



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Shawnee Mission South

What We'll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement® Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP® Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
- Q & A



What Are Advanced Placement® Courses?

Advanced Placement®: The Basics

- AP® courses are college-level courses offered in high school.
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses.
- Students may take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.
- Last year, SMS gave over 475 exams to over 250 students.
- AP is valued over transfer credit in some college admissions offices.
- Students have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing in college.

Our AP® Courses

- **Arts:** Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1: Algebra-based, Physics 2: Algebra-based
- **World languages:** French Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture



AP®: The Benefits

AP[®] Benefits for College

- 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
- 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*
- 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 \$23,410** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

AP Benefits in High School

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 required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

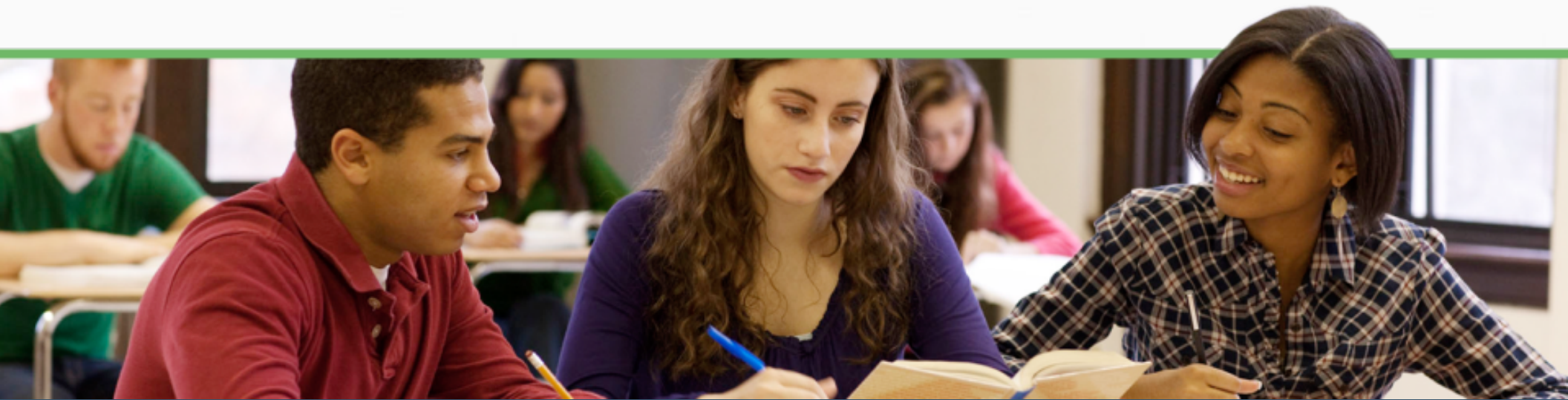
AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

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

- Exams are typically about 4 hours and include:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



AP[®] Exam Fees

- The exam fee for 2019 is about \$100 per exam.
- *****Change for 2019 Testing*****Because many AP tests fall during the final week of school and/or the week of graduation, Shawnee Mission South is looking at ways to keep testing and classroom disruptions to a minimum, including having tests proctored offsite. Possible locations would include Shawnee Mission's new Center for Academic Achievement (73rd and Antioch) and local churches. Please be aware that students may need to make their way to an offsite location to test. Details to come . . .

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

A horizontal band with a green gradient overlay, containing a blurred image of several students in a classroom setting, looking towards the left.

What is it like to take AP®?

Students & Parents ... In Their Own Words

<Note: This is an optional section for your presentation. You can include one or more 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

<Note: This is another optional slide for your presentation. 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](#)



A horizontal band across the middle of the slide features a green-tinted photograph of several students looking down, possibly at a book or device. Overlaid on this band is the main title text in white.

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

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