

New Course Proposal

AP Precalculus



Proposal:

Offer **AP Precalculus** instead of 2 separate courses: Precalculus and Honors Precalculus

Present Typical Pathways (involving Precalculus):

College/Tech School	
9	Algebra 1
10	Algebra 2
11	Geometry
12	Precalculus or Statistics

Honors/Advanced	
7/8	Honors Algebra 1
8/9	Honors Algebra 2
9/10 or summer	Honors Geometry
10/11	Honors Precalculus
11/12	AP Calculus AB/BC & AP Statistics

Rationale:

- According to College Board, research shows that students who take precalculus in high school are 155% more likely to complete a bachelor's degree and have a higher boost in degree completion than students taking algebra 2, trigonometry, or calculus. By taking even one AP course, students can substantially improve their first-year college GPA and are more likely to graduate on time. AP Precalculus also has many connections to a wide range of careers and majors.
- AP Precalculus is for ALL learners, not just honors learners. This course has 3 major units of study including: polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and polar functions. A 4th unit (parameters, vectors, & matrices) is not tested on the AP exam.
- Excellent 1st AP Course to take.

Benefits for learners:

College/Tech School Pathway

- Better prepare to take calculus in college
- Avoid college remedial classes
- In some cases earn college credit. Some non-math majors could fulfill all their college math credits by taking this course.

Honors/Advanced Pathway

- Still prepared to continue onto AP Calculus AB
- Benefit of AP rigor attached to course with exposure to AP exam

Sample of PA Schools accepting AP Precalculus Scores for College Credit

Name of College	Minimum Score Required
DeSales University	4
Elizabethtown College	4
Franklin & Marshall College	4
Harrisburg Area Community College	3
Penn State	4
Pennsylvania College of Technology	3
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	3
Temple University	4
Widener University	3
Wilkes University	4
York College of Pennsylvania	3