



Advanced Placement Courses

Thomas County Central students have the opportunity to engage in AP classes in all academic areas. Highly selective colleges and universities (like the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Duke, Emory, and Ivy League Universities) expect students to make the most of their academic opportunities. Students who plan to apply for admission to a highly selective college or university should plan to take several AP classes during high school. Highly selective universities generally prefer AP classes to dual enrollment classes since College Board AP classes are based on an approved curriculum and culminate in a national standardized exam. The MERIT Program Director and high school counselor will advise students in selecting AP courses that are right for the individual student.

AP courses offer a challenging curriculum that assists in developing the student's analytical thinking, reading, writing, and problem solving skills necessary to excel in college. Students who enroll in one of these courses may take the Advanced Placement exam at the end of the year. Although the score achieved on this exam does not affect the student's grade in the course, it can determine college credit awarded. Students passing an AP Course with a 70 or higher will receive a 10 point boost to the final grade for the AP courses that is posted on the student's high school transcript for class rank and honors status in that course. Grades earned in AP courses (including the 10 bonus points granted in AP courses) shall be counted twice in calculating the weighted GPA for class rank and honors purposes in order to make the relative weight of one AP course equal to that of two dual enrollment courses. The high school will provide weighted and/or unweighted transcripts as requested by the colleges or universities to which the student applies. HOPE will give students passing an AP course a .5 quality point boost (on the traditional 4 point scale: A=4, B=3, C=2, etc.) to the un-weighted grade in that course. The cost of AP exams is shared by students and the school district.

AP Classroom

AP Classroom - is an online resource that all Advanced Placement students have access to through digital activation. Students can access practice questions and receive feedback. For each unit in an AP class, there is a personal progress check that students complete that serves to help provide targeted instructional development. Students also place their AP exam order through this portal. Students will receive their "join" codes at the beginning of the year for each AP class they are enrolled in.

AP Courses Available at TCCHS

AP English Language and Composition: Students focus on argumentation and composition as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. Usually taken after 9th or 10th Honors Literature/Composition.

AP English Literature and Composition: Students focus on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Usually taken after AP English Language and Composition.

AP U.S. Government and Politics: Students are introduced to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Can be taken as early as ninth grade with approval of the MERIT Transition Coordinator.

AP Human Geography: Students are introduced to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Can be taken at any grade level.

AP World History: Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Usually taken in 10th Grade or higher.

AP United States History: Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Usually taken after AP World History or AP Government.

AP Psychology: Students are introduced to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.

AP Microeconomics: Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like scarcity and markets; costs, benefits, and marginal analysis; production choices and behavior; and market inefficiency and public policy.

AP Macroeconomics: Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

AP Precalculus: Students build deep mastery of modeling and functions and examine scenarios through multiple representations. The content and skills taught are common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. Honors Geometry is a recommended prerequisite.

AP Calculus AB/AP Calculus BC: Students focus on understanding calculus concepts and gain experience with methods and applications. Both courses require students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. Honors Pre-Calculus is a prerequisite.

AP Statistics: Students are introduced to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Honors Algebra II is a recommended prerequisite for this course.

AP Biology: Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the various topics. Honors Biology and Chemistry are prerequisites for this course.

AP Chemistry: Students gain a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore content such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. Honors Chemistry is a prerequisite.

AP Environmental Science: Students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. Honors Physical Science and Honors Biology along with Honors/Advanced Algebra I are prerequisites.

AP Physics 1: Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves. AP Chemistry or Honors Chemistry is a recommended prerequisite for this course.

AP Computer Science Principles: Students are introduced to the breadth of the field of computer science. They learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. Intro to Digital Technology is a preferred prerequisite to this course.

AP Computer Science A: Students are introduced to computer science through programming. Honors or Advanced Algebra I is a recommended prerequisite for this course.

AP Art History: Students are introduced to the global art world as they research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. Honors or AP World History is a recommended prerequisite for this course.

AP Art and Design Program: Students create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. This class is usually taken by juniors and seniors. Students can take any or all of the following - AP 2-D Art and Design, AP 3-D Art and Design, and/or AP Drawing.

AP Spanish Language and Culture:

AP Latin:

AP Music Theory: Students will become proficient in identifying various musical notation, develop skills to aurally recognize keys, meters, and harmonic progressions, arranging and composing for single and/or multiple performing groups, and singing melodies in different tonalities and meters at first sight. Recommended prerequisites are two years of band, orchestra, or chorus at the high school level, and current enrollment in band, orchestra, or chorus.

AP Seminar: Students learn to consider issues from multiple perspectives, identify credible sources, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of arguments, and make logical, evidence-based recommendations. Can be taken as early as 9th grade with recommendation of the MERIT Transition Coordinator. Recommended for students enrolled in at least one other AP class.

AP Research: Students explore various research methods and complete an independent research project on a topic of their choice. AP Seminar is a required

prerequisite for AP Research. Recommended for 10th-12th grade students enrolled in at least one other AP class.

Advanced Placement CAPSTONE

AP Capstone is a diploma program based on two AP Courses: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. These courses focus on developing the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills needed for college-level work. Sample topics students could choose to study include the effect of texting on grammar skills, the mathematics behind extreme sports, wealth inequality, environmental injustice in subsidized housing, 3-D printed prosthetics for amputees, and the role of art in education.

AP Seminar and Research Certificate - is earned by students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

AP Capstone Diploma - is earned by students who receive scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choice.

Advanced Placement Recognitions

AP awards and recognitions are academic distinctions that students can include on their résumés and college applications. Most AP awards are listed in AP score reports sent to colleges. Students earn AP Scholar Awards through their performance on AP Exams. Additionally, TCCHS offers the AP Capstone awards which are earned through a combination of AP courses and exam scores.

Advanced Placement Scholar - granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor - granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

TCCHS Advanced Placement National Scholar - Granted by the school to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.