

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 administered once a year.

There are AP courses in arts, English, history and social science, math and computer science, sciences, and world languages and cultures. 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 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. They're 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.