



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Plymouth North High School
Plymouth South High School

Welcome to AP Orientation Night

Plymouth High Schools are committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



Agenda

- Plymouth Guidance
 - Jennifer Forand, Plymouth North High School
 - Jason Hall, Plymouth South High School
- Plymouth AP Teachers
- Plymouth AP Students

What We'll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement® Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP® Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Student Make the Best Choices



What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Summer work given previous to the start of the course to prepare the student
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work (**AP Exams are mandatory at Plymouth**)
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

UMASS Amherst

Exam Title	Min. Score Required	Number of Credits	Equivalent Course
Art History	4	4	-
Biology	4	4	Biology 110
Calculus AB	4	4	Math 131
Calculus BC	4	8	Math 131 & 132
Calculus BC: AB Subscore	4	4	Math 131
Chemistry	4	4	Chem 111
Comparative Government and Politics	4	4	PolSci 111
Computer Science A	4	4	CMPSCI 121
Computer Science Principles	4	3	INFO 101
English Language and Composition	4	3	ENGLWRIT 112
English Literature and Composition	4	4	-
Environmental Science	4	4	Envsci 101
European History	4	8	History 140 & 141
French Language and Culture	3	3	French 230
	4	6	French 230 & 240
German Language and Culture	4	6	German 230 & 240
Human Geography	3	4	Geograph 102
	4	8	Geograph 100 & 102
Italian Language and Culture	3	3	Italian 230
	4	6	Italian 230 & 240
Latin	4	3	Latin 425
Macroeconomics	4	4	Econ 104

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Exam Title	Min. Score Required	Number of Credits	Equivalent Course
Art History	3	3	ART101
Biology	4	4	BIO 102/102L
Calculus AB	4	3	MTH135
Calculus BC	4	6	MTH135 & MTH136
Chemistry	4	4	CHE105/105L
Chinese Language and Culture	3	3	-
Comparative Government and Politics	3	3	POL110
Computer Science A	4	3	CSC101
Computer Science Principles	4	3	CSC101
English Language and Composition	3	3	ENG111
English Literature and Composition	3	3	ENG102
Environmental Science	4	4	ENV 220
European History	3	3	HIS101
French Language and Culture	3	3	FR 201
German Language and Culture	3	3	LST108
Human Geography	3	3	IST325
Italian Language and Culture	3	3	ITL201
Japanese Language and Culture	3	3	LST108
Latin	3	3	LST108
Macroeconomics	3	3	ECN201
Microeconomics	3	3	ECN202
Music Theory	3	3	MUS201

Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP[®] credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy.



- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school's Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy

Our AP[®] Courses

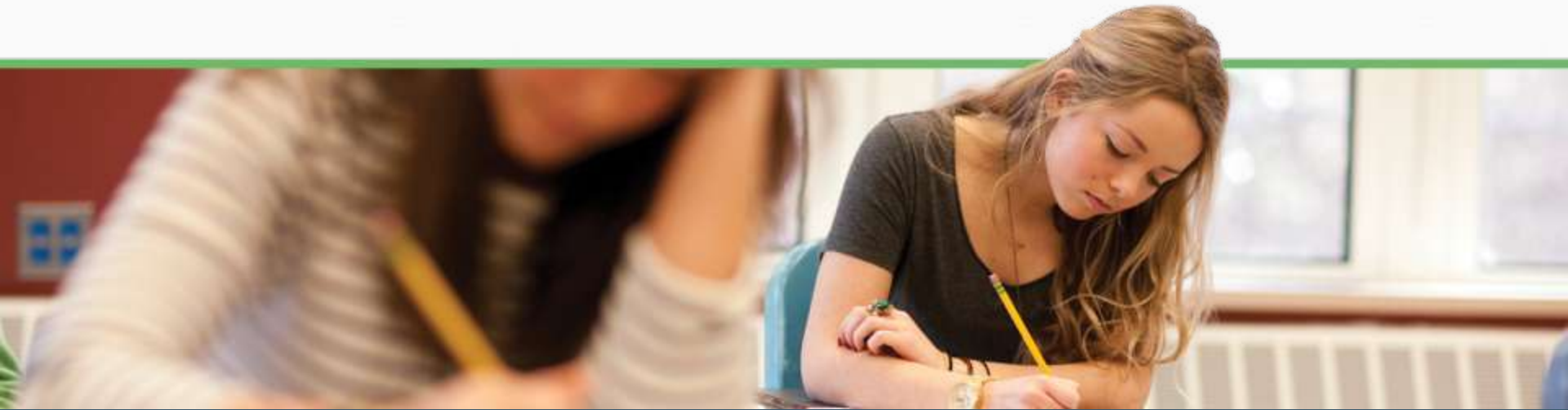
- **Arts:** Music Theory, Studio Art (2D and 3D)
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Psychology, United States History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Computer Science Principles
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics 2
- **World languages:** French Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, Latin
- **Plus numerous online options** (See Nancy Dawson)

AP[®]

AP[®]: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®]: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response
 - **AP Exam Mandatory at PNHS and PSHS**



AP[®] Exam Fees

- The exam fee for 2018 is \$94 per exam.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
 - Free/Reduced lunch please see your counselor
 - Fee can vary year-to-year

AP[®]

What is it like to take AP[®]?

AP[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	AP courses are weighted the highest when factoring in for GPA and rank. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.



Next Steps: Help Your Student Make the Best Choices

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

Here are some questions to encourage your student to think about:

What AP course is right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

AP[®]: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- Naviance: PNHS - <http://connection.naviance.com/plynh>
- Naviance: PSHS - <http://connection.naviance.com/plysh>
- AP information: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT[®] results: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities: www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy