

DHS Advanced Placement Overview



Advanced Placement Program (AP) The Advanced Placement Program represents a cooperative effort between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It is a program of introductory college-level courses for students who are willing and able to apply themselves to college level studies during their high school years. The Advanced Placement Program offers the opportunity to sharpen academic skills in preparation for college and to demonstrate accomplishment through successful completion of AP exams. Participation in AP courses demonstrates to colleges and universities students' willingness to complete more difficult courses and can be advantageous in the admissions process. Students who successfully complete AP courses and exams are exempted from introductory courses by many colleges and universities.

Please review the suggested course offerings for each grade level in addition to the following course descriptions. On registration to each AP course students must sign the AP contract and review expectations with school counseling and recommending teacher. ***Not all AP courses will be offered each year. Please check with your counselor for more information.***

Course Descriptions

English

AP English Language and Composition

English Language and Composition is designed to help you become a skilled reader of a variety of texts as well as becoming a skilled writer. You'll achieve this through awareness of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the ways that writing rules and language use contribute to effective writing.

AP English Literature and Composition

English Literature and Composition will engage you in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, you can deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to create meaning. You'll learn to consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Math

Calculus AB

Calculus AB will build enduring mathematical understanding and requires understanding the why and how of mathematics. Along the way students will master the necessary procedures and skills. To foster this deeper level of learning, AP Calculus AB is designed to develop mathematical knowledge conceptually, guiding you to connect topics and representations throughout the course and to apply strategies and techniques to accurately solve diverse types of problems.

AP Calculus BC

Calculus BC is designed to develop mathematical knowledge conceptually, guiding you to connect topics and representations throughout the course and to apply strategies and techniques to accurately solve diverse types of problems. Calculus BC includes all topics covered in Calculus AB plus additional topics, and is designed to qualify you for placement and credit in a course that is one course beyond what's granted for Calculus AB.

Statistics

Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exploring data by:

- Describing patterns and departures from patterns
- Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
- Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
- Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses•

Science

AP Environmental Science

Explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made. You'll take part in laboratory investigations and field work. Topics in the course include Earth systems and resources, the living world, population, land and water use, energy resources and consumption, pollution, and global change. It is a rigorous science course that stresses scientific principles and analysis and that often include a laboratory component.

Social Studies

United States Government and Politics

Study the key concepts and institutions of the political system and culture of the United States. You'll read, analyze, and discuss the U.S. Constitution and other documents as well as complete a research or applied civics project. Students will conduct in-depth analysis of our governmental structures and processes and political behaviors of individuals, groups, and institutions. Course content will be based on demands of the examination and processes required for success on the examination.

World History: Modern

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the world from c. 1200 CE to the present. You'll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This course requires students to analyze and interpret global history through periodization and themes such as interaction, continuity and change, impacts of technology and demography, social and gender structures, cultural and intellectual developments, and functions and structures of states. This course will be directed toward assisting students to pass the AP exam in World History.

US History

This is a chronologically organized course addressing political, economic, diplomatic, social, intellectual, and cultural history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the United States from c. 1491 to the present. You'll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This course will be directed toward assisting students to pass the AP exam in US History.

Human Geography

Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use. Students will conduct in-depth analysis of the causes and consequences of human interactions with their physical surroundings. Course content will be based on demands of the examination and processes required for success on the examination.

Psychology

Explore the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. You'll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion, and you'll analyze data from psychological research studies. Students will conduct in-depth analysis of the causes and consequences of human interactions with their physical surroundings. Course content will be based on demands of the examination and processes required for success on the examination.

Art

AP Studio Art: 2D Design, AP Studio Art: 3D Design, AP Studio Art: Drawing

This course provides flexibility in planning an independent program for the highly motivated, honors, or GT art student. Emphasis is on preparing a portfolio that reflects the development of a personal style and/or artistic focus. Opportunities to help students develop depth, breadth, and quality in creating artworks will be provided through the investigations of ideas and art problems, and the exploration and experiences in a variety of media. Students have the option of submitting their portfolio for review by the AP College Board. Career guidance and scholarship opportunities in the visual arts are provided.

AP Art History

AP Art History is an introductory college-level art history course. Students cultivate their understanding of art history through analyzing works of art and placing them in historical context as they explore concepts like culture and cultural interactions, theories and interpretations of art, the impact of materials, processes, and techniques on art and art making, and understanding purpose and audience in art historical analysis.

World Language

Spanish Language and Culture

This course is designed to Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books. Skills learned will include: Understanding Spanish when you hear it and read it, holding conversations in real-life situations and writing stories, letters, emails, essays, and other texts.

Spanish Literature

AP Spanish Literature is equivalent to a college level introductory survey course of literature written in Spanish. Students continue to develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in Spanish language as well as critical reading and analytical writing as they explore short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Hispanic authors along with other non-required texts.

Computer Science

Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.