



Key EBSS Findings: AP English Language and Composition

Breadth and depth of college data included in AP English Language standard settings over time:

	2021 Panel-Based Standard Setting	2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting
Number of college professors	9	773
Number of unique colleges and universities	9	524
Number of college students represented	~ 1,500	134,708

The 770+ professors who participated in this process evaluated the difficulty of the AP Exam, and what grades their own college students would receive on it, in comparison to the grades their college students received this year:

	College Students' Actual Grades in English Composition 2024-25:	How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP English Language Exam:
A+/A	36%	12%
A-/B+/B	31%	33%
B-/C+/C	17%	33%
C-/D+/D	6%	15%
D-/F	10%	7%
C or Higher	83%	78%

The EBSS process found that the AP student population demonstrated strong academic abilities in comparison to students overall who take the comparable course in college, confirming that the AP standards remain significantly higher than those experienced by students who wait to take the intro course on campus:

EBSS Finding	AP Standards	College Standards
2025: AP % of 3 or higher scores vs college % of Cs or higher	74%	83%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	147 hours	50 hours
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.64	2.34
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.76	3.00
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.88	3.42
Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1400	1144
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1199	1052