

COLLEGE CREDIT RELATED TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

AP COURSES and TESTING

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is offered by The College Board and provides high school students the opportunity to take a three-hour exam in May to potentially qualify for college course credit. All students throughout the world take a given exam on the same day. There are a total of 31 AP exams offered. Although The College Board does not mandate taking an AP course before completing the exam, it is much more likely a student completing an AP course will be able to attain a qualifying score. Each exam is graded on a point basis with a range from one to five. **A score of five, four, or three is considered to be a qualifying score.** However, there is no guarantee that a college will accept AP credit. At the same time, The College Board indicates that over 90% of United States colleges accept AP credit and/or offer advanced placement. **A student should determine potential credit or placement with the college he/she plans to attend.** Course catalogs from colleges often address AP credit and other opportunities to get advanced standing.

For 2003, the cost of each exam will be \$80.00. Students with financial need may qualify for a reduced fee of \$50.00. Students should check with the AP Coordinator to determine eligibility for the fee reduction. Registration for the exam will likely be necessary prior to spring break in order to meet College Board deadlines.

Unit Five is pleased to offer AP courses in several disciplines (English, mathematics, music, science, and social studies). Each AP class is expected to have the rigor of a comparable college level course. There are several AP options for junior and senior students. The Associate Principal and Department Building Chair must approve requests for exceptions to the AP course prerequisites. AP testing for 2003 will tentatively be offered as follows below. **Bold** indicates a test directly tied to a Unit Five AP course. In addition, there are other courses that provide instruction similar to AP programs.

<u>WEEK 1</u>	<u>MORNING</u>	<u>AFTERNOON</u>
Monday, May 5	<u>English Literature</u>	French Literature German Language
Tuesday, May 6	<u>English Language</u>	French Language Spanish Literature
Wednesday, May 7	<u>Computer Science A</u> Computer Science AB Spanish Language	<u>Music Theory</u> Statistics
Thursday, May 8	<u>Calculus AB</u> Calculus BC	Art History
Friday, May 9	<u>U.S. History</u>	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)

<u>WEEK 2</u>	<u>MORNING</u>	<u>AFTERNOON</u>
Monday, May 12	<u>Biology</u>	Physics B Physics C World History
Tuesday, May 13	<u>Chemistry</u>	<u>Psychology</u>
Wednesday, May 14	<u>Government & Politics (U.S.)</u>	Comparative Government & Politics Environmental Science Microeconomics
Thursday, May 15	<u>Macroeconomics</u>	<u>Human Geography</u>
Friday, May 16	Latin Literature Latin: Vergil	

The exam schedule in 2004 will likely follow a similar schedule.

Although it is not mandatory that completion of a specific AP course occur prior to testing, it is highly encouraged for a student to focus on testing related to courses studied.

For additional information, contact your counselor, AP Coordinator, or The College Board AP Central at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>. That site will lead you to specific AP information.

CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) TESTING

CLEP testing involves examinations given at an approved test site that provide the potential for a student to receive college credit. There are several differences from the AP program though The College Board operates each. CLEP tests are given monthly and include specific exams in five broad areas with the number of area specific exams in parentheses: Composition & Literature (6), Foreign Languages (3), History & Social Sciences (13), Science & Mathematics (8), and Business (5). The current cost for each CLEP test is \$50.00. Arrangements to take CLEP tests are made by the individual student through a test site. Locally, the Illinois State University Testing Office (309) 438-2100 serves as a CLEP test site. **CLEP tests are not as universally accepted as AP exams and accordingly any student considering CLEP testing must determine acceptance of the score by the college he/she desires to attend.** Additional information can be viewed at <http://collegeboard.com/clep>.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

Articulation Agreements enable students to advance to a higher level college class based upon adequate completion of a specific high school course sequence.

Unit Five through several departments has formal Articulation Agreements with colleges that permit a student to apply specific high school courses toward a college degree program. Often the articulation requires a student to successfully complete two or more high school courses and continue with advanced level course(s) at the college. Agriculture, Business, Family & Consumer Science, and Technology each have articulation agreements. The colleges involved include Heartland Community College, Illinois Central College, Illinois State University, and Lincoln Land Community College. Look at specific department descriptions in this booklet and talk to your guidance counselor for more information. Also, some Area Vocational Center (AVC) courses have articulation agreements.

DUAL ENROLLMENT / DUAL CREDIT

Current Board Policy permits a senior who meets specific requirements to take up to two college courses per semester. Successful completion of the approved college course will result in Unit Five standard level credit of 0.5 for each 3 or 4 hour college level class.

Those requirements include:

- 1) The student is a senior in good academic standing.
- 2) The course or equivalent course is not available in the high school curriculum or is not available due to scheduling conflicts.
- 3) The course is approved by the guidance counselor **and** building principal.
- 4) The student assumes responsibility for all fees.
- 5) Transportation is provided by the student.

In addition, the student must meet any prerequisites and pay appropriate fees of the college involved. Both Heartland Community College and Illinois State University officials have each expressed an interest in promoting this opportunity. Information regarding Heartland Admission can be obtained by calling (309) 268-8010. The Illinois State University Early Admission for high school students program information is available by calling the ISU Honors Program (309) 438-2559. **The key for any student wishing to exercise either option will be to plan ahead and carefully determine the possible classes, admission requirements and deadlines, and how the courses would work with the remaining high school course schedule the student would be taking.**