



Embrace Your Potential

McDowell High School's AP Program



Attention 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students,

Are you ready to unlock your full academic potential and embark on an exhilarating journey of intellectual growth? It is time to seize the opportunity and take your education to new heights with McDowell's Advanced Placement® (AP) program. Designed to challenge and inspire students like you, AP® courses offer a rigorous curriculum that delves deep into various subjects, providing you with college-level content and skills while still in high school.

By enrolling in an AP® course, you are not only challenging yourself academically but also preparing yourself for the demands of higher education. Whether you are passionate about mathematics, science, history, literature, or any other field, there is an AP® course tailored to your interests. Embrace the opportunity to expand your knowledge, enhance critical thinking skills, and cultivate a deeper understanding of the world around you. With dedicated teachers guiding you every step of the way, you will have the support you need to succeed and excel in your chosen AP® subjects.

Embrace your potential and sign up for an AP® course today. Your future self will thank you for the invaluable skills and experiences gained through McDowell's AP® program!

Please see the attached document for a full listing of McDowell's AP® courses. In addition, if you are interested in shadowing a course, you may speak with your school counselor or email Mrs. Means (Means@mtsd.org) or Mr. Calabrese (Calabrese@mtsd.org).

General Information / FAQs

What are AP® courses?

AP® stands for Advanced Placement®. These are college-level courses offered in high school. They are designed to provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit and demonstrate proficiency in specific subjects.

Why should I take AP® courses?

Taking AP® courses can offer several benefits, including earning college credit, demonstrating academic rigor to colleges during the admissions process, potentially saving money on tuition, and preparing for the demands of college-level coursework.

How do I enroll in AP® courses?

Enrolling in AP® courses is easy! Speak with your school counselor about information on course availability, prerequisites, and registration procedures.

Are there any prerequisites for taking AP® courses?

Prerequisites vary depending on the specific AP® course. Some may require completion of certain courses or a demonstrated level of proficiency in the subject area. Your school counselor can provide guidance on prerequisites for each AP® course.

How do colleges view AP® courses on my transcript?

Colleges often view AP® courses favorably because they demonstrate a student's willingness to challenge themselves academically and take on college-level coursework. Successfully completing AP courses and performing well on AP® exams can enhance your college application.

Do I have to take the AP® exam if I take the course?

Yes, all students who register for an AP® course take the exam in May. Performing well on the AP® exam can strengthen your college application.

How do I prepare for AP® exams?

Preparation for AP® exams typically involves reviewing course materials, practicing with past exam questions, and utilizing resources such as study guides and review books. Your AP teacher may also provide review sessions or materials to help you prepare.

What if I do not pass the AP® exam?

Failing the AP® exam does not impact your course grade or GPA, but it may affect your ability to earn college credit. However, many colleges offer alternative options for students who do not pass the AP exam, such as taking a placement test upon entering college.

How many AP® courses should I take?

The number of AP® courses you should take depends on your academic strengths, interests, and goals. It is important to strike a balance between challenging yourself and managing your workload effectively. Quality of performance in AP® courses is often more important than quantity.

Are AP® courses more difficult than regular high school courses?

AP® courses are designed to be more challenging than typical high school courses. They cover college-level material and require a greater level of commitment and rigor. However, with dedication and effective study habits, many students find success in AP courses.

How do I earn college credit for completing an AP® course?

Enroll in an AP® course and take the exam. Earn a score of a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam, and you may be eligible to earn college credit. Each college is different, but most colleges accept AP® courses for college credit. Visit <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies> for more information.

Exam Fees

AP® Courses: \$98 / AP Capstone™ Courses: \$146

*Note: Fee reductions are available for qualifying students

McDowell High School Advanced Placement®

Embrace Your Potential

9th Grade

- AP Human Geography
- AP Computer Science Principles

10th Grade

- AP World History Modern
- AP Human Geography
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Seminar
- AP Psychology
- AP Probability & Statistics

*Depending on the math & science sequence

- AP Chemistry
- AP Calculus AB

11th Grade

- AP US History
- AP Human Geography
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP Psychology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Probability & Statistics
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Art (Drawing)
- AP Seminar
- AP Research*

*AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research

12th Grade

- AP US Government & Politics
- AP Comparative Government & Politics
- AP Human Geography
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP Psychology
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Biology
- AP Physics
- AP Physics C
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Probability & Statistics
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Art (Drawing)
- AP Research*

*AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research



AP Capstone Diploma™

AP Seminar

Score a 3 or higher

AP Research

Score a 3 or higher

4 additional AP courses

Throughout high school

Score a 3 or more

AP Research Certificate

AP Seminar

Earn a Score of 3 or higher

AP Research

Earn a Score of 3 or higher



McDowell High School Advanced Placement®

Embrace Your Potential

Stem Learning

Science	Technology	Engineering	Math
AP Biology	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Biology	AP Statistics
AP Chemistry	AP Computer Science A	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus AB
AP Environmental Science		AP Calculus BC	AP Calculus BC
AP Physics 1		AP Chemistry	
AP Physics C – Mechanics		AP Environmental Science	
		AP Physics 1	
		AP Physics C – Mechanics	
		AP Statistics	
		AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A	
Self-study or Independent Study: AP Physics 2 AP Physics: Electricity & Magnetism	Self-study or Independent Study: AP Computer Science A	Self-study or Independent Study: AP Physics 2 AP Physics: Electricity & Magnetism	