



The Advanced Placement Program (AP) endorsed by the College Board, offers college-level courses to high school students. Each course is developed by a committee composed of college faculty and AP teachers, and covers the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

Oconomowoc High School offers the following Advanced Placement courses:

- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Physics 1 and 2
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Chemistry
- AP Human Geography
- AP Psychology
- AP US Government & Politics
(Incorporates .5 credit of Citizenship)
- AP World History
- AP US History
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Art History
- AP Studio Art

Deciding which courses to take

Teachers can give you a good sense of which courses you might consider and how you might prepare. Counselors can advise you as to which of the AP courses fit your educational goals, as well as any courses or additional support you might need in order to enroll in AP in future years.

Examinations and Scores

Students who enroll in an Advanced Placement course(s) are required to take the examination, which is scheduled during the month of May. The Advanced Placement examination consists of multiple choice questions scored mechanically by the Educational Testing Service and a free response section that requires essay writing and problem solving.

In late July, an AP Grade Report is sent to each student, the high school, and if the student requests it, to a college/university. The AP examinations are scored on a scale of 1-5. Each college/university decides which AP examination scores are acceptable. The majority of colleges accept grades of three or better and offer the student credit, as if they had taken one or more basic college courses in the subject area tested. In some cases, college/university credit is not offered, but the requirement of taking basic courses is waived and the student begins the program of study on an advanced level.

For more information about how AP courses can meet your educational goals, contact:

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Benefits of AP Courses:

1. AP can set students apart in the college admission process.

Students who take AP courses send a signal to colleges that they're serious about their education and that they're willing to challenge themselves with rigorous course work. Eighty-five percent of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.

2. AP teaches more than subject-area facts.

AP courses give students access to rigorous college-level work, but with the support of high school teachers and peers. Students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success. Students have the opportunity to dig deeper into subjects that interest them, develop advanced research and communication skills, and learn to tap their creativity and their problem-solving and analytical skills to address course challenges. AP students learn what will be expected of them in college.

3. The financial benefits of AP are important to consider.

Students who take five years or more to graduate can spend \$21,500 for each additional year in college, to cover tuition, fees, living expenses, transportation and other costs. Research shows that students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time.

Myth	Reality
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	The decision to take an AP course (or several courses) shows admission officers a willingness to take on the academic challenge of college-level course work and expectations.
I don't know if I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	Many colleges grant credit (and placement) based on a 3 (out of 5) or better on an AP Exam. College & Universities do not consider AP scores in the college admission process.
AP is for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any student who is academically prepared and motivated to take on college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging, but the support students receive from their classmates and teachers can help ease their worries. Students will reinforce their stress-management skills and be prepared to handle the stress of college.