



Key EBSS Findings: AP English Literature and Composition

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

	2022 Panel-Based Standard Setting	2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting
Number of college professors	9	570
Number of unique colleges and universities	9	449
Number of college students represented	~ 1,100	75,588

The 570 professors who participated in this process evaluated the difficulty of the AP Exam, and the 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 Literature* 2024-25:	How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP English Literature Exam:
A+/A	38%	11%
A-/B+/B	33%	32%
B-/C+/C	15%	34%
C-/D+/D	6%	14%

D-/F	7%	9%
C or Higher	86%	77%

*Other course names include: “Composition”, “College Writing”, “Writing and Rhetoric”, and “First-Year Writing.”

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
AP % of 3 or higher scores vs college % of Cs or higher in 2025	74%	86%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	147.4 hours	48.2 hours
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.55	2.51
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.72	3.13
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.82	3.52

Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1393	1160
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1160	1058