

# Learn About the AP Program

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## Taking the College Challenge

The College Board's AP courses are college-level classes in a wide variety of subjects that you can take while still in high school. They offer you challenging course work and a taste of what college classes are like.

### AP Exams

When you take an AP course, you have the opportunity to take the AP Exam in that subject. AP Exams are given in May. They're two- to three-hour tests made up of multiple-choice and free-response questions. The exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5.

You must pay a fee to take an AP Exam. If you can't pay the fee, you can ask your school counselor or school AP Coordinator (if your school has one) about a fee reduction. Learn more about [AP Exam fee](#).

### What matters most to colleges?

Paul Weaver, Dist. Director of Counseling and Guidance, Plano Independent School District

### AP Course Difficulty

AP courses are usually more demanding than regular high school classes. Most AP courses are similar to first-year college courses. They aren't easy, but you can succeed in them if you put in time and effort.

### Benefits of Taking an AP Course

The extra effort you put into an AP course is definitely worth it. Consider these benefits:

- AP courses offer the opportunity to study a subject in-depth at the college level. This better prepares you for college work.
- If you receive a high enough score on an AP Exam, you may be eligible for credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges in the United States.
- The AP Program offers a number of AP Scholar Awards to students for outstanding performance on AP Exams. If you qualify, colleges will recognize this achievement.

# Study a subject in-depth at the college level.

## **Enrolling in an AP Course**

Begin by talking with a school counselor, an AP teacher or the school AP Coordinator. Find out if taking an AP course would be a positive experience for you. It's important to make sure you understand and can handle the workload.

## **Signing Up for an AP Exam**

Ask your AP teacher or school AP Coordinator when your school will offer the AP Exam and how to register for it.

For more information, go to [AP Courses & Exams](#) to get a complete list of AP subjects and check out AP course descriptions.