

Open DOORS

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



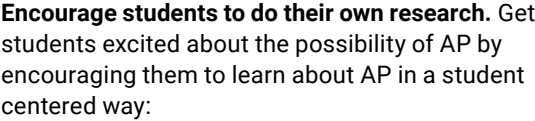
Start the conversation early. Eighth-grade scheduling/transition meetings are a great time to begin educating students and parents about AP. Be sure to cover the basics about AP in your school along with course expectations, prerequisites, and any policies they should be aware of. It's important that students and families are prepared and can plan for their future.



Come prepared to the conversation. Share data about AP at your school. Bring handouts that can be referred to later.



Continue the conversation. Talking to students and their parents about course planning should happen multiple times throughout their high school journey. Any student can take AP if they're ready to put in the effort. Students are ready at different times, and it's never too early or too late. In fact, starting AP in senior year is common. Be sure to check in and give them the most up-to-date information about AP at your school.



- Make sure students and families understand that their AP score could earn them college credit, advanced placement, or both (meaning they could skip certain courses in college). Have them use the AP Credit Policy Search tool at apstudents.collegeboard.org/gettingcredit-placement/search-policies to find colleges that offer credit or placement for AP scores.
- Have students check out the College Board Blog at collegeboard.org/blog. Students will get tips and helpful information in a student-friendly way to help them navigate through AP, SAT, and career planning.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of notebook paper. The lines are thin and light blue, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.