

# AP Courses - What are they?

Since 1955, the AP Program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both while still in high school.

## Fast Facts:

- ~ Each AP course is modeled on a comparable introductory college course in that subject.
- ~ Each course culminates in a standardized college-level assessment, or AP Exam, in May (taking exam is optional)

## Taking AP courses and exams can help students:

### ~ **Stand out on college applications**

AP courses on a student's transcript shows that they've challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available to them.

### ~ **Earn college credit and/or skip introductory courses in college**

Most 4 year colleges and universities in the US grant students credit, advanced placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores

## Who Should Take AP?

**ALL** students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should consider taking an AP course.

It is not just for honors level students

A variety of AP courses are taught across multiple departments

# AP Courses at NCHS - Something for EVERYbody

## English - Juniors & Seniors

English Language - Juniors  
English Literature - Seniors

## Math -

Calculus AB - (After Pre-Calc)  
Calculus BC - (After Pre-Calc)  
Statistics - (After Algebra 2 or College Algebra)

## Science - Must take standard level Physics first

Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics C

## Social Studies - Juniors & Seniors

Psychology - (pre-req of standard Psychology first)  
Human Geography - (pre-req of standard Human Geo first)  
Government & Politics, U.S. - (meets Civics requirement)  
Comparative Government & Politics

## Art - Juniors & Seniors

Art 2-D Design - (take Adv. Art Studio 1 & 2 first)  
Art History

## Music - Juniors & Seniors

Music Theory

## Foreign Language -

French  
German  
Spanish

## Computer Science -

Computer Science A (JAVA) - (After Algebra 2)  
Computer Science Principles - (After Algebra 2)

**\*\*Must have enough students request the courses for them to be offered\*\***

# AP Exams - Getting the College Credit

*To have a chance at earning college credit, students must take the optional AP exam for their AP course(s) in May. AP Exams assess knowledge and skills learned in the course.*

## **Exam Scores:**

- ~ Scored on a scale of 1 to 5
- ~ Many U.S. colleges offer credit for AP Exam scores of 3 or higher (some ask for 4 or higher)
- ~ State schools in IL are required to award college credit for a score of 3 or higher
- ~ Check the university/colleges AP score policy to know (AP website has a link to view the policies at most colleges)

## **Taking Exams:**

- ~ AP Exams are given on the same day, at the same time across the nation
- ~ NCHS holds exams every May at Heartland Community College and Eastview Church
- ~ Students must register & PAY for each AP exam they want to take (optional to take the exam)
- ~ **Exam fees are \$100/exam (Free/Reduced lunch students get large discount)**
- ~ **Registration for yearlong and semester 1 AP courses is completed by end of October for exams happening in May!**
- ~ Registration for semester 2 only AP courses (select Soc. Stud. courses) is completed by end of February.