

Parent Webinar: “New AP Resources and Processes for Your Students” August 14, 2019 Frequently Asked Questions

AP Courses

What factors should students consider when they are thinking about taking an AP® course?

There are 38 AP courses in disciplines such as the arts, English, history and social science, math and computer science, the sciences, and world languages and culture. Students should choose an AP course based on the subjects they’re passionate about, the classes they do well in, and the kinds of college credit they may want to earn. You and your student can find tips for choosing AP courses on the AP website: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/what-is-ap>

Do students need teacher recommendations to sign up for AP courses?

Some high schools let any student enroll in an AP course as long as the student has taken the recommended prerequisite courses. Other high schools have additional rules—for example, students might have to pass a placement test to enroll in an AP course. Teachers and counselors can advise students on the process at their school—the AP website has resources to help start the conversation: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/how-to-sign-up-ap-course>

How can students find out which AP courses are offered at their schools?

School counselors can advise on which AP courses are offered at your child’s school.

How can students make sure they’re choosing AP courses relevant to their college majors?

The College Board offers an online tool that helps students connect AP courses to the majors and career areas they’re interested in: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/choosing-courses/by-major-career>

What advice would you give to a student taking their first AP course?

AP now comes with digital tools to help students improve their performance all year long. To get the most out of AP, students should join their AP class section online, through a “join code” provided by their teacher, and use the practice resources assigned to them.

What training or credentials do AP teachers receive?

Teachers must design a syllabus that meets the curricular requirements of an AP course and receive authorization through the [AP Course Audit](#) process. In addition, College Board offers a variety of

professional development experiences, such as AP Summer Institutes, to help prepare teachers for AP courses.

What changes have been made to the AP World History course and exam?

An in-depth view of the AP World History: Modern course can be found at the course homepage: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-world-history/course?course=ap-world-history-modern>

AP Exams and Scores

If a student registers for an AP course, do they have to take the end-of-course exam?

Most schools and districts allow students to decide whether to take an AP Exam, while others require it. College Board does not have a national policy and supports local policies set by schools and districts.

Can you take an AP Exam without taking an AP class and receive credit?

Yes. We recommend taking the AP course before taking an AP Exam—but it's not required. Students who want to take an AP Exam without taking the corresponding AP course will have to arrange to take the exam at their school or—if their school doesn't administer the exam—at a local school or testing center that administers it. See the [AP website](#) for more details.

How are AP Exams scored?

After students take AP Exams in May, schools return all AP Exam materials to the AP Program. Then:

- The multiple-choice section is scored by computer. Each answer sheet is scanned and the total number of correct responses equals the multiple-choice score.
- The free-response section (essays and open-ended questions) and through-course performance tasks are scored at the annual AP Reading held during the first 2 weeks in June. Specially appointed college professors and experienced AP teachers score this section of the exam.
- The total scores from the free-response section and the multiple-choice section are combined to form a composite score. These composite scores are then translated into the 5-point scale using statistical processes designed to ensure that, for example, a 3 this year reflects the same level of achievement as a 3 last year.

Can students retake if they get a 1 or 2 on the AP Exam?

AP Exams are only given once a year, but students may repeat an exam in a subsequent year. If they do, both scores will be reported unless students request that one be withheld or canceled.

What is the value of students taking AP if they don't receive a 3 or higher on the exam?

Research shows that students who have taken an AP Exam, even if they scored a 1 or 2, are more likely to graduate college on time than their academically matched peers who did not take an AP Exam.

How long does College Board retain AP scores after a student graduates from high school?

AP Exam scores can be viewed within the AP online score reporting system for up to four years. If a student's most recent AP Exam was over four years ago, their AP scores are archived. Learn more about viewing and sending AP scores and accessing archived scores:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/sending-scores/send-or-get-archived-scores>

AP Credit Policies

Which colleges accept AP credit? Is there a way to find out which AP scores and classes are accepted by colleges or universities?

Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities and many international institutions honor AP scores. Most have a written policy spelling out how they award credit and advanced placement. You can see which AP scores are accepted by each institution at: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>

How do colleges know if applicants have received a score of 3 or higher on their AP Exams and thus may be eligible for college credit?

When students send their score reports to colleges, it allows the higher ed institution to evaluate the score in comparison to the institution policies. Learn more: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/sending-scores>

AP for Homeschooled and Virtual School Students

How can students who take AP courses at home, online, or virtually take the exam for that class? Can homeschool instructors use the new AP Classroom resources?

Independent-study and self-study students generally won't have access to AP Classroom resources because these resources are assigned by teachers to their specific course sections. However, if a teacher supervising the student's course of study added the course in the AP Course Audit and had the Course Audit form approved, that teacher could create a class section, have the student enroll in it, and assign resources and supports to the student.

Can homeschooled students take AP Capstone™ courses (AP Research and AP Seminar)?

Only students whose schools offer the AP Capstone program can enroll in AP Seminar or AP Research and submit performance tasks and/or take the AP Seminar End-of-Course Exam.

New AP Resources and Processes

What are the new process changes and resources coming to AP during the 2019-20 school year?

The AP experience will largely remain the same—students will still sign up for classes at the same time, and exams will still be administered in May—but there are a few changes you’ll notice throughout the 2019-20 school year.

- Students will have access to more AP practice and feedback resources.
- AP Exams are now ordered in the fall.
- Students must decide about taking AP Exams in the fall, so that the AP coordinator can submit the school’s exam order by the preferred (October 4, 2019) or final (November 15, 2019, 11:59 p.m. ET) deadline. It is possible to request an exam after the final deadline until the spring course orders and fall order changes deadline (March 13, 2020, 11:59 p.m. ET), but an additional late order fee of \$40 per exam will apply.

What drove the new changes that were put in place this fall?

These changes were inspired by educators.

- The new resources and processes were designed in response to educators’ feedback, and in collaboration with AP teachers and coordinators.
- More than half of all AP schools already offered some form of fall registration. In these schools, students are more engaged and less likely to give up—meaning they are more likely to earn a score that will translate to college credit.
- We tested the changes with nearly 1,000 schools and found that schools with fall registration saw higher participation and better scores, especially in schools where fewer AP students typically took exams.

Have the AP Exam costs changed?

The exam fee and the fee reduction haven’t changed for the 2019-20 school year, but we’re introducing two new fees—one for late registration and another for canceling the exam. These fees encourage students to commit to the exams early and stay engaged throughout the year, increasing their chances of earning college credit. We were pleased that very few students in our early pilots paid these fees. The best outcome we can imagine is to finish each school year without collecting a single late or cancellation fee.

Type	Description	Cost per Exam
On-time order	Exam ordered by November 15	\$94

Late order	Exam ordered between November 16 and March 13	\$94 + \$40 fee
Unused/canceled exam	Exam canceled or not taken by the student	\$40

If students are taking one-semester AP courses in the spring, do they still need to register for AP Exams by November 15?

No. If a class doesn't start until after the fall deadline, AP coordinators can still order exams by the spring deadline (March 13, 11:59 p.m. ET).

What are the new classroom resources for students and teachers?

Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, students and teachers have access to AP Classroom, which includes new [instructional resources](#) that offer opportunities for practice and feedback throughout the school year:

- **Topic Questions** provide students with regular practice on every AP topic and skill.
- **Unit Guides** provide an outline of the exact content and skills covered on the exam and pacing and sequencing suggestions to help teachers integrate material into their courses.
- **Personal Progress Checks** provide students with personalized feedback at the end of each unit of study.
- The **Progress Dashboard** helps teachers recognize student achievement and prioritize areas for additional support.
- Teachers can now design assessments using the **AP Question Bank**, home to more than 15,000 AP questions.

Do all AP courses have access to the new classroom resources?

Teachers can activate student access to the new AP Classroom resources in all subjects except those with portfolio-based exams (AP Art and Design, AP Capstone, and AP Computer Science Principles).

How are teachers across the country being made aware of these new classroom resources?

Educators—including teachers, principals, and AP coordinators—have received information about these resources via mail and email.

Are teachers required to use the new classroom resources?

No. While the new resources were created to help teachers support students year-round, the use of resources is not required.

How do students join AP Classroom?

To access new online AP classroom resources (available for most AP courses) and register for AP Exams this fall, students will need to log in to their College Board account and join their AP class section online. Visit the AP website for a list of instructions and tips:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/join-your-class-online>

What should a student do if they have multiple College Board accounts?

Contact AP Services for Students at 888-225-5427 or apstudents@info.collegeboard.org. Students may have more than one account for a number of reasons, and Customer Support is equipped to diagnose issues and reconcile accounts.

© 2019 College Board.