



Advanced Placement (AP)

Frequently Asked Questions about AP

What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

- focus on a broad, in-depth study of one or more subjects (English, math, sciences, social studies, fine and performing arts, languages, and/or computer science)
- enables you to pursue college level studies while in a supportive high school environment
 - through Grades 10 -12, you will study the Alberta curriculum and the AP curriculum
 - there is flexibility to enter AP at any level, depending on your previous learning because AP recognition occurs when you successfully complete a College Board AP Examination in a subject
- develop the knowledge, skills, and strategies to successfully write the Advanced Placement Examination(s) in early May of your Grade 11 and/or 12 year

Why take an AP class?

- **Note** | AP refers to the first year college level curriculum at the 30-level; classes at the 10 and 20 levels provide preparation
- earn advanced credit and/or advanced placement (skip introductory courses) at colleges and universities if you do well on the AP Exam for a subject
 - **Learn more** | check university websites and the AP website for details about AP acceptance policies and course equivalents
- develop skills while in high school to get the most out of university or college even if you do not wish to skip an introductory class in university
- choose AP classes based on your interests and strengths— there is flexibility to take AP in one or more subject areas
- study subjects you are passionate about with more depth and breadth

How do I know if I should take AP in one or more subjects?

The Advanced Placement College Board suggests that you:

- “start with your interests – what do you enjoy? What do you want to learn more about?”
- want a challenge and are willing to do your best work
 - “... don't need to be top of your class to be an AP student, but you'll want to be prepared for the AP course you choose” – From:
<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/what-it-takes>
- have “curiosity, creativity and commitment”
- talk to a counselor, AP coordinator, or a teacher at your AP school about your interests and future plans and ask about your options for learning the skills to help you succeed

How will I be evaluated if I am in courses that prepare me to write the AP exam?

- Marks for courses that appear on Alberta Education transcripts are based on standards for the Alberta Education Programs of Studies: your work is evaluated the same way as it is for students in regular classes

Do I still have to write Diploma Exams and how are AP courses recognized?

- **AP exams do NOT replace diploma exams.** If the AP course is attached to a diploma course, then writing the diploma exam is required
- Alberta Education uses official Alberta course names on official transcripts
 - For example, English 30-1 is the official course name that will appear on your Alberta Education transcript even if all students in your English 30-1 class will write an AP exam from The College Board
 - If you take a locally developed and approved course, such as English 35 (AP), since AP is part of the official course name, it will appear on your transcript
- AP Exams are administered by the AP College Board in early May, and this is the organization that will provide you with official documentation to use with post-secondary institutions regarding credit for first year courses. You have the choice whether to use the College Board transcripts in addition to your Alberta Education transcripts
- If you are taking several AP courses, your AP coordinator will assist you with scheduling, and you may write some exams in your Grade 11 year so that you are not overloaded with exams in Grade 12

Is there a cost for Advanced Placement courses?

- The Advanced Placement College Board sets examination fees - see [The College Board AP Central Exam Calendar and Fees](#)
- Fees include:
 - AP exam fees, exchange rate, and administrative fees
 - possibly, the purchase of additional texts—talk to the AP Coordinator at your high school for more information