

Advanced Placement Courses and Honours Classes

*AP examinations are written in May and it is recommended that all students sit for the exam. Examination costs will be approximately \$125 per course.

What is Advanced Placement?

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. AP, which was developed by the U.S. College Board in 1955, offers students the opportunity to take college level courses while still in high school. Students earning a 3+ on the AP exam may earn either university or advanced placement credit.

1. Experience

Students are provided an enriched program that mirrors post-secondary curricula and expectations. Students will learn what college level courses are like and develop the skills necessary to be successful in college or university. "College entrance exams reveal that young people who take challenging classes, such as Advanced Placement courses perform better than their peers regardless of their family or financial background."

- Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education

2. University Recognition

Students with a "qualifying grade" (3+) can earn course credit at thousands of colleges and universities worldwide.

How many colleges accept AP grades?

More than 90 percent of the colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, as well as colleges and universities in 21 other countries, have a policy granting incoming students credit, placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam grades. The best source of specific and up-to-date information about an individual institution's policy is its calendar or website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Q. What is the difference between an Honours class and an AP class?
A. An AP class is an Honours class but in a subject area where the end result is taking the AP (Advanced Placement) class in Grade 12 and trying to obtain university credit. An Honours class is offered in a subject area where there is no AP class offered in Grade 12. Currently, English, Chemistry and Biology offer AP courses at GW Graham.
2. Q. Will Honours appear on my B.C. Education Transcript?
A. They will only note if the student has taken an AP class in their Grade 12 year, regardless of whether he or she passed the AP exam or not. If they passed the AP exam, most universities will grant first year credit for the class passed.
4. Q. Is Honours/AP marked more difficultly?
A. No. Teachers use the same rubrics or marking scales as the regular grade level class.
5. Q. Why take Honours/AP then?
A. They are enriched classes for students who love the subject area or enjoy learning, in general. In addition, Honours classes will also teach them skills that can help make them successful post-secondary students. The classes are enriched in a variety of ways, including different material, activities, projects, and fieldtrips. Honours students are often able to learn the regular curriculum at a faster pace than occurs in regular classes, allowing time for more in-depth analysis of curricular content.
6. Q. Can only "A" students take Honours/AP classes?
A. No, all students are welcome to apply for an Honours class. The most successful students are hardworking, organized, mature, motivated, and positive about their learning experience.
7. Q. How does my child enroll in an Honours/AP class?
A. If not currently enrolled in the Honours/AP stream, students may express interest to their current subject teacher and counsellor. Teacher recommendation will be considered to determine entrance.