



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Bastrop High School

Welcome and Talking Points

BHS is committed to every student's success. We believe access to rigorous coursework such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.

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





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
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

Our AP[®] Courses

The following are courses offered at Bastrop High School specifically:

- **Arts:** Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra-based
- **World languages:** Spanish Language and Culture

AP[®] at BHS

- 340 is the number of exams taken last year. Following is a breakdown of students participating at each grade level:
 - 12th - 36
 - 11th - 82
 - 10th - 20
 - 9th - 24
- *Tutorials before and after school are offered.* Individual teachers will have their own tutoring schedules, which will be posted on the BHS Master calendar. Most tutoring session will occur in late spring 2019 starting in April.

AP[®] at BHS Continued...

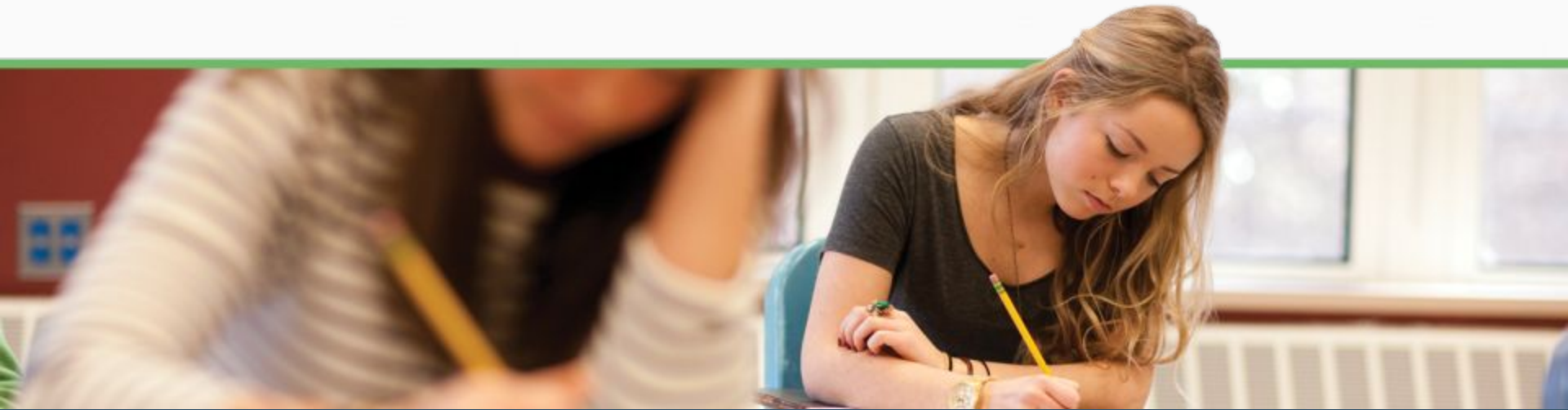
- AP Scholars demonstrate superior college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and this achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to colleges the following fall.
 - AP Scholars = 17 (3 or higher on 3 exams)
 - AP Scholars with Honor = 8 (3 or higher on 4 or more exams)
 - AP Scholars with Distinction = 9 (3 or higher on 5 or more exams)
 - National AP Scholars = 1 (4 or higher on 8 or more exams)
- Prep sessions with the teacher on Saturdays or outside of the school day will be at the teachers' discretion.

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[®] from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers
 - **Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

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[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$23,410** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

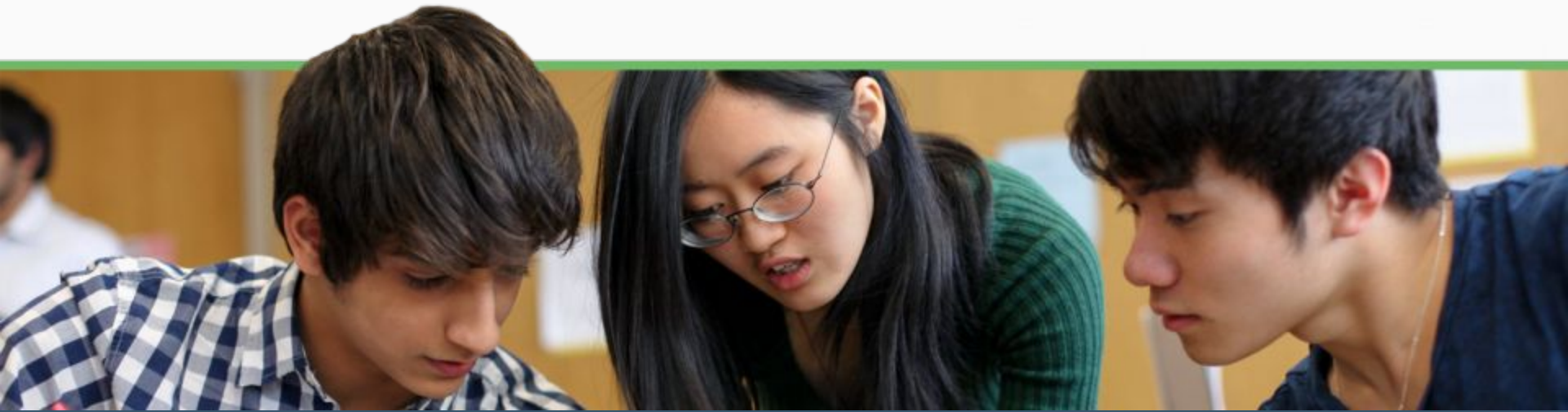
*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1*

AP[®] Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



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 Fees

- The exam fee for 2019 is \$94 per test.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
 - The College Board offers a \$29 fee reduction per exam for eligible students with financial need.
 - We get other reductions via the state as well. It ends up costing students who are on free/reduced lunch approximately \$23 per test.
- *Legally, ALL Colleges must accept a score of a 3 or higher... For college credit. How they count the course is up to them.*

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.



The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard AP Credit Policy Info page. The page has a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are navigation tabs: "Transfer Board Tests", "Wait for College", "Find a College", "Apply to College", and "Pay for College". The main content area is titled "AP[®] AP Credit Policy Info" and "Advanced Placement Program". It includes a search bar labeled "School Name:" and a list of subjects: "A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - J - K - L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - S - T - U - V - W - X - Y - Z". Below the search bar, there is a text box with the instruction: "To begin your search, enter the name of the college or university or select a letter of the alphabet to find institutions that begin with that letter." The page also has a footer with links for "AP[®] Credit Policy Info", "AP International Recognition", "SAT Subject Tests", and "AP[®] Courses for Students with Disabilities".

- 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

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 workload.
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.	<Describe any extra weighting for AP course grades that your school may offer.> 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.

PAP/AP Weights for GPA and Rank

Classes of 2019 and 2020

PAP: 1.12 multiplier

AP: 1.17 multiplier

Dual Credit: 1.15 multiplier

Classes of 2021 and 2022

PAP: 1.15 multiplier

AP: 1.17 multiplier

Dual Credit: 1.17 multiplier



Students & Parents ... In Their Own Words

Videos to watch to hear from teachers and students who have had AP experiences...

[An AP teacher talks about her high expectations for her students](#)

[AP Program: Turning Curiosity into a Science](#)

[Karl describes AP classes as a glimpse into what college is like](#)

[The Value of AP for Latino Students \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Teachers recognize AP student achievements](#)

[AP Program: Creativity Makes A Mark](#)

A horizontal green banner with a white border, containing a faded image of a diverse group of students looking at a document together.

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

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?

What steps do I need to take?

- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?

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

- AP information for students: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- AP information for parents: parents.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT[®] results: My College QuickStart[™]
www.collegeboard.org/quickstart
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:
www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy

AP[®]

Questions and Answers