

# An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program



# Advance Placement (AP)

## Topics:

- What are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?
- The Benefits of AP
- AP<sup>®</sup> Exams
- AP Myths and Realities
- AP Course Enrollment Requirements
- What Can You Expect As An AP Student?
- What Assistance Is Available?



# What Are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses.
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of college-level work.
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn college credit and/or placement in advanced courses in college.

AP<sup>®</sup>

**The Benefits of AP<sup>®</sup>**

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP courses is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Possibility to earn valuable course credit and placement in college (college specific and discretionary)



# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the 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\*

## AP<sup>®</sup> 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 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 \$23,410\*\* 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 2014, Figure 1



AP<sup>®</sup>

AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

## AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year. Miami-Dade County Public Schools pays for all AP Exams for students enrolled in the requisite AP course.

AP 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<sup>®</sup> 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.	Students earn an additional bonus points that are added to the final grade for taking an AP course. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't graduate from high school unless I take an AP course.	Although AP courses are important in preparing for college, they are not required for high school graduation.



# What Can You Expect As An AP Student?

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- Advanced Placement courses:
  - are college-level courses so they require greater understanding of the target subject matter.
  - are rigorous, time consuming and fast-paced.
  - require additional reading and subject matter comprehension beyond what is expected in a honors-level course.
  - require significantly more time outside class to manage the content and the assignments.
  - require students to be effective time and task managers.
  - require students to be independent learners.



Assistance is  
available by  
contacting:

AP Teacher or Subject Matter Teacher

School Counselor

College Board Website (<http://collegeboard.com>)

Internet Resources

Peer Tutoring

AP Course Review Books

Content Review Sessions