

Key EBSS Findings: AP Psychology

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

		2025 Evidence-Based Standard Setting
Number of college professors	20	639
Number of unique colleges and universities	20	481
Number of college students represented	2,600	196,857

The 630+ 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 Psychology 2024-25:	How Professors Would Grade Their Students on the AP Psychology Exam:
A+/A	35%	24%
A-/B+/B	34%	31%
B-/C+/C	17%	26%
C-/D+/D	7%	13%
D-/F	7%	6%
C or Higher	86%	81%

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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	72%	86%
Average hours of instruction students received in this course	123 hours	47 hours
AP 3s vs College B-/C+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.47	2.58
AP 4s vs College A-/B+/B: Average subsequent college course grade	3.56	3.11
AP 5s vs College A+/A: Average subsequent college course grade	3.85	3.61
Average SAT score: AP 5s vs College A+/A	1347	1203
Average SAT score: AP 3s vs College B-/C+/C	1160	1089

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