or advancement, the students must pay the \$104 fee (cost may be subject to change) to take the AP exam and pass the exam with a 3 or better.
- What is the difference between AP and Running Start?
 - AP courses are taught and completed at Woodinville High School. A student earns a letter grade for their AP class, and they also take an AP exam, which gives them the possibility of earning college credit with a score of 3, 4, or 5 (depending on the subject area and college). Running Start courses are completed at a local community college, and student credits are posted to their community college transcript. These credits may or may not transfer to a 4-year university, depending on the courses and the university's transfer credit policies.
- Is College Credit in High School similar to the old "Running Start" program?
 - No, the Running Start program still exists. Running Start students take courses at a local community college. College in the High School courses gives our students the opportunity to earn college credit while remaining in Woodinville High School classrooms.
- What is the difference between AP and CHS? Do they both go towards a college credit?
 - College in the High School courses requires students to earn a particular grade, and then credit is posted directly to a college transcript. Students must pay a fee in order to receive the college credit. AP courses require students to earn a 3, 4, or 5 (depending on the subject area and college) on the AP exam in order to receive college credit. Students must pay a fee to take the AP exam. A student's grade in their AP class is not a factor in determining whether or not a student receives college credit if they passed the AP exam.
- Does WHS still offer Running Start?
 - Yes. You can find information on the WHS website under Counseling, Running Start.

B. Specifics about AP Classes/Tech Prep and College Credit

- How do you know if a college will accept AP credits?
 - Refer to the following link to determine which colleges accept AP credit. <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>
- How does an AP class contribute to your College GPA?
 - Each college has its own process to determine a student's GPA weighted for honors or Advanced Placement classes. In Northshore, we do not weight GPA for honors or Advanced Placement courses.
- Which is more important to a college – a good grade in an AP class or a great grade in a regular class?
 - There isn't a right or wrong answer to this question--it depends on the particular college. Elite schools really want to see both--great grades in advanced classes and regular courses. Our opinion is that colleges want to see students choosing to challenge themselves rather than just earning great grades in non-advanced coursework. If you have any particular colleges in mind, this would be a great question to ask their admissions department directly.

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- Will a university take your AP credit if you only take the course but not the test?
 - If you take an AP course and pass, you earn high school credit. If you choose to take the AP exam (we encourage this) and earn a 3, 4, or 5, you can earn college credit.
- Will I receive college credits for Pre-AP classes?
 - No. Pre-AP classes prepare a student for AP courses.
- Does the UW accept AP credits?
 - Yes.
- Are the College Tech-Prep classes, with the same number of credits, equivalent to the course at the college?
 - The Tech-Prep articulation directly aligns with a specific college course. When students receive Tech-Prep credit, they will have a transcript at the college where the credit is earned.
- Do UW class credits transfer to other colleges?
 - Each college has its own policy on transfer credits. It is best to check with the college where the credits will be transferred.

C. Grading

- What does the 3/4/5 score relate to and does it convert to letter grades?
 - AP Exam scores are reported on a 5-point scale as follows:
 - 5 - Extremely well qualified
 - 4 - Well qualified 3 - Qualified
 - 2 - Possibly qualified
 - 1 - No recommendation
 - AP scores do not convert to letter grades.
- Can you withdraw from an AP class if you find out it is too challenging?
 - Yes. Students can withdraw from an AP class within the first ten days of the school year.
- Do you only encourage students with an “A” average to take AP classes?
 - We encourage any student who wants to take an AP class to register for the course. A student who signs up for a course commits to prepare for study at the college level.
- Do students with an IEP ever pass the AP classes?
 - Yes. We have IEP students successfully complete AP classes. It would be a good idea for IEP students to talk with their IEP case manager and/or counselor about signing up for AP classes.

D. What about freshmen?

- Can 9th-graders take AP classes at the high school?
 - Yes.
- If I have taken 8th-grade Algebra and 9th-grade Geometry what should I take as a sophomore – Algebra II Trig or AP Pre Calculus – since AP Chemistry and AP Physics both recommend successful completion of Algebra II Trig?
 - The next math class in the progression is Algebra II Trig. Completion of this course in the sophomore year would enable a student to take AP Chemistry and/or AP Physics in their junior or senior year.
- Does being in challenge classes in middle school affect the AP classes you can take in high school?
 - No. WHS has an open enrollment policy for AP courses.

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E. What about Pre-AP classes?

- Do any Pre-AP classes count towards college credits?
 - Pre-AP classes are meant to prepare high school students for AP classes (college-level classes taken in high school) as well as college classes themselves and do not count towards college credits.
- Is the workload for Pre-AP classes the same as AP?
 - It is a bit lighter. However, since Pre-AP students are younger and less experienced at doing the kinds of reading and writing assignments (especially literary and rhetorical analysis of texts that are the foundation of these courses) they may perceive the workload in Pre-AP to be equally challenging simply because it'll all seem newer. By the time they make their way through Pre-AP to get to AP courses, the tasks will seem much more familiar and therefore to some extent easier. In general we try to align the courses so that the move from Pre-AP to AP feels like a step up, but an appropriate step.
- Are there any entry-level AP courses in junior or senior year?
 - No. There are no “entry-level” AP courses. AP courses are open enrollment for all students.
- Do Pre-AP classes count as an AP courses?
 - No. Pre-AP classes are intended to help prepare students for AP classes in a particular discipline.

F. AP Exam

- If I get less than a 3 on an AP test, can I retake?
 - Yes.
- Can you begin the IB program and still take the AP tests?
 - Any student can sign up to take any AP test each spring.
- Can you only take the AP tests your senior year?
 - AP exams are administered each year.
- Are the AP exams timed?
 - Yes. The amount of time may differ between tests.

G. Specific Course Questions

- Does Bio-Medical count as an AP class?
 - No. Bio-Medical is a science or elective or occupational science class.
- Is Algebra II considered an AP class for sophomores?
 - No.
- Does Algebra II/Trig count as an AP class?
 - No.
- Will you provide AP Computer Science?
 - Yes.
- Do you offer Business AP classes?
 - Yes. AP Economics is a Business AP course. This course covers both Micro and Macro Economics in one school year. Students will be prepared to take both the Micro and Macro Exams in May.
- Does the fourth year of a language count as a Tech-Prep Credit?
 - No.

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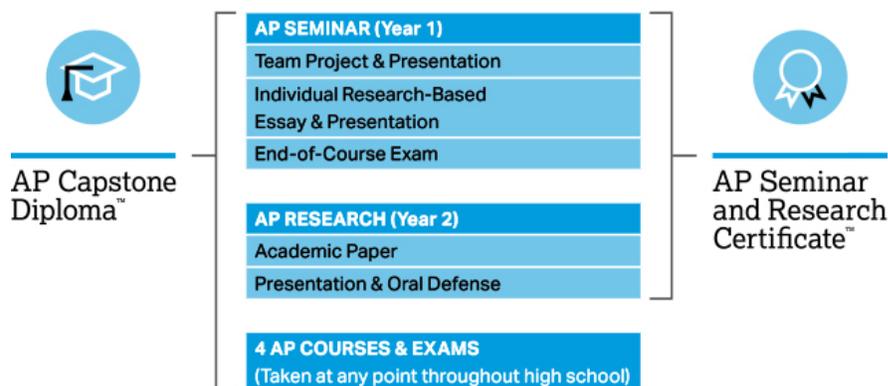
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- Do you need to take Calculus Prep before Calculus?
 - Yes. A student should take AP Prep Pre-Calculus before taking AP Calculus.
- What year do you recommend a student take AP Psych?
 - We don't have a particular recommendation for when a student should take AP Psychology. They can take this course whenever it seems to work best in their WHS plan.
- Are Physics 1 and 2 each a yearlong class?
 - Yes.
- How much lab work do you get in the AP science classes?
 - AP Biology requires 12 labs that will appear on the exam. The class is also supplemented with other labs and hands-on activities. Therefore, each block day has at least one hands-on activity during the week.
 - For AP Chemistry 1.5 hours a week (block days are used for lab).

H. What is AP Capstone? How is an AP Capstone Diploma earned?

- AP Capstone is a diploma program based on two yearlong AP courses: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. These courses focus on developing the critical thinking skills, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills needed for college-level work.
 - The first year of the AP Capstone program students take the **AP Seminar** course where they investigate a variety of topics through various viewpoints of their choice, considering an issue from multiple perspectives, identifying credible sources, evaluating strengths and weaknesses or arguments, and making logical, evidence-based recommendations.
 - The second year of the program, students take the **AP Research** course where they explore various research methods and complete an independent research project. The project can build on a topic, problem or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a brand new topic of their own choosing. At the end of the project, students submit an academic paper and present and defend their research findings. These components contribute to the overall AP Research score. There is no end-of-course exam.
 - If a student earns scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choice, they'll receive the AP Capstone Diploma. If a score of 3 or higher is earned in AP Seminar and AP Research, students receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.



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I. Miscellaneous

- How do teachers incorporate creativity and innovative thinking into the classroom if teachers are “teaching to the AP Exam”?
 - This is a huge and an important question and the answer is found in the essence of the Art of Teaching. As with every single subject taught, there is a set amount of information we must cover. Whether this comes from the College Board or the WAC. Creativity is how one presents this information and inspires students to go beyond the classroom: for example, the use of Power Points and visuals in lecture/discussion notes. Teachers may use streaming video and interactive maps to generate in-class debate about topics. Sure, some information is in the text (in the abstract), but by putting AP Exam information in a form that follows life, real interest and learning takes place. THAT is the essence of creativity and innovation.
 - For those reasons, I think the whole "teaching JUST (what the cliché really implies) to the exam" is really a false premise. In this case we can have both: test results AND creativity/innovation.
- Do any AP classes offer an internship or on the job training?
 - No.
- When can students meet with AP and/or other teachers?
 - Teachers are typically available before school, during Options, and afterschool.
- Are AP classes by grade level or do you have a mixture of different grades in each class?
 - It depends on the class. As an example, all juniors are required to take US History. In the AP US History class, all students will be in 11th grade. However, courses such as AP Economics, AP Environmental Science, AP Psychology, AP Art History etc., will have a mixture of different grades.
- What is the maximum number of AP classes recommended to take at one time?
 - This really depends on the student. There are seniors at Woodinville High School who take six AP classes at once and maintain a 4.0 GPA. Other students have to work very hard to be successful in one AP class. The answer to this question really depends on the individual student. If unsure on how many to take, a student could start with a lighter load, and gradually add more as they progress throughout their high school career.
- Are there opportunities for business professionals to get involved with AP business classes?
 - Yes. If you are a business professional and would like to become involved with AP business classes, please contact Morgan Ackley at mackley@nsd.org.
- How many non-athletic scholarships are awarded to AP students yearly?
 - Because of the varied scholarships that students earn each year, we do not link or track the non-athletic scholarships that are awarded to AP students.
- Can you take an AP class during the summer?
 - Woodinville High School does not offer AP courses during the summer.
- Should I meet with a counselor to help select AP classes?
 - Students are always welcome to meet with their counselor to discuss course selection, particularly if they have questions. They are not required to meet with their counselor. A student’s current teachers are also a valuable resource in help with selecting AP classes. For example, if a student wants to sign up for AP Calculus, they could discuss their preparedness for this course with their Pre-Calculus teacher.
- Can you take AP classes online?
 - All AP courses at WHS are classroom-based classes.

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- Is there tutoring support for struggling students?
 - The National Honor Society keeps a record of students who would like to tutor for community service hours.
 - The district also can provide a list of paid tutors.
- How much study time a week is required with AP classes?
 - This greatly depends on the class, time of year, and student. We suggest transitioning into the AP program and making informed decisions about how many AP classes a student can manage successfully.
- Is it challenging to take AP courses and still do varsity sports?
 - Yes, it is challenging. Students who participate in sports must be excellent at time management. Many of our athletes do successfully participate in AP courses.
- Since WHS is such a large school – what are the odds of getting into the AP classes that I want?
 - The odds are very good. We do our best to give students their first choices when they register for classes. Usually, if a student isn't able to take an AP class, it has more to do with a schedule conflict (i.e., the class is offered at the same time as another class the student wants).
- Where does Tech Prep College Connections get their funding?
 - Tech Prep College Connections is a self-support program funded by member dues from nine partner school districts and four partner colleges, as well as a consortium fee paid by students.
- In the last 2-to-3 years has WHS made any significant changes to their Honors, AP and College Classes?
 - As the College Board modifies standards and curriculum, WHS staff continues to update and modify courses. We have and continue to add AP and CHS courses to improve and enhance programs at WHS.