



Key EBSS Findings: AP Physics 1

Breadth and depth of college data included in AP Physics I standard settings over time:

	2015 Panel-Based Standard Setting	2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting
Number of college professors	8	205
Number of unique colleges and universities	8	189
Number of college students represented	~1,600	43,323

The 205 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 Physics I* 2024-25:	How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP Physics I Exam:
A+/A	27%	22%
A-/B+/B	35%	20%
B-/C+/C	24%	22%
C-/D+/D	8%	17%

D-/F	5%	20%
C or Higher	86%	64%

*Common alternate course names: Introductory Physics 1, General Physics, Fundamentals of Physics 1, Algebra-Based Physics 1, Physics for Life Sciences 1

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	67%	86%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	139	72
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.21	2.20
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.49	3.10
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.73	3.80

Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1474	1254
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1334	1185