An Introduction to the Advanced Placement® Program



Jordan High School

January 29, 2026



Welcome

Jordan High School is committed to every student's success. We believe access to college-level studies such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



What Are Advanced Placement Courses?

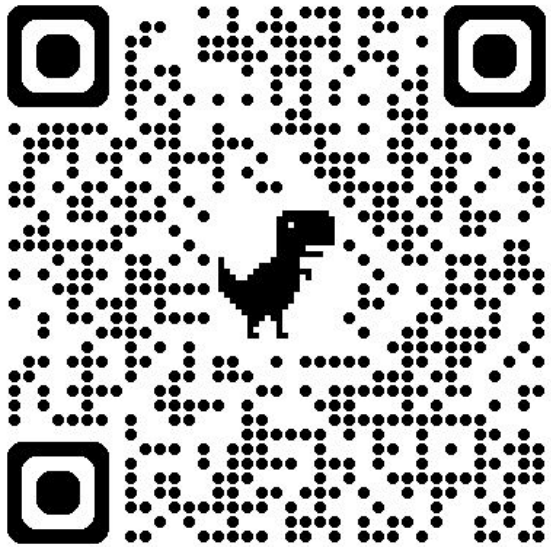


The Basics

- AP® courses are college-level courses offered in high school.
- Courses reflect what's taught in introductory college courses.
- Students take AP Exams at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.
- Students can typically earn college credit and/or placement into honors or advanced courses when they score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

Our AP Courses

- **AP Capstone™:** AP Seminar, AP Research
- **Arts:** 2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design, Art History, Drawing
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Comparative Government and Politics, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History: Modern
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** PreCal, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Cybersecurity, Networking, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra-Based, Physics 2: Algebra-Based, Physics C (Electricity and Magnetism / Mechanics)
- **World Languages and Cultures:** Chinese Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture



AP at Jordan High School

Some interesting facts about AP in our school for 2024-2025:

- Students taking AP exams: 1,546 (49% of student body)
- Total number of exams taken: 4,049

(JHS Profile, 2025)



Why AP Matters

Why AP Matters



Early Exposure to College-Level Expectations

Build confidence with college-level reading, writing, thinking, and time management before you ever step on campus.



Explore Academic Interests in Depth

Studying a subject in depth could give you new insights and even put you on the path to a career.



Weighted Rigor on Your Transcript

Our school offers a GPA boost to students who take AP courses and/or exams. This helps colleges interpret achievement in the context of course rigor and supports students in selecting and succeeding in appropriately challenging coursework.



College Credit Opportunities

Your AP score could earn you college credits before you even set foot on campus.



Development of College-Ready Skills

AP coursework builds the reading, writing, analytical, and time-management skills students will need for success in college-level classes.



Placement in Advanced or Honors Courses

AP scores may allow students to skip introductory courses and begin at a higher level.



Time and Cost Efficiency in College

Earning credit or placement can free up time on your schedule or even let you graduate early.

What the Research Shows

2019 National Study on AP & College Outcomes

- Higher first-year GPA & on-time graduation
- Biggest gains from first and second AP
- Effects remain after controlling for background

Source: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/emip.12295

What This Means for Your Student

Regardless of the score, completing an AP Exam has benefits.

- You do not need 10 AP courses to benefit
- Strategic, well-supported AP participation matters more than overload
- Early exposure builds momentum



The Reality of AP

Myths and Facts About AP

Myth #1 – Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.

Reality – Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.

Myth #2 – AP courses are too hard and stressful.

Reality – AP classes can be challenging, but that doesn't mean you're not up to the task. If you're willing to work hard and if you're prepared academically, you should be able to succeed in an AP course.

Myth #3 – I don't think I'll score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.

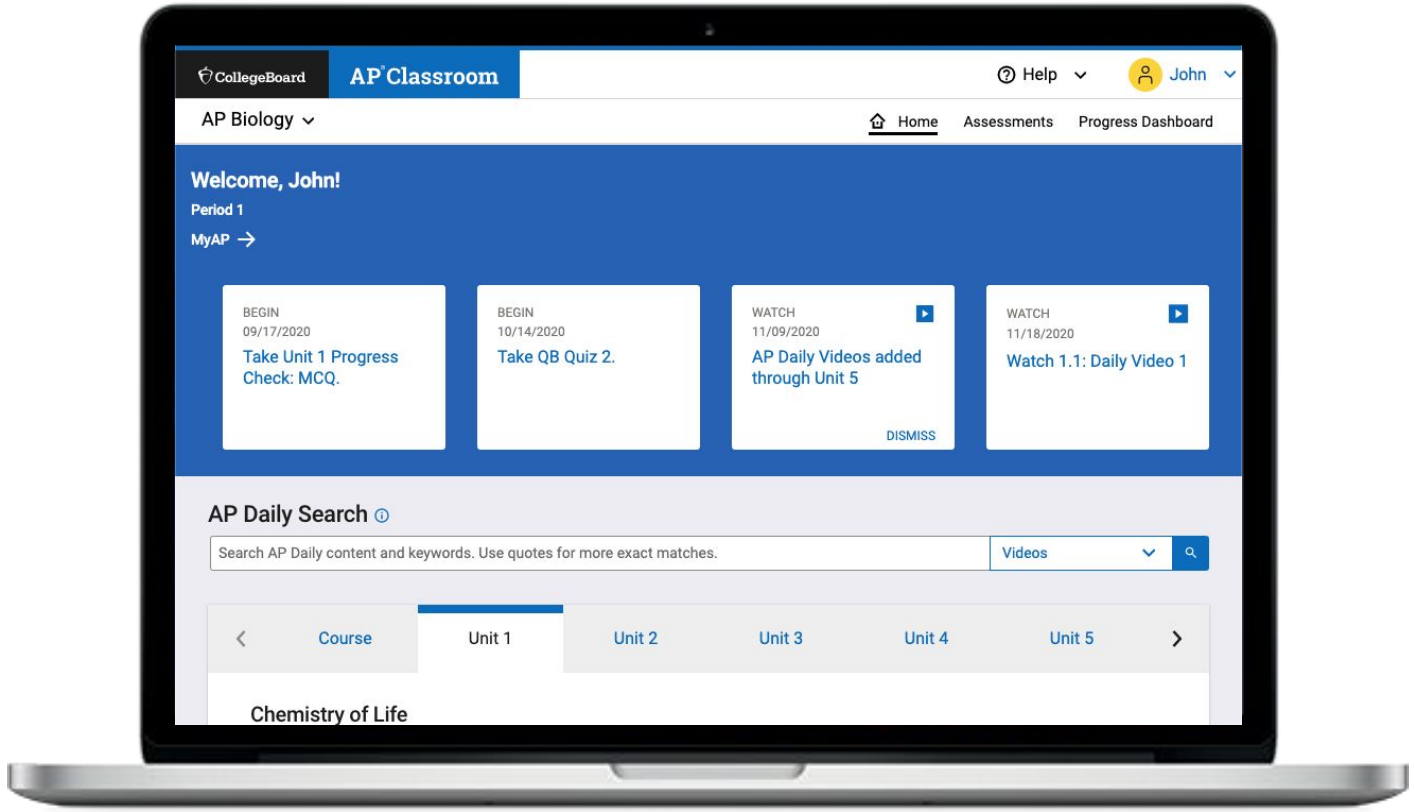
Reality – Many colleges grant credit, placement, or both based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.



Resources and Supports for Student Learning

AP Classroom / Digital Resources

- **AP Classroom** - Short learning videos on every topic in every unit for targeted support to help students build knowledge and skills
- **Daily Videos** - 2 or 3 videos for every topic and skill pairing within a given unit
- **Practice & progress checks** - Real-time feedback on the topics and skills in each unit as the teacher unlocks progress checks
- Teacher-monitored feedback

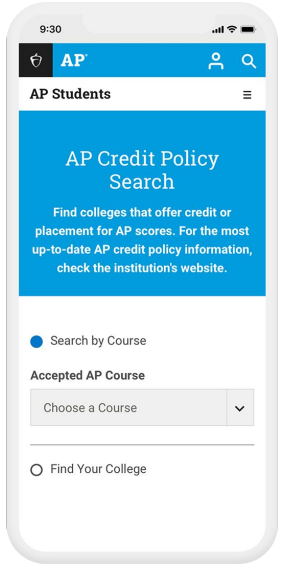




Credit & Placement

Credit and Placement Opportunities

- Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP credit and placement.
- Find colleges that grant credit, placement, or both for AP Exam scores at collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy
  - Search by course or college
  - Data for each college includes a direct link to that college's website detailing AP credit and placement policies
  - See each college or university's statement about its AP policy



Credit vs. Placement

- Credit
  - Many colleges offer credit for AP scores.
  - Example—a student earns a 4 on their AP Biology Exam, and the college grants 8 credits for that score. That means the student has earned 8 credits before taking their first class there.

- Placement
  - Many colleges recognize that AP scores demonstrate knowledge of material in certain courses and let students skip those courses.
  - These could be introductory courses required in your major, or core courses the college requires all its students to take.

- In some cases, students can get both credit and placement for a qualifying AP score.



AP Exams



About AP Exams

- Standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course
- Administered by schools worldwide every year in the spring
- Most have a digitally administered exam, but a few courses have different ways to assess what you've learned—for example, AP Art and Design students submit a portfolio of work for scoring
- Most AP Exams are 2–3 hours long combining multiple-choice questions and free-response questions.
- Created and scored by teams of AP teachers and college professors



Next Steps

- Decide which AP courses are right for you:
  - What subjects do you enjoy most?
  - In which subjects do you excel?
  - Have you completed the course prerequisites?
- Talk to your teachers, counselor, or other students who have taken AP courses
- Upcoming course selection details:

  Course selection opens Monday in SchooLinks.

  Students should complete course selection by March 20.

  Counselors will meet with students during English class periods throughout February and early March.

Questions and Answers

Access the slideshow here.

Thank you for coming!