



Advanced Placement

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AP Course Offerings

AP BIOLOGY

AP Biology is equivalent to a college class usually taken by students in their first year of college. It prepares students to take the Biology Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. This is an extremely rigorous course for the highly motivated student. The curriculum includes the chemistry of life, cells and cellular energetics, genetics and heredity, evolution, diversity of organisms, structure and function of both plants and animals and ecology. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for AP Chemistry, AP Physics B, or AP Environmental Science.

AP CHEMISTRY

This course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college and follows the College Board's AP Chemistry syllabus. This course presents a rigorous treatment of the following concepts: the nature of matter, gas laws, thermodynamics, stoichiometry, bonding, chemical kinetics, chemical equilibria, and more. Students are expected to be motivated and spend extra time outside of class. The problem-solving strategies obtained during this course will prepare college-bound students for careers in the sciences, medicine, engineering, and other technical areas. This course meets the requirements of an algebra-based science required for entry to most four-year colleges and universities. AP Chemistry is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors only. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for AP Biology, AP Physics B, or AP Environmental Science. Satisfies quantitative course requirement many colleges have for senior year.

AP PHYSICS: ALGEBRA BASED

This course is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum): work, energy and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. Knowledge of algebra and basic trigonometry is required for the course. This course meets the requirements of an algebra-based science required for entry to most four-year colleges and universities. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental Science. Satisfies quantitative course requirement many colleges have for senior year.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Students will explore the 7 "Big Ideas" in computer science using project-based approaches. The course introduces students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity, and how computing impacts our world. Students will develop the computational thinking skills needed to fully exploit the power of digital technology and help build a strong foundation in core programming and problem solving. This course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory, college level computing course.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Students will explore fundamental computer science topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structure), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college level course in computer science.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science covering the following topics: energy conversions underlie all ecological processes, the Earth itself is one interconnected system, humans alter natural systems, environmental problems have a cultural and social context, human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for AP Biology, AP Chemistry, or AP Physics.

AP CALCULUS AB

This course is designed to provide students with a background in mathematics, which will prepare him/her for mathematics and science courses at the college level. Students who complete this course may receive college credit for the course if they score a passing mark (3, 4, or 5) on the AB Advanced Placement Test. The course includes an intensive review of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. The course focuses on a study of limits, differentiation, and integration.

AP CALCULUS BC

This course is designed to provide students with a background in mathematics, which will prepare him/her for mathematics and science courses at the college level. Students who complete this course may receive college credit for the course if they score a passing mark (3, 4, or 5) on the BC Advanced Placement Test. The course includes an intensive review of limits, differentiation, and integration. The course focuses on the study of series of constants, polynomial series, and further techniques of differentiation and integration studied in AP Calculus AB.

STUDIO ART/2-D DESIGN

This course is for students who are ready for a college-level art experience. Students will create 12 works that focus on a particular visual interest or problem, 12 works that demonstrate a variety of Design concepts, media, and approaches, and 5 works demonstrating quality. Students who enroll in AP Studio Art are expected to submit 3 portfolios (Concentration, Breadth, and Quality) in May for college credit.

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

This college-level course focuses on rhetorical analysis, composition with an emphasis on argument, and an in-depth examination of several important works of American literature. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam with the possibility of earning college credit. A summer reading assignment and personal reading are required of students enrolled in this course. This course has met the College Board criteria, and the studies will include college level contents. Any student wishing to enroll in this course at semester must have the permission of the instructor and complete the summer assignment.

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This college-level course is a survey of important works of world literature; however, particular emphasis is placed on British literature. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam with the possibility of earning college credit. A summer reading assignment and personal reading are required of students enrolled in this course. This course has been reviewed by the College Board and has met College Board criteria. Students will read texts appropriate to first-year college students. Any student wishing to enroll in this course at semester must have the permission of the instructor and complete the summer assignment.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND CIVICS

This AP Course will give students the opportunity to understand their government, political parties, civil rights, components of the United States Constitution, and the influences that create public policy. The textbook, current events and class lecture are the primary resource of information. Students will be required to read on average four pages in the text nightly, including course and unit specific vocabulary. Students will be expected to take Cornell style notes on their reading, as well as participate in daily lectures and class discussion. Students will be assessed by daily reading quizzes, unit tests, and vocabulary quizzes. The objective of this class is to prepare students for the AP College Board exam. This Course satisfies the Civics and Current World Problems/.5 Social Studies graduation requirements if taken both semesters. Will satisfy Civics requirement only if taken one semester. Opportunity to earn College Credits.

AP US HISTORY

This course is designed to prepare students to pass the Advanced Placement United States History exam. It is an entry-level college course that requires homework five days per week. The college level text will be read from cover to cover, and students will be asked to take Cornell Notes from all their reading. Quizzes are given daily with tests consisting of fifty multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, long essays, and primary document based questions. Students will write a minimum of 8 essays with a culminating research paper at the end of the year.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

AP Human Geography focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. This course is equivalent to an entry-level college course and requires nightly reading and note-taking, weekly quizzes, and chapter tests consisting of multiple choice and extended response, all which prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

This course is equivalent to an entry-level college course. It will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Some major units of study include the history and approaches of psychology, sensation and perception, developmental psychology, and cognition and memory. This course requires daily reading and note-taking, weekly vocabulary quizzes, and unit exams with multiple-choice and extended response questions, all which will prepare the student to pass the Advanced Placement Psychology exam. This course includes units, which may be classified as controversial.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

This course focuses on preparation for the Spanish Advanced Placement Exam. The course will be taught almost exclusively in Spanish and it is expected that students will speak Spanish during the class. This course encompasses aural/oral skills, reading, grammar, composition and culture components of the language. A strong work ethic is required, as much homework and study will be expected. Students can achieve a level of Advance-mid to Advance-High during this course.

AP SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course uses a thematic approach to introduce students to representative texts (short stories, novels, poetry, and essays) from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and United States Hispanic literature. Students continue to develop proficiencies across the full range of the modes of communication (interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive), honing their critical reading and analytical writing skills. Literature is examined within the context of its time and place, as students reflect on the many voices and cultures present in the required readings. The course also includes a strong focus on cultural connections and comparisons, including exploration of various media (e.g., art, film, articles, and literary criticism).

Advanced Placement classes provide students with an exciting academic challenge in addition to possible savings on college tuition costs. These classes are rigorous and require a high degree of dedication from students. By taking AP classes, students indicate that they are willing to take high-level, challenging courses and are capable of functioning successfully with college level material and expectations. If a student enrolls in an AP course, the expectation is that the student will take the AP examination.

- Stand Out in College Admissions
- Earn College Credits
- Skip Introductory Classes
- Build College Skills

AP examinations are administered through Wa-Hi during May.

The student pays for the cost of each examination.

There is a partial fee waiver available for students in need.