



Advanced Placement Night 2011

Grant Community High School

Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) courses give you a head start on college.

Taking the end-of-course **AP Exam** sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that a student is ready for them, and can enable students to gain admission, college credit, and placement into advanced courses.

What's the difference between AP and Honors?

- AP courses are audited annually to reflect what's being taught in college courses.
- Students receive an external evaluation—the AP Exam—that verifies the student has mastered college-level studies.
- AP courses provided college-level work experiences.

Who designs the AP courses and exams?

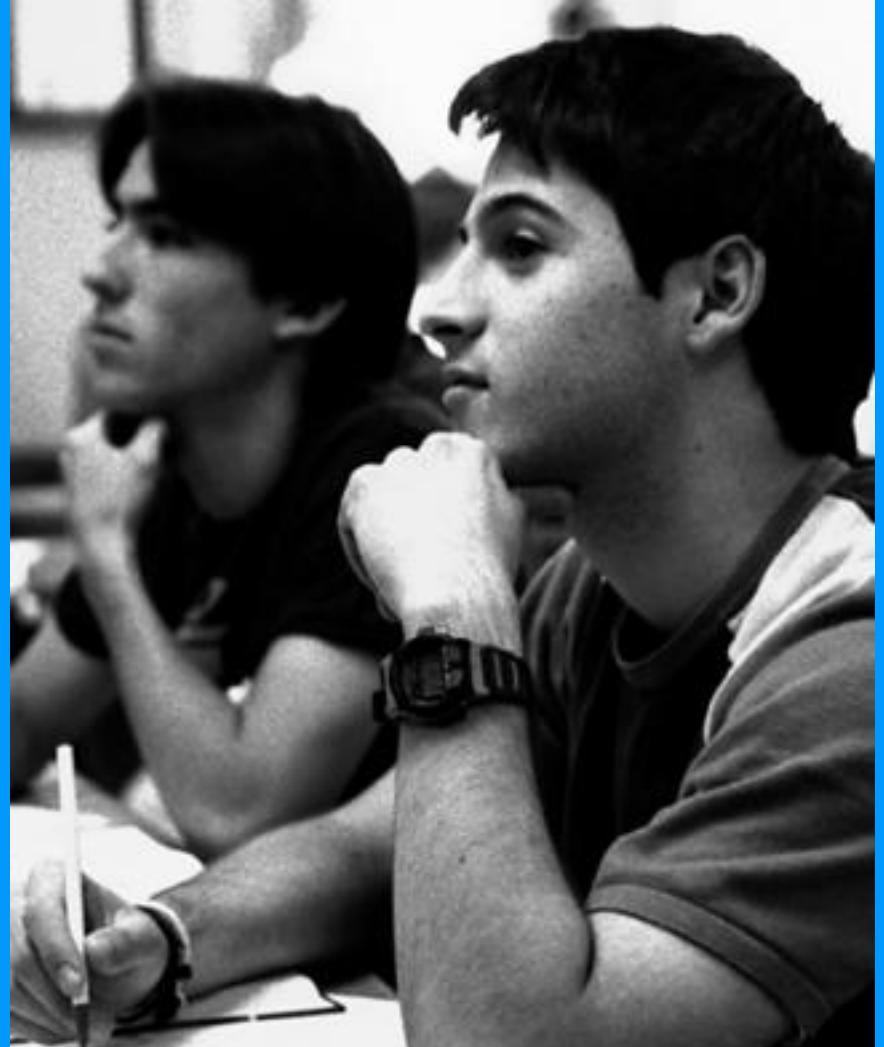
- AP committee members currently teach at dozens of the nation's top colleges and universities, including:
 - Dartmouth College
 - Hamilton College
 - Michigan State University
 - Princeton University
 - Spelman College
 - UCLA
 - University of Texas at Austin
 - University of Virginia
 - Yale University

Prepare Now to Succeed in College

A U.S. Department of Education study found that the strongest predictor of college graduation is something students do before they ever go to college:

Participate in rigorous, college-level courses in high school—and AP courses in particular.

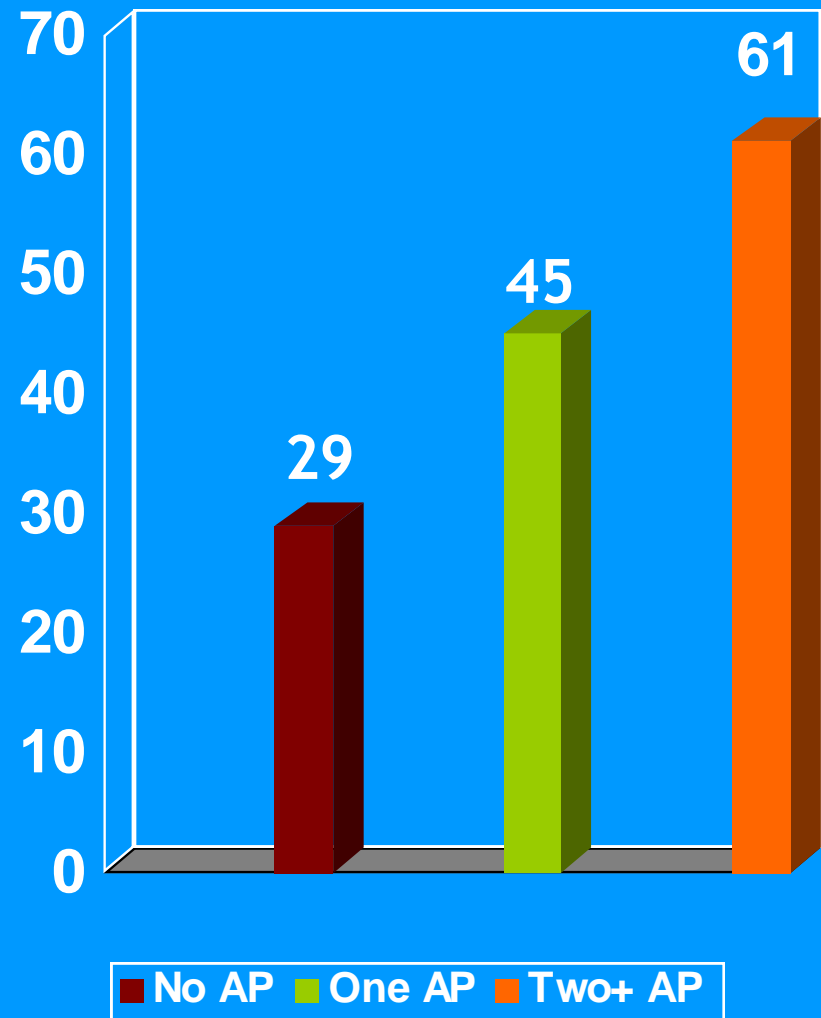
Clifford Adelman, *Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor's Degree Attainment* (1999), U.S. Department of Education.



AP and College Success™

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor's degree in four years or less.

Source: Camara, Wayne (2003). *College Persistence, Graduation, and Remediation. College Board Research Notes (RN-19)*. New York, NY: College Board.



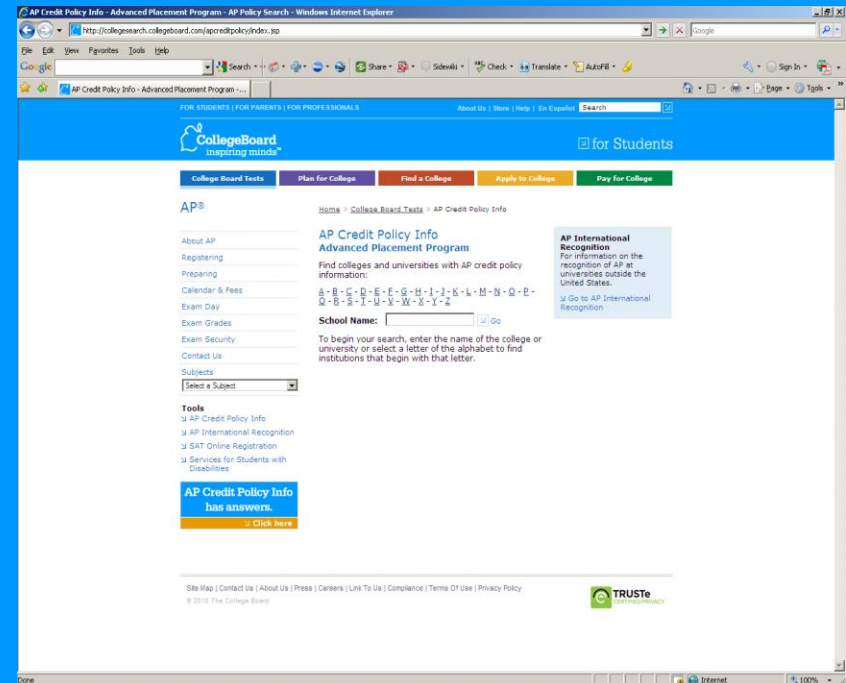
AP Credit and Placement Policy Information

Colleges and universities throughout the world offer credit and/or placement for qualifying Advanced Placement Exam scores. Information about AP credit and placement policies at many colleges and universities is now available on the College Board's Web site:

www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy

AP Credit and Placement Policy Information

1. Go to <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>.
2. Type in the name of the college or university whose AP policy you want to view (or browse by letter of the alphabet).
3. You will see two things for each school that has provided their AP credit policy info:
 - A link to the college's own Web page that details its AP credit and placement policies.
 - A statement by the college or university about its AP policy.



What's the difference between credit and placement?

- Some colleges award “credit” for qualifying AP Exam grades. This means you actually earn points toward your college degree.
- Others award “advanced placement.” This means you can skip introductory courses, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.

Why should I take an AP course?

- Stand out in the admissions process
- Experience the rigor of a college-level course

Why take the AP Exam?

Colleges and universities give credit for qualifying AP Exam grades, not AP course grades.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities, plus colleges and universities in 24 other countries, grant students admission, credit, and/or placement for qualifying AP Exam grades.

For example, at Princeton, students can use qualifying AP Exam grades to:

- Graduate in three or three-and-a-half years
- Enter upper-level courses
- Fulfill a foreign language requirement

Stand out in the admissions process

“One of the best standard predictors of academic success at Harvard is performance on Advanced Placement Examinations.”

—William R. Fitzsimmons
Dean of Admissions, Harvard University

“AP Exams affirm the rigor of a student’s course work. Though admissions policies vary, if I were a student, I wouldn’t assume that the college of my dreams didn’t care about AP Exams in the admissions process.”

—Bruce Walker, Director of Admissions
University of Texas at Austin

“I would not only recommend AP courses to anyone who is serious about getting a good college education, but I would go as far to say that they are a necessity. . . .”
- Willie Wright,
University of Chicago

Factors Influencing Admission Decisions—2007

- **80.4%** – Grades in College Prep Courses
- 51.7% - Admissions Test Scores
- 44.8% - Grades in All Subjects
- 30.5% - Class Rank
- 20.3% - Essay/Writing Sample
- 17.4% - Counselors Recommendations
- 16.3% - Teacher Recommendations
- 10.8% - Interview
- 8.2% - Community Service
- 6.4% - Extracurricular Activities

NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2007

- The best decision that I could have possibly made while I was at Grant was to take AP classes. They provided me with a wealth of knowledge that helped me start college on the right track. Every class was taught like a college class, which made the transition all the more comfortable. The teachers really had a mastery on the subject they were teaching and they provided great one-on-one support for the students, which made learning the material very easy. The AP credits that I received as a result of taking AP classes put me leaps and bounds ahead of my collegiate peers. I ended up coming to UIC with 22 credit hours as a result of Grant's great AP preparation. I am proud to say that thanks to Grant's AP program, I am prepared to handle any academic obstacle that UIC presents. Alex Marginean



What's the cost of taking an AP course?

- AP courses and exams are developed and scored by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to helping students connect to college success and opportunity.
- There is NO fee to take an AP course.

AP Exam Fees

- There is an \$87 fee for each AP Exam. This fee is determined by the College Board for administration and scoring of exams.
- Students with financial needs can receive assistance to reduce the exam fees.

AP Classes Offered at Grant Community High School for the 2011-2012 School Year

- Art Studio
- English Language
- English Literature
- Calculus
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- United States History
- Psychology
- World History
- C++

2010 Grant AP Results Overview

- 137 Students participated in taking the test
- 199 Tests were administered
- 119 Tests scored “Three” or better

Attendance for AP Classes

- 90% attendance is expected which allows 18 days (about 9 each semester) for illness, college visits, athletic absences, activity absences, conferences, field trips, doctor visits, meetings with counselors, family vacations. Students who are in the habit of missing more than 18 days a year for ***any reason*** are not good candidates for AP classes.

Advanced Placement Work Load

- Each Advanced Placement class will have a minimum of 5 hours of homework per week.
- Some Advanced Placement classes have a summer work requirement prior to the beginning of the course.

AP Contract for School Year 2011-2012

- Requires parent and student signatures
- No schedule changes after the Friday before Spring Break
- Withdrawal from course
 - Prior to first progress report date – grade of W
 - After first progress report date – grade of WF
 - Transcript will reflect withdrawal from course

Conclusion

- For the next part of the program, we invite you to proceed to the math hallway to attend 10-minute informational sessions about the courses.
- Schedule yourself for the desired courses.
- Go home tonight and discuss the benefits and your commitment to the AP program.