

College Advising Essentials

AP EDITION



Handouts



Resources



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An Introduction to Advanced Placement



The Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Now is the time for your students to start thinking about what AP courses they want to take.

Fast Facts

- AP courses are available in a wide variety of subject areas.
- Each AP course is modeled on a comparable introductory college course in the subject.
- AP courses and exams are designed by committees made up of college faculty and experienced AP teachers who ensure that the course and exam reflect college-level expectations.
- Each course culminates in a standardized college-level assessment, or AP Exam. Some subjects have a culminating portfolio, and/or a performance task.
- AP Exams are given in May each year at testing locations worldwide.



Benefits

Research consistently shows that AP students are better prepared for college than students who don't take AP, regardless of their exam score. They're more likely to enroll at and stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate in four years. Taking AP courses and exams can help students:

- **Stand out on college applications.** AP courses on students' transcripts show that they've challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available to them. And success on an AP Exam shows that they're ready for college-level coursework.
- **Earn college credit and/or skip introductory courses in college.** Most 4-year colleges and universities in the United States—as well as many institutions in more than 100 other countries—grant students credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores.
- **Save money and time.** Earning credit or placement can open up time in students' schedules or even let them graduate early.
- **Build skills and confidence.** AP students learn essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success. They dig deeper into subjects that interest them and learn to tap into their creativity and their problem-solving skills to address course challenges.
- **Discover their passion.** Studying a subject in depth can give students new insights and even put them on the path to a career.
- **Boost their GPA.** Taking an AP course and exam can boost students' GPAs. Check with your school for more information.

About AP Exams

- These assessments are designed by the same expert committee that developed the course.
- AP Exam scores are a weighted combination of student scores across various components: free-response or essay questions, multiple-choice sections (in most subjects), and projects or papers (in some subjects).
- AP Exams are scored on a scale of 1–5 by college and university professors and experienced AP teachers.
- Many U.S. colleges offer credit for AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

Which students should take AP?

- All students who are willing and academically prepared to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should be considered for admission to AP courses.
- Whatever a student's academic interest, they'll find a course to match it. AP courses are offered in the disciplines of arts, English, history and social science, math and computer science, the sciences, and world languages and culture.
- Students should choose an AP course based on the subjects they're passionate about and the classes they do well in.

Next steps for your students

- Have your students see which courses their school offers, choose the course they're interested in, and talk to their teacher or school counselor about signing up.
- Encourage your students check out the College Board Blog at collegeboard.org/blog to get tips and helpful information about AP.
- Make sure they keep working hard and stay focused on their goals for the future.

"By taking multiple AP courses, my children both started their college journeys measurably ahead of their peers. This advantage allowed them to include Study Abroad experiences, to add a minor to their undergraduate studies, and allowed them to graduate in four years without feeling pressed to earn those required credits. It provided them with a more robust, engaging, and rewarding undergraduate experience."

— **Tom**, parent of former AP students

Advanced Placement Overview for Students—A Head Start in High School



The Advanced Placement Program (AP) builds skills and confidence and helps you get into and succeed in college. AP encourages willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. The program consists of college-level courses developed by the AP Program that high schools can choose to offer, and corresponding exams are administered once a year.

There are AP courses in arts, English, history and social science, math and computer science, and world language and culture. Whatever your academic interest, you'll find a course to match it.

Taking AP can help you:

- **Get a taste of college.** Get familiar with college-level work—and boost your confidence by tackling it.
- **Develop college skills.** Time management, critical thinking, scholarly writing—AP courses and exams can help you hone the skills you'll need in college and career.
- **Discover your passion.** Studying a subject in depth could give you new insights and even put you on the path to a career.
- **Boost your GPA.** Taking an AP course and exam can boost your GPA. Check with your school for more information.

Your AP journey

Research consistently shows that AP students are better prepared for college than students who don't take AP, regardless of their exam score. AP students are more likely to enroll and stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate in four years. **Follow these steps on the path to college credit and placement:**

1. **Sign up.** See which courses your school offers, choose the course you're interested in, and talk to your teacher or school counselor about signing up.
2. **Take the course.** First join your class in our online system. Then work hard in the course. You can practice for the exam with our free online resources.
3. **Take the exam.** Register for your exam by the fall deadline. Exams are given in May. When you take the exam, you'll have a chance to choose a college or scholarship program to send your scores to.
4. **Send scores.** Check your scores when they're released in early July. You can send additional scores—or send scores for the first time if you haven't sent any yet.



Course Spotlight:

AP African American Studies

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that helps students develop **critical source analysis skills**, especially historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills. It's an *ideal* way for students to try AP for the first time while examining topics of their interest.

What students will experience:

The AP African American Studies course framework is organized both chronologically and thematically. Beginning in ancestral Africa and progressing through Afrofuturism, students will explore:

- The origins of the African diaspora.
- Freedom, enslavement, and resistance.
- The practice of freedom.
- Movements and debates.

When students take AP African American Studies, they'll:

- Get the opportunity to **fulfill a college requirement** by earning advanced placement, credit, or both to stand out to colleges, and boost their high school GPA.
- Tackle college-level coursework in a familiar setting. This interdisciplinary course draws from many fields—**history, literature, the arts, geography, science, and law**—to explore vital African American contributions and experiences.
- Develop historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills.
- Get access to, among other things, **primary and secondary sources, and videos**.
- Access a digital collection from the Smithsonian.
- Create a **project** on a related topic of their choice.

About the assessment

The AP African American Studies Exam includes two parts:

- End-of-course AP Exam (90% of Score)
- Individual Student Project (10% of Score)

The Individual Student Project provides students with an opportunity to research any topic, theme, issue, or development in the field of African American Studies. Students will define a research topic and line of inquiry, conduct independent research, present their argument, and participate in an oral defense.

Beyond the classroom

Taking AP African American Studies helps students prepare for history and other courses needed to fulfill high school graduation requirements. The knowledge and skills learned in this course also help students prepare for professions like these:

- Teacher/professor
- Museum curator
- Lawyer
- City planner
- Journalist
- Diplomat
- Physician
- Filmmaker
- Political analyst

Learn more at: cb.org/APAfAmStudies



Course Spotlight:

AP Precalculus

AP Precalculus is designed for students who've successfully completed Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 (or Integrated Math 3). Students who've taken these courses at any level have covered all the content necessary for AP Precalculus. This means *every* student ready for precalculus is ready for AP Precalculus.

When students take AP Precalculus, they'll:

- Get the opportunity to **fulfill a college math requirement** by earning advanced placement and/or college credit, stand out to colleges, and boost their high school GPA.
- Tackle college-level coursework in a familiar setting. **Plus, they'll get more time with their teacher—140 hours compared to 48**—in a college precalculus course.
- Get access to **free digital learning and practice resources**, including AP Daily videos—short on-demand videos that support what they're learning in class.

Skills students will learn:

- Algebraically manipulating functions, equations, and expressions
- Translating mathematical information between representations
- Communicating with precise language and providing rationales for conclusions

Beyond the classroom

Taking AP Precalculus helps students prepare for calculus and other higher-level math needed for STEM majors and careers. Here are some professions that use the knowledge and skills learned in this course:

- Architect
- City planner
- Astronomer
- Engineer
- Biologist
- Pharmacist
- Cardiologist
- Economist
- Epidemiologist

In fact, AP Precalculus can lead to a wide range of careers and college majors. To learn more, students should go to apstudents.org/prec calculus.

"AP Precalculus will open the door for many students to advanced course studies in mathematics and will bring a college-level course to students who may not have access to other AP math classes. It will level the playing field for underrepresented students, and all students who have completed an Algebra 2 course (or equivalent class) will be able to succeed in this course."

— **Brendan Murphy**, John Bapst Memorial High School, AP development committee member

Mathematics Pathways

This table shows math pathways available to students starting with the year they take Algebra 1 or Integrated Math 1. AP Precalculus is designed for students who've taken both Geometry and Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5+	
Algebra 1	Geometry OR Algebra 2	Algebra 2 OR Geometry	AP Precalculus*	AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC* AP Statistics	
			AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Precalculus	
			AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	
	Geometry and Algebra 2	AP Precalculus* AP Statistics AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC* AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	
	Integrated Math 1	Integrated Math 2	Integrated Math 3	AP Precalculus*	AP Calculus AB* AP Calculus BC* AP Statistics*
				AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Precalculus
AP Calculus AB				AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	

*Represents an anticipated sequence for most students on this pathway.

The Pre-AP® course sequence is Pre-AP Algebra 1, Pre-AP Geometry with Statistics, and Pre-AP Algebra 2.



Course Spotlight:

AP Seminar

AP Seminar is an interdisciplinary course that helps students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and academic research skills on topics of the students' choosing. It can be offered as a standalone elective or as a core English course. Schools are now choosing to offer AP Seminar as English 10. The project based learning model makes the course more relevant for more students. A more diverse group of students take and are successful in AP Seminar than any other AP course.

When students take AP Seminar, they'll:

- Get the opportunity to **earn college credit**, stand out to colleges, and boost their high school GPA.
- Build foundational skills for future AP courses.
- Tackle college-level coursework in a familiar setting.
- Get access to **free digital learning and practice resources**, including AP Daily videos—short on-demand videos that support what they're learning in class.

Skills students will learn:

- Reading and analyzing articles, studies, and other texts
- Gathering and combining information from sources
- Viewing an issue from multiple perspectives
- Crafting, communicating, and defending arguments based on evidence

"AP Seminar **meets you where you are** and builds upon what you already know. Because I got experience in research-based writing and the process that informs it, I was able to avoid bumps that my classmates (who didn't take the course) encountered. **I don't think I would've done as well in my junior and senior year classes and my college classes.**"

— **Jayden**, AP alum

About the assessment

AP Seminar is a project based course that takes students beyond the textbook and into a world of learning through hands-on exploration. The assessment has three parts: two performance tasks—which students will complete over the course of the year—and the end-of-course AP Exam:

- Team Project and Presentation (20% of Score)
- Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation (35% of Score)
- End-of-Course Exam (45% of Score)

Beyond the classroom

Get ready for anything! In AP Seminar, students learn essential and transferable skills they can use in high school, college, and career. These skills can be directly applied in the following fields:

- Journalism and communications
- Business administration
- Education
- Political science
- Prelaw studies

To learn more about majors and careers that align best with AP Seminar, students should go to:

collegeboard.org/apseminar



Course Spotlight:

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. Students will learn how to creatively address real-world issues using the same tools and processes that artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life.

When students take AP Computer Science Principles, they'll:

- Develop skills that will help them succeed in their other high school classes, college, and career.
- Get the opportunity to **earn college credit**, stand out to colleges, and boost their high school GPA.
- Build foundational skills for future AP courses.
- Tackle college-level coursework in a familiar setting.
- Get access to **free digital learning and practice resources**, including AP Daily videos—short on-demand videos that support what they're learning in class.

Skills students will learn:

- Making connections between concepts in computing
- Designing a program to solve a problem or complete a task
- Applying abstractions in computation and modeling
- Analyzing computational work
- Communicating ideas about technology and computation.
- Working collaboratively to solve problems

"What I like most about AP CSP is the collaboration. We're very hands-on, and I'm a hands-on type of learner."
— **Brandon**, AP student

About the assessment

The AP Computer Science Principles Exam has two sections:

- End-of-course exam (70%)
- Create performance task (30%)

The Create performance task is completed over the course of the year and submitted online through the AP Digital Portfolio for scoring.

Beyond the classroom

Of the more than nine million STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) jobs available in the next decade, half will require computer science experience. No matter what a student's passion is—whether it's the arts, medicine, education, or something else—computer science can help students on their path to their desired major or career. Explore the wide range of careers and majors connected to this course at apstudents.collegeboard.org/choosing-courses/major-career-results/course/ap-computer-science-principles.



How to Talk to Students and Families About AP

School counselors are essential to student development, social emotional growth, and academic achievement. Assisting students in setting educational goals, choosing appropriate courses, and planning for postsecondary education and career are vital aspects of this work. Students and families rely on the expertise of their school counselor to help navigate their academic journey. The following tips are meant to help prepare counselors for having a conversation with students and families about AP being a part of that journey.



Be confident in your knowledge. Your role gives you a complete view of the academic landscape in your school. Share what you know about your school's AP program and specific courses. If you need to brush up on your knowledge, we've got you covered:

- Visit the College Board for Counselors website at collegeboard.org/counselors. Go to the Professional Learning page to find various professional development opportunities where you can learn about the AP Program. There are webinars, self-paced modules, and professional development events that will help you to expand your knowledge base.
- Check out the AP Toolkit for Counselors page found on the homepage of the College Board for Counselors website at collegeboard.org/counselors. You'll find overviews and help guides, customizable PowerPoints and discussion templates, and video explainers.
- AP Central® collegeboard.org/ap isn't just for teachers and AP coordinators. Here you can find information on everything AP.

- Be sure to check out our podcast, "Coordinated." This popular podcast is hosted by AP coordinators, though there's something for everyone. Some episodes of interest to counselors include the following:

- ♦ What's a Good AP Score
- ♦ Most Popular AP Courses
- ♦ AP Student Recruitment Hub
- ♦ AP Credit Policy
- ♦ The Power of One

"Coordinated" can be found most places you listen to podcasts, the web at coordinated.buzzsprout.com/, or you can scan a QR code to listen on your mobile device.



Apple



Android

Hosting an AP Information Night



Schools do an incredible job of engaging students and their families year-round. Counselors have found open houses and AP informational events to be effective in getting students and parents excited about AP. Consider these strategies in planning a successful event.

It's all in the timing. It's a good idea to plan your AP information events to coincide with key planning dates or other milestones in your school calendar.

- If you conduct an orientation program in the late spring or summer, you'll find it's a perfect time to introduce the AP Program to students so they can begin their coursework for their high school careers. Consider this idea created by Washington High School (Phoenix, Ariz.):

- Many schools plan AP information events following the release of PSAT-related assessment scores so parents and students can use AP Potential™ data as part of their planning.
- It's best to plan your AP events well in advance of any course registration deadlines in your school so students and their families can review the options and make the best choices. Consider this idea created by Morgan Park High School (Chicago, Ill.):

FUTURE FIRST-YEAR STUDENT NIGHT

Provide eighth graders and their families with information they need to know before entering high school and how they can benefit from AP. It's designed to encourage students to keep working hard through the end of middle school, setting their sights on a bright future.

- ◆ Invite the community to gather for a rally to welcome incoming students, get them excited about the next phase of their education, and encourage them to finish middle school strong.
- ◆ Let students and their families walk around the school, meet teachers, and learn about the school's academic and athletic programs, including AP. They learn about which courses the school offers and what grade students typically take them in.

AP EXPO

Merge the concept of "parent-teacher conferences" with an informational night to help families learn about the expectations of AP courses.

- ◆ Give a basic overview of the AP program, the courses that are offered at the school, and the overarching benefits to all students and families attending.
- ◆ Organize breakouts where families and students then meet individually with AP teachers to learn more about specific courses and understand the expectations of students in their AP classes.
- ◆ Allow families and students to make follow-up appointments with individual teachers as needed.

Emphasize inclusivity. College Board encourages the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP courses for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in the AP Program. Schools should make every effort to ensure that their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. Consider these tips created by Boston Public Schools (Boston, Mass.):

ACCESS TO AP IN ANY LANGUAGE

Host bilingual family events: either a series of family information nights or a single conference, all focused on providing college readiness information in the languages most spoken in your community. This will ensure the entire school community is well informed on the benefits of AP and to help families that don't speak English build an appreciation for college and advanced coursework.

- ◆ Host a panel of students and teachers who have taken and teach AP to discuss their course experience and what it takes to be successful in AP.
- ◆ Provide workshops, broken out by spoken language, that cover topics like applying and paying for college and the benefits of taking AP courses.
- ◆ Distribute information about which courses your school offers and how to enroll.

Plan your event. Spread the word. It's important to make sure you spread the news of your event extensively and give families enough time to adjust their schedules to attend. We've developed resources to support you in planning and publicizing your event. At collegeboard.org/counselors, you'll find the **AP Toolkit for Counselors**. The toolkit includes a customizable PowerPoint presentation, as well as links to videos about AP, to make your presentation engaging and informative.

To help you spread the word about your AP informational event, you'll find templates for emails, automated telephone outreach scripts, and other communications. You can quickly customize these templates to invite families and students.

Go the extra mile ... online. Work and other time commitments may prevent some parents from attending an AP information session. Here are some options to consider:

- Offer the event in a fully virtual format. You can also consider a hybrid event by livestreaming to those who are joining remotely.
- Ask students to record your event. You can then post the recording on your school or district website, and the students can take credit for the project.
- Some counselors have recorded webinars about AP for families to access information when it's most convenient.
- Regardless of the format you choose, be sure to give families and students a way to submit questions and continue the conversation following the event.

Have materials on hand. Student and family flyers and brochures are an ideal way to share information about AP. College Board has developed many of these resources for you, which you can find in the AP Toolkit for Counselors at collegeboard.org/counselors. You can distribute these at your AP informational events along with other materials specific to your school's AP program. These can include:

- Presentation slides on course scheduling.
- Your AP course offerings for the upcoming school year.
- Information about support for AP students in your school, such as study groups, mentoring, AP summer camps, and resources in AP Classroom.
- Information about available fee reductions for AP Exams.
- A quick reference card that includes your contact information, and the websites where families can access your school's AP information.
- Conversation starter: a list of questions for students to take with them to a meeting with their school counselor.

Involve students. If your office has student volunteers or your colleagues can recommend students, you may want to involve them in the planning and hosting of your informational events. Student volunteers can serve as event hosts, videographers, presenters and, along the way, they can learn about the benefits of AP.

Have fun! Remember, the purpose of your event is to connect with the school community while sharing information and resources geared to empower students on their journey to college and career. You're all in this together. Let the attendees know you're a valuable resource.



Using AP Potential to Increase Access



What's AP Potential?

AP Potential™ is a research-driven, free online tool designed to help schools expand access to their AP programs based on the likelihood of students to score 3 or higher on a given AP Exam.

Research driven

AP Potential is based on research that focuses on correlations between exam results and on scores from the SAT Suite of Assessments as compared to traditional factors. Here's what research shows:

- **Correlation of exam results.** Moderate to strong correlations exist between SAT Suite scores and AP Exam results.
- **SAT Suite of Assessments.** SAT Suite scores are stronger predictors of students' AP Exam scores than the more traditional factors such as high school grades and grades in same-discipline coursework.

How can AP Potential help schools?

AP Potential helps schools:

- **Find students.** Generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP Exam based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, or SAT.
- **Schedule.** Better plan their master schedules by allowing them to determine which new courses to consider adding, and which existing courses to expand, given their students' potential to succeed.
- **Encourage students.** Easily generate custom letters to students and families to encourage participation in AP courses.

Who can access AP Potential?

AP coordinators, counselors, high school principals, district officials, and state department of education officials. First-time visitors are asked to create an educational professional account and enter their AP Potential access code. Access codes are emailed to schools offering AP courses. Codes can also be accessed through the K-12 Score Reporting Portal.

Spotlight on success: Maximizing AP Potential

Automatic enrollment into AP

Expand and diversify the student population taking AP by opening access to advanced coursework to students who otherwise may not have tried it—reach the students who don't think they're "good enough" or "smart enough" for AP.

- Automatically enroll students in AP classes by utilizing AP Potential suggestions.
- Believe that students will live up to expectations. Make academic acceleration a part of regular conversations at school board meetings, in other administrative gatherings, and at family/community events to help create a culture of high expectations.
- Back up your commitment to academic acceleration by funding AP Exams, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT.
- Ensure parents are consulted if students prefer to opt out of these opportunities.

Created by: Federal Way School District (Federal Way, Wash.)

Guiding Students and Families Through the SSD Process



The AP Program believes that all motivated and academically prepared students should be able to enroll in AP courses. All students should be able to show their best work on any of our assessments. Therefore, we provide accommodations on all College Board assessments, including AP Exams. College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) reviews requests for accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any student with a documented disability can apply for appropriate accommodations to be made to their testing experience so they can do their best.

Here's some tips for how you can help your students and families:

- **Start the conversation early.** Make sure students and their families are aware there's a separate process. If a review of documentation is required, a request for accommodations can take up to 7 weeks.

Pro tip: A good overall strategy is to make a request during the first year of high school—or even get started during the eighth-grade transition meeting/process. Once SSD approves accommodations, the student can then use the same accommodations throughout high school without reapplying.

- **Help families understand the process.** Help families understand that College Board, and not the school, determines which accommodations are appropriate for College Board exams. Requests should be made for what's needed on test day. Students may use accommodations in school that they don't need on College Board exams. Requests shouldn't be made for accommodations that the student doesn't plan to use. Visit collegeboard.org/ssd to learn more about how accommodations work.

- **Follow up with the SSD coordinator.** Encourage students to follow up with the SSD coordinator to ensure that:
 - ♦ All needed accommodations have been requested.
 - ♦ All needed documentation is submitted.
 - ♦ Documentation is up to date.
- **Make sure accommodations are available on test day.** Students should follow up with the AP coordinator to tell them that they plan to test with accommodations so that the coordinator can make arrangements and order appropriate materials.
- **Prepare for exam day.** SSD coordinators, proctors, and students should discuss the administration of the exam in advance so they're familiar with all aspects of the exam and how their accommodations work.

Supplemental Supports for AP Students



Providing additional support to AP students beyond the classroom can be key to helping them build confidence so they can be successful in AP. Consider implementing these best practices or use these ideas to develop a program of your own.

Boot camp for first-time AP students

Develop a short summer program that focuses on developing five skills useful for all advanced coursework instead of focusing on specific AP course content. This will help to develop students' essential skills through experiential learning activities to give them a solid foundation to be successful in AP.

- Hold a short, intensive program when the majority of students can attend. (This school did it the first 4 days of the school year.)
- Have faculty and/or former students act as boot camp instructors to supervise "platoons" of students and guide them through the different hands-on learning activities, which are set up to complete as teams. Each activity is scored so there's an element of healthy competition.
- Focus all activities on developing 5 essential skills: teamwork, communication, organization, reading, and problem-solving.

Created by: San Pasqual High School (Escondido, Calif.)

Summer prep course for first-time AP students

Offer a summer AP prep course in which AP teachers help first-time AP students get ready in advance of the school year. This will help students taking their first AP course start off "on the right foot" so they don't feel like they're trying to catch up at the beginning of the school year.

- Get buy-in from AP teachers and students who are scheduled to take AP for the first time to come to school for a summer prep week or a few summer prep days (depending on the size of your program).

- Have each AP teacher available for at least 1 full day for one-on-one meetings with new AP students throughout the week where they plan and prioritize their work to tackle the increased challenge of an AP course.

Created by: Bergenfield High School (Bergenfield, N.J.)

Advocates for AP excellence

Have students lead the charge to help expand diversity in their AP classrooms. Peer support systems can help build confidence in all students to participate and succeed in AP. This should help ensure the school's AP classes march the representation of the student body.

- Create a student-led group of active AP students.
- Host outreach activities, led by this student group, to inform other students and families about AP. Examples: Host an AP shadowing week for students new to AP. Set up information tables at school events.
- Set up a partner system for students in class and study groups. Have the AP student leaders coordinate with their AP teachers.

Created by: East High School (Denver, Colo.)

"Open access in AP is great as long as there's something in place to make sure the kids are ready, and that their skills are up to speed. You don't want to knock out those kids who are trying for the first time, and then they drop out and tell their friends that AP is too hard."

— **Jacob Clifford**, AP Economics teacher

AP Conversation Starter



This worksheet helps you get ready to talk to your teacher or counselor about taking AP courses. Visit apstudents.org/benefits to learn about the many reasons to take an AP course.

Explore

If you took the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, or PSAT™ 8/9, visit studentscores.collegeboard.org. Click on your score report. Go to the bottom of the report under Next Steps. Click **Get Your Personalized AP Course Recommendations** to see which AP classes may be a good fit for you. List them below:

Answer these questions to get a better sense of which AP course you might be interested in:

- Which courses/subjects do you enjoy most?

- What college majors are you considering?

- Which subjects do you do well in?

- What careers excite you?

Discuss

Schedule a meeting to talk to your counselor or teacher to discuss your answers from the **Explore** section. During the conversation, answer the following questions together:

- What AP courses does our school offer?

- Have students like me taken AP?

- Are there AP courses I'm likely to do well in?

- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or help me prepare for college and career?

- Does our school weight AP grades in our GPAs? How?

- What can I do next to prepare for AP?

- Will the class be too advanced for me?

- Are there study groups or people who can help me if I need it?

- What is the cost of taking the AP Exam? Is there help with the payment?

- What information should I share with my parents/guardians?

Resources

Advanced Placement Program

collegeboard.org/ap

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) gives high school students the opportunity to study and learn at the college level. It offers courses and exams in a wide variety of subjects. Most colleges and universities in the United States—as well as many institutions in more than 60 other countries—grant credit, placement, or both for AP scores or acknowledge AP scores in the admissions process.

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) **schoolcounselor.org**

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career, and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. ASCA provides professional development, publications and other resources, research, and advocacy to school counselors around the globe.

BigFuture **bigfuture.org**

BigFuture® is a free online planning guide that helps students plan their next steps after high school. The free resources and actionable tools simplify a complex process by providing key actions that all students can take to explore careers, plan for college, and pay for college.

BigFuture School Mobile App and Connections **bigfutureschool.org**

BigFuture School gives students control over their planning. The free mobile app is available to PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and SAT School Day test takers 13 and older. Students can hear from nonprofit colleges, scholarship providers, and government agency education programs through Connections™ (when available); access their scores quickly from their mobile phone and explore customized college and career planning guidance.

College Board for Counselors

collegeboard.org/counselors

The College Board for Counselors website provides counselors with the resources and materials you need to help guide your students on their path to college and career. You'll also find professional learning opportunities curated specifically for counselors.

College Board National Recognition Program

bigfuture.org/recognition

The College Board National Recognition Program offers five awards—National African American Recognition Program, National Hispanic Recognition Program, National First-Generation Program, National Indigenous Recognition Program, and National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program—to celebrate top-performing underrepresented students. Students who take eligible administrations of the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams and meet specific academic criteria will be considered for awards.

SAT Suite of Assessments

sat.org

The SAT Suite of Assessments, which includes the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, reflects what students are already learning in class and gives you benchmarks for assessing students' progress as they enter and move through high school. The tests share a common score scale, making it easier to measure growth. Research shows students can get ready for college and career and improve their SAT scores by taking assessments in the SAT Suite throughout their high school journey. All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are now administered digitally. (Paper accommodations are available.)

Services for Students with Disabilities

collegeboard.org/ssd

College Board is committed to providing accommodations—such as extra breaks, screen reader (text-to-speech), or extended time—to students with disabilities. All testing accommodations must be approved by the College Board SSD office prior to the test. Schools can use SSD Online to request, manage, and track accommodation requests.