



Light the Way  
1784 – MB – 2034

# Light the Way: Moving Beyond Advanced Placement

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As part of our ongoing commitment to academic excellence and innovative learning, Moses Brown School is moving beyond the Advanced Placement (AP) program to create a more dynamic and student-centered approach to advanced coursework. Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, MB will no longer designate courses as AP, instead offering an expanded array of advanced classes specifically designed to challenge and inspire students.

**Why Move Beyond the AP?** The decision is rooted in several key findings:

- ✦ **Student-Driven Learning:** Many students feel pressured to prioritize AP courses over subjects they deeply care about. MB seeks to empower students to explore advanced coursework aligned with their interests and strengths.
- ✦ **Expanding Advanced Course Offerings:** AP courses represent a limited set of subjects. By moving beyond AP, MB can introduce a greater variety of advanced courses across disciplines, offering students richer academic choices.
- ✦ **Leveraging the Expertise of our Teachers:** MB faculty are experts in their fields, and removing AP restrictions will allow them to design and teach advanced courses tailored to their students, incorporating real-world applications, interdisciplinary projects, and experiential learning.
- ✦ **Colleges Recognize Advanced Learning Beyond AP:** Colleges assess students in the context of their school's curriculum. Many top independent schools have already moved beyond the AP, and colleges are adept at evaluating the rigor of coursework outside the AP framework.

In addition to enriching our curricular offerings to increase the breadth and depth of learning opportunities for our students, we will be hiring a Dean of College and Academic Counseling for 2025-2026 to augment student and family support in preparing for life beyond Moses Brown. This dynamic school leader will help influence curricular development with a keen knowledge of the landscape of college admissions, and support students and families as our academic program and the college landscape continue to evolve.



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# A Vision for the Future of Learning

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This change aligns with MB's larger vision of evolving education to meet the needs of the future. As the school prepares for its 250th anniversary, it remains committed to fostering independent thinkers, problem solvers, and lifelong learners.

## **FAQS**

### **When will the AP title for advanced courses be eliminated?**

We will remove the AP designation from our courses offered in 2026-2027. Some courses will still resemble AP courses, with teachers able to use their professional discretion to adapt and improve their curricula. Some courses will be entirely new. All courses taught at the advanced level will have a clear designation that will be communicated to students, families, and colleges.

### **Will this allow the school to offer more advanced courses for students?**

Yes! Over the years, we have eliminated some AP courses because they limit our teachers and students. As we move beyond the AP we will use skills-based criteria to ensure a variety of challenging classes that will enhance student choice in our advanced offerings.

### **Can students still continue to sit for AP exams?**

Students may opt to take AP exams. Some courses will be AP adjacent, meaning students can expect to cover much of the AP material while being responsible for preparing some independently if they choose to take the exam. Other courses will not be closely aligned with AP exams. We encourage students and families to work with college counseling to understand the value of AP exams in a students' portfolio. In many cases, students' time will be better spent on other interests!

### **How do colleges assess students without AP courses on their transcripts?**

Colleges want a clear understanding of the level of challenge in a student's program, and they recognize that the AP is just one way to indicate that. They are familiar with reading transcripts from schools who have moved beyond the AP. MB will establish clear designations for its most rigorous courses to ensure clarity for colleges and families.

### **Are there other independent schools that do not offer Advanced Placement?**

Yes! Some of the best independent schools in the country do not offer AP courses. Among them are Exeter, Andover, Choate, Lawrenceville, and Sidwell Friends, to name a few. Locally, St. George's School and Tabor Academy have also moved beyond AP.

### **Will students be at a disadvantage in the college process?**

No. Colleges have extensive experience reading non-AP transcripts and will not expect students to take AP courses where they are not available. We will communicate clearly with colleges to ensure they are aware of the changes. In fact, we are hiring a Dean of College and Academic Counseling to lead this work and ensure uninterrupted high-quality college counseling for all MB students. In addition, we expect that our new offerings, including purpose projects, have the opportunity to enhance how students can present themselves in the process.