



## What is the Advanced Placement (AP) Program?

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program for college-level courses and exams that gives high school students the opportunity to receive advanced placement and/or credit in college. About 1.2 million students participate in the AP Program each year, usually through an AP course.

AP courses are introductory college courses, so they are not easy, but neither are they impossibly difficult. An AP course will be more demanding than a regular high school course. A student should realize that taking an AP class is a serious commitment. Students should give careful thought to which and how many AP courses to take in one year.

## Why Participate?

Taking AP courses in high school could give you an advantage in college by letting you:

- Earn college credit depending on how you score on the AP Exam
- Save money and time at college
- Stand out to colleges by having “AP” on your high school transcript which shows colleges you’ve tackled college-level work

As students plan their schedules, they should also consider time commitments required. Carefully review the course descriptions before you make your decisions.

## Why take an AP Exam?

AP exams are administered each year in May. An exam contains both multiple-choice and free-response questions that require essay writing, problem solving, and other skills. Every examination receives an overall grade on a five-point scale.

Scale:

5-Extremely Well Qualified

4-Well Qualified

3-Qualified

2-possibly qualified

1-no recommendation

AP Grade Reports are sent in July to each student’s home address, high school, and if the student has requested it, to the designated colleges.

Each college decides how much credit to award for AP scores. You can find this information for the college(s) you are interested in by using the AP Credit Policy search at [www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy).

\*See College Board website for additional details as well as the updated AP Exam schedule for the May exams.

\*Enrollment in an AP course is a yearlong commitment.