



## Key EBSS Findings: AP Physics C: Mechanics

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

	<b>2007 College Comparability Study</b>	<b>2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting</b>
Number of college professors	8	239
Number of unique colleges and universities	8	205
Number of college students represented	622	64,081

The 239 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:

	<b>College Students' Actual Grades in Physics C: Mechanics* 2024-25:</b>	<b>How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP Physics C: Mechanics Exam:</b>
A+/A	25%	16%
A-/B+/B	37%	23%
B-/C+/C	25%	27%
C-/D+/D	8%	23%

D-/F	5%	11%
C or Higher	87%	66%

\*Common alternate course names: Physics for Scientists and Engineers 1, Principles of Physics 1, Mechanics, Physics with Calculus 1, Engineering Physics 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:

<b>EBSS Finding</b>	<b>AP Standards</b>	<b>College Standards</b>
AP % of 3 or higher scores vs college % of Cs or higher in 2025	72%	87%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	114 hours	71 hours
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.15	2.22
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.29	2.94
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.58	3.60

Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1436	1321
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1315	1256