

# What Is AP?

The College Board Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to take university-level courses and exams while they're still in secondary school. Universities worldwide recognize AP in admissions, and some grant credit for advanced coursework taken in high school, allowing students to skip introductory courses in a given subject and thereby save time and money. Through AP courses, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admissions officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students.

## QUICK FACTS

- **38 different AP courses in seven subject areas** are available.
- Each course culminates in a **standardized university-level exam**, which is administered once a year in May.
- AP Exams are scored by the AP Program.

AP courses and exams are designed by secondary teachers and university professors to match the rigor of university courses and exams. Because of this, a student's score on an AP Exam gives universities a globally recognized validation of the student's mastery of university-level content.

In 2018, more than 2.8 million students at over 22,600 schools in 131 countries and territories took nearly 5.1 million AP Exams, and their scores were sent to 3,800 universities.

## INSTITUTIONS THAT RECOGNIZE AP

- In the U.S.: [apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement)
- Outside the U.S.: [cb.org/intlrecognition](https://cb.org/intlrecognition)

## Why Do International Schools Embrace AP?



### IT'S RECOGNIZED GLOBALLY.

In addition to almost all universities in the U.S. and Canada, over 4,000 universities in more than 60 countries use AP Exam scores for admissions, course credits, and/or advanced placement.



### IT'S RIGOROUS.

AP courses are designed as introductory-level university experiences, based on a learner-centric, rigorous methodology.



### IT'S EFFECTIVE.

Research shows that AP students are more likely to succeed in college: Students who earned a 3 or higher on an AP Exam earned higher first-year and fourth-year GPAs in college than non-AP students of similar abilities and backgrounds.



### IT'S ADAPTABLE.

AP courses allow the flexibility to integrate with existing curricula and standards.



### IT'S EMPOWERING.

AP allows students to choose their path. AP is a significant indicator of subject interest: 20.3% of students who took an AP Exam in biology or environmental sciences majored in biological and biomedical sciences, while only 8.4% of the total group of students did so.



### IT'S ACCESSIBLE.

AP is cost-effective for students and schools.



### IT'S INNOVATIVE.

AP continues to be at the forefront of educational innovation.

# AP Courses and Exams

Advanced Placement is an internationally recognized curricular program with 38 university-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous, standardized exam\* across seven disciplines.

Arts	English
AP Art History	AP English Language and Composition
AP Music Theory	AP English Literature and Composition
AP 2-D Art and Design	
AP 3-D Art and Design	
AP Drawing	
	Interdisciplinary
	AP Capstone™ Seminar
	AP Capstone Research
History and Social Sciences	Sciences
AP Comparative Government and Politics	AP Biology
AP European History	AP Chemistry
AP Human Geography	AP Environmental Science
AP Macroeconomics	AP Physics 1
AP Microeconomics	AP Physics 2
AP Psychology	AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
AP United States Government and Politics	AP Physics C: Mechanics
AP United States History	
AP World History	
Mathematics and Computer Science	World Languages
AP Calculus AB	AP Chinese Language and Culture
AP Calculus BC	AP French Language and Culture
AP Computer Science A	AP German Language and Culture
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Italian Language and Culture
AP Statistics	AP Japanese Language and Culture
	AP Latin
	AP Spanish Language and Culture
	AP Spanish Literature and Culture

\* Not all exams are offered at schools in China. For details, visit [www.apchina.net.cn](http://www.apchina.net.cn).

- AP Exams are registered in the Fall every year and administered over **two weeks in May of the following year**.
- An **AP score** is a weighted combination of a student's scores on the free-response and multiple-choice sections of the exam.
- Most colleges and universities in the U.S. and many in Canada grant credit and/or placement for scores of 3, 4, or 5, allowing students to skip the equivalent course once they get to college.

## AP EXAM STRUCTURE

<b>Multiple Choice</b>	Wide coverage of content RELIABLE EFFICIENT
<b>Constructed + Response</b>	Measures skills not captured in Multiple Choice, Reasoning, Organization, Communication, and Synthesis
<b>Result</b>	Reliable Valid Practical

## AP ADMINISTRATION AND SCORES

AP scores are standardized measures of mastery.

Final Score	Description
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation