



Key EBSS Findings: AP Environmental Science

Breadth and depth of college data included in AP Environmental Science standard settings over time:

	2021 Panel-Based Standard Setting	2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting
Number of college professors	8	211
Number of unique colleges and universities	8	184
Number of college students represented	~1,000	26,881

The 210+ 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 Environmental Science* 2024-25:	How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP Environmental Science Exam:
A+/A	29%	13%
A-/B+/B	36%	25%
B-/C+/C	20%	25%
C-/D+/D	8%	21%
D-/F	7%	17%
C or Higher	85%	63%

*Other course names include: “Environmental Biology”, “General Ecology”, and “Environmental Studies.”

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	69%	85%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	163 hours	65 hours
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.54	2.54
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.70	3.27
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.88	3.84
Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1393	1195
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1188	1087