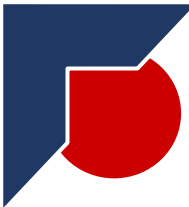




Rigorous High School Courses

Preparing Your Student for Success with Rigor

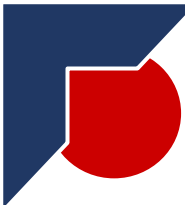


What Are Rigorous Courses?

- Challenging academic courses that prepare students for college-level work
- Include Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment (DE) and Honors (H) classes
- Designed to develop critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Feature faster pace, deeper content exploration, and higher expectations



PWHS' Rigorous Course Philosophy

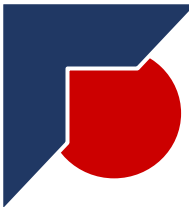


Benefits of Taking Rigorous Courses



Students who take on an increasingly more challenging course load from year to year, do show growth and tenacity.

- Increases college admission chances and scholarship opportunities
- Develops strong study habits and time management skills
- May earn college credits in high school
- Builds confidence in academic abilities
- Shows colleges your student is ready for university-level work



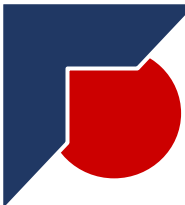
Honors Classes

- Advanced versions of standard (academic) high school courses and typically the prerequisite bridge to AP and IB courses
- Accelerated pace with more in-depth content with increased GPA weight



Profile of an Honors Student:

- Accepts constructive criticism
- Works well independently and in groups
- Consistent high quality work
- Time management
- Demonstrates perseverance and motivation
- Commitment to academics
- Demonstrates analytical thinking

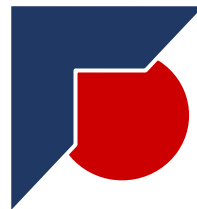


Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- Most widely available rigorous course option in U.S. schools; AP courses are college-level courses following College Board curriculum
- PW offers 36 AP and PreAP courses across multiple disciplines
- Culminates annually with AP exams in May; mandatory participation at PW to earn AP credit
- Note: Check with the admissions office of individual colleges to understand how AP courses / AP exam grades will be evaluated and applied.

Profile of an Advanced Placement Student:

- Meets or exceeds all Honors expectations
- Ability to perform independent research and study
- Performs well at a high pace, under pressure
- Prioritizes time management
- Dedicated to mastering college-level material



Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- Many colleges award credit for scores of 3 or higher

- [AP Credit Policy](#)

Example

AP Credit Policy Search

Your AP scores could earn you college credit or advanced placement (meaning you could skip certain courses in college). Use this tool to find colleges that offer credit or placement for AP scores.

☒ Search by Course

AP Calculus BC

☐ Find Your College

Exam Name	Min Score Required	# of credits	Equivalent course
AP Calculus BC	3	4	Mathematics 140
AP Calculus BC	4	8	Mathematics 140 and Mathematics 141
AP Chemistry	4	4	Chemistry 110 and 111
AP Chemistry	5	8	Chemistry 110, 111, 112 and 113

[Penn State University Park](#)

University Park, PA

Credit is awarded for AP examinations. Minimum scores and credit awards vary by examination. Policy applies to all Penn State campuses for students in all majors.

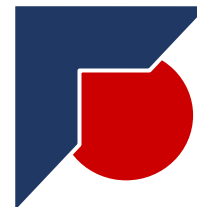
For more information, [view the credit policy on this college's website](#).

Additional restrictions and requirements may apply to the policy listed below. For more detailed information, visit the college's AP policy on the Web or contact the college directly.

[Learn more about AP credit & placement](#)

✓ Offers credit for qualifying AP Exam scores

✓ Offers placement into advanced courses for qualifying AP Exam scores





PW

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Grade 9+

Grade 10+

Grade 11+

Grade 12

ENG

AP SEMINAR

AP RESEARCH

AP ENGLISH LANG

AP ENGLISH LIT

SCI

AP BIOLOGY

AP CHEMISTRY

AP SPAN LANG/LIT

WLA

AP ENVIRONMENTAL

AP PHYSICS

AP LATIN

AP FRENCH

MAT

AP STATISTICS

AP PRECALCULUS

AP CALCULUS AB

AP CALCULUS BC

CS

AP COMP SCI A

AP COMP SCI PRINC

SOC

AP WORLD

AP HUMAN
GEOGRAPHY

AP EURO HISTORY

AP US HISTORY

AP US GOV

AP AFR-AMER
STUDIES

AP MACROECON

AP PSYCHOLOGY

AP MICROECON

ART & MUSIC

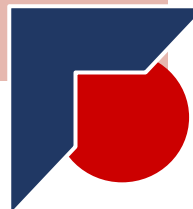
AP MUSIC THEORY

AP 3D

AP DRAW

AP 2D

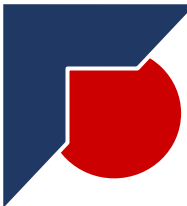
AP ART HISTORY



International Baccalaureate (IB)

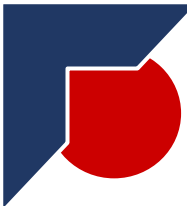
Career Related Programme

- Globally recognized curriculum emphasizing international mindedness
 - Focuses on developing well-rounded, globally aware students
- IBCP Curriculum
 - Blend of Academic and Career Studies
 - Professional Skills Development
 - Global Perspective
 - Service Learning
 - 3 Personalized Pathways at PW;
 - Business
 - Design Technology
 - Art & Design



What is Dual Enrollment?

- Dual enrollment (DE) offers high school students the opportunity to take college classes to earn credit; at PWHS, at a college, or online
- Upon successful completion (grade of "C" or better), students earn honors level high school credit and applicable college credit simultaneously.
- Earned college credits at a reduced cost as well as a college transcript
- College transcripts from the college or university may leverage a candidate's status for admission, demonstrating success in rigorous courses
- **Note:** Check with the admissions office of individual colleges to understand how their credits will be evaluated and applied.



Dual Enrollment

Cost Comparison

	<u>Cost Per Credit : In-State</u>	<u>3 Credit Course Cost</u>
Swarthmore	\$1,754	\$5,262
Drexel	\$1,219	\$3,657
UPITT	\$795	\$2,385
Penn State	\$726	\$2,178
UPITT DE @ PW	\$75	\$225
Temple	\$687	\$2,061
West Chester	\$516	\$1,548
MCCC	\$166	\$498
MCCC DE @ PW	\$74	\$223



PW

Dual Enrollment

@ PWHS



Science

AP Physics C (Mr. Scheidly)

Social Studies

AP Psychology (Mr. Wilson)

H Western Civilization (Mr. Carr)

Business

H Career & Financial Mgmt. (Ms. Rickard)

English

AVID 12 (Ms. Downer)

Film Appreciation (Mr. Hackett)

H Theories of Leadership (Mr. Donofrio)

Mathematics

AP Statistics (Mr. Marcus)

Music

Digibeads (Mrs. O'Connor)



PW

Dual Enrollment

@ PWHS



CP Entrepreneurship (Mr. Perez)

Computer Science

Computer Science 1 (Mr. Engel)
H Computer Science 2 (Mr. Engel)
AP Computer Science A (Mr. Engel)
AP Computer Science Principles (Mr. Engel)
H Computational Mathematics (Mr. Kumfert)

Engineering

CP Engineering Sustainability
(Mr. Muscarella)



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Business

H Accounting 2 (Mr. Coleman)

Engineering

Pre-AP Engineering

*14 participating institutions including those listed here



PW

Dual Enrollment

Partners



CHOOSING MONTCO



DUAL ENROLLMENT

Plymouth Whitmarsh High School seniors have the option of taking 1-10 credits through dual enrollment at Montgomery County Community College, possibly earning a full year of high school and college credit simultaneously with approval from both a counselor and administration.

Students may opt to choose brick and mortar or online classes. Montco has partnership agreements with 30+ four-year colleges and universities to accept MCCC transfer credits, which include;

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE	GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY	PENN STATE BERKS
ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY	IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY	ROSEMONT COLLEGE
ARCADIA UNIVERSITY	KEYSTONE COLLEGE	ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY
BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY	KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY	SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY
CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE	LASALLE UNIVERSITY	STRAYER UNIVERSITY
CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY	LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY	LEHIGH UNIVERSITY	URSINUS COLLEGE
DESALES UNIVERSITY	MESSIAH COLLEGE	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
DREXEL UNIVERSITY	NEUMANN UNIVERSITY	WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
EASTERN UNIVERSITY	PEIRCE COLLEGE	WIDENER UNIVERSITY
EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY	PENN STATE ABINGTON	WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

Students/families are solely responsible for transportation and costs and must for contact the intended college's Admissions Office to confirm credit transfer specifications.



- Education - Future Teachers
 - Exploration of Secondary Edu
 - Child Development - Elementary
 - Foundations of Spec Ed.
 - Music for Diverse Learners
 - Motor Development & Learning
 - Mathematics for Elem and Middle

PW

Dual Enrollment

Partners



***Entire catalog available**

- \$200 per credit



***Education starter program**

- 3 available online classes
- No cost per EDEPDO



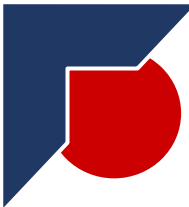
Pennsylvania
College of
Art & Design

***Business and Art-Design starter program**

- 5 available online classes
- \$200 per credit

Central Montco Technical HS

- PDE considers concentrated career and technical education studies, that carry through to twelfth grade, as rigorous courses of study per the Future Ready Index.
- Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) offers a combination of rigorous classroom academics and comprehensive hands-on training to ensure students are ready to begin their careers as soon as they graduate.
- Eight of 19 CMTHS programs have dual enrollment components (accredited by MCCC) built into their final year of curriculum.



Common Concerns and Solutions

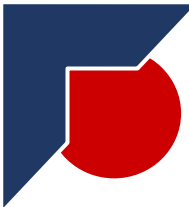
- Fear of lower GPA → Remember weighted grades often apply
- Heavy workload → Develop time management strategies
- Stress → Balance academics with self-care
- Cost of exams → CSD Board dedication to support families
- College credit uncertainty → Research college credit policies

GRADE SCALE / GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)				
LETTER GRADE and PERCENTAGE		WEIGHTED/UNWEIGHTED ACADEMIC GRADE POINTS	WEIGHTED HONORS GRADE POINTS	WEIGHTED AP GRADE POINTS
90-100%	A	4.0	5.0	5.5
87-89%	B+	3.33	4.33	4.83
83-86%	B	3.0	4.0	4.5
80-82%	B-	2.67	3.67	4.17
77-79%	C+	2.33	3.33	3.83
73-76%	C	2.0	3.0	3.5
70-72%	C-	1.67	2.67	3.17
67-69%	D+	1.33	1.33	1.33
63-66%	D	1.0	1.0	1.0
60-62%	D-	.67	.67	.67
0-69%	F	0	0	0

Is Your Student Ready?



- Consider past academic performance and study habits
- Evaluate time management and organizational skills
- Assess motivation and willingness to challenge themselves
- Look at teacher recommendations and prerequisites
- Think about balance with extracurricular activities

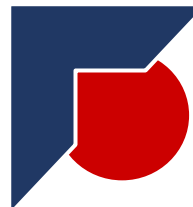


Questions to Guide the Process

A rigorous high school course load is dependent on many factors. The following questions should be asked of students when considering rigor;

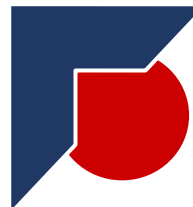
- In what subjects do you excel? Do you feel pushed to your limits in these areas?
- Did you continue to challenge yourself beyond the minimum requirements for a Plymouth Whitemarsh High School diploma?
- Does your transcript show that you are a well-rounded student?
- What are your interests? Does your coursework show that you can be successful in a particular major?

Conversations are key when it comes to students making informed decisions about their college and career goals.



Creating a 4-year plan

- It all begins in 8th or 9th grade but the road is long; conversation with peers, families, teachers and counselors is essential
- Consider a rigorous course along the way (jump rope); gradually increase challenge level each year when appropriate
- Review the PW Program of Studies - consider prerequisites and course sequences
- Remember balance! = Core + rigor + extracurriculars + electives



Supporting Your Student's Success



- Model a healthy life balance
 - Help students to reflect on workload, time management, and stress
- Ensure adequate study space at home
- Encourage use of PW supports;
 - Writing Fellows, Bonus Block support daily, Before & After School help

any questions?

