



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Cy-Fair High School

AP Coordinators

Stephanie Heefner, Counselor
Stephanie.heefner@cfisd.net

Angie Rhymes, Lead Counselor
Angela.rhymes@cfisd.net

Marilu Garrison, Counselor
Marilu.garrison@cfisd.net

Welcome

Cy-Fair is committed to student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



Covered In This PowerPoint

- What are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?
- The Benefits of AP
- AP[®] Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
- Registration for 2016 AP Exams



What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- (AP) Advanced Placement[®] is a program developed and overseen by College Board, the not-for-profit organization responsible for the PSAT/NMSQT[®], SAT[®], and other programs and services in college readiness.
- AP provides willing and academically prepared high school students the opportunity to study and learn at the college level.
- Each AP course is modeled on a comparable college course.
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of college-level work. Based on their exam performance, students can potentially earn credit, advanced placement, or both for college.
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

AP[®] Courses offered at Cy-Fair

Arts

Art History
Music Theory
Studio Art: Drawing
Studio Art: 2-D
Studio Art: 3-D

English

Language and Composition (11th Grade)
Literature and Composition (12th Grade)

History and Social Science

Human Geography
Macroeconomics
Government and Politics
Psychology
US History
World History

Mathematics and Computer Science

Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Computer Science
Statistics

Natural Sciences

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics 1
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Physics C: Mechanics

World Languages

French Language and Culture
German Language and Culture
Latin
Spanish Language
Spanish Culture



AP[®]: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills.
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process.
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences.
- Students can earn valuable credit and placement in college.



AP: From The College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers.

**Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and essential time management and study skills needed for college success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®]: Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$21,500** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

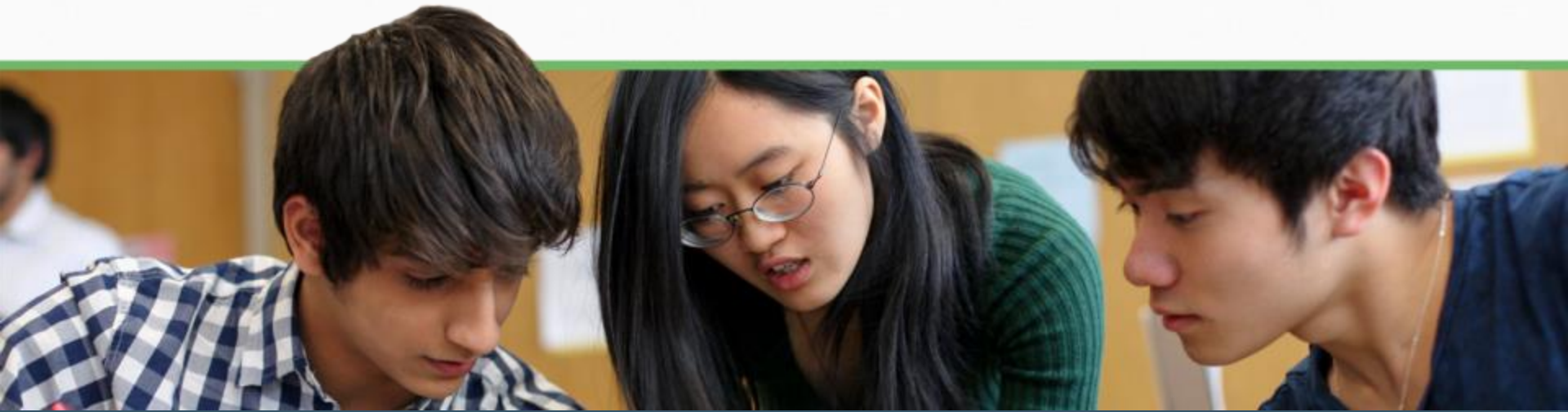
*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*

AP[®]: Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



AP[®]: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom are required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

AP: Scholar Roster Awards

- AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least a 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- State AP Scholar: Granted to the one male and one female student in each US state with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.
- National AP Scholar: Granted to students in the US who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and score of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
 - ✓ Multiple-choice questions
 - ✓ Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral responses



AP Scores

- Exams are scored on a 1-5 scale. The American Council on Education (ACE) recommends awarding credit for AP scores of 3 or higher.
- Scores include a combination of the free-response and multiple-choice sections of the exam.
- For each exam, boundaries for the five AP grades are determined using:
 - Statistical data
 - Previous grade distributions
 - Statistical equating
 - Comparability studies
 - Standard-setting studies

Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP[®] credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy.



- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school's Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy

AP[®]

What is it like to take AP[®]?

AP[®]: Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging, but the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.

Students & Parents ... In Their Own Words

The following are videos from The College Board YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/advancedplacement featuring students and teachers talking about AP® choices and experiences.

[An AP teacher talks about her high expectations for her students](#)

[AP Program: Turning Curiosity into a Science](#)

[Karl describes AP classes as a glimpse into what college is like](#)

[The Value of AP for Latino Students \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Teachers recognize AP student achievements](#)

[AP Program: Creativity Makes A Mark](#)

College Admissions Officials In Their Own Words

The video referenced here features college admission officers and students talking about the impact of AP® on the college experience.

[AP Program: The impact of AP credit and placement on the college experience](#)





Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

What AP course is right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

What steps do I need to take?

- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?

AP[®]: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT[®] results: My College QuickStart™
www.collegeboard.org/quickstart
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:
www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy

Resources for Parents/Students

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/for-parents>

www.collegeboard.org/apstudents

www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy

www.collegeboard.org/spanish

AP[®]

Registration Information for 2016 Exams

Dates for AP Registration

Regular Registration

- Registration Opens January 5th
- Registration Closes March 4th
- Unpaid registrations will be canceled and exams WILL NOT be ordered. Students will be responsible for re-registering under late registration.

Late Registration

- Late Registration Opens March 5th
- Late Registration Closes March 20th
- A \$10.00 late fee will be applied to EACH exam ordered.

2015 AP[®] Exam Fees

- The exam fee for 2015 is \$96 per test.
- For students on the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program, the AP exam fee is \$11 per test.
- In previous years, CY-HOPE has awarded scholarships. An application and essay are typically required. The counseling office will distribute information as it becomes available.

AP Registration Information

All Cy-Fair students must register through Total Registration.

Please visit: www.totalregistration.net/AP/441690

For 2016 AP Exam Dates, please visit:

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ap/about/dates>