



## Advanced Placement & Dual Enrollment Course Guide

This information is meant to assist you in deciding what AP courses to take next year. While we want you to challenge yourself academically, we want you to take on the challenges that are right for you at this time; at the same time we want to encourage you to participate in school activities and have a healthy, balanced schedule. Answer the following questions truthfully, talk to teachers, counselors, peers and do some research about what particular schools want to see. Get all the information that you can and then make the best informed decision for you.

### Why am I considering an AP Course?

#### The right reasons

- Love the subject
- Want to learn more about the subject
- I want to go into more depth in this area
- I feel ready to challenge myself in this content

#### The wrong reasons

- Looks good on my resume
- All my friends are taking it
- I am feeling pressured to take it
- I think it will raise my GPA due to the bump

### How much time do I have to devote to these courses?

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Do I have a job?                                  | Hours per day .....             |
| • Do I participate in a sport or activity?          | Hours per day .....             |
| • Do I do volunteer work?                           | Hours per day .....             |
| • Do I have responsibilities at home?               | Hours per day .....             |
| • Time required to do well in <i>each</i> AP course | Hours per day .....             |
|   | <b>Total hours per day.....</b> |

### Other questions to consider before you register

Before you register with your counselor, be sure that you have seriously considered the following questions and discussed them with your parents. While no one expects that they will be overwhelmed by too many commitments, it does tend to happen, even to the best of us.

- **Am I taking the course(s) for the right reasons?**
- **Do I have enough time in the day for all these commitments?**
- **How committed am I to doing well in this course if it proves a challenge for me?**
- **What will happen if this course load is difficult and I cannot change my schedule?**
- **Would I be willing to adjust hours or give up a job?**
- **Would I be willing to drop a sport or activity?**
- **Would I be satisfied with a grade less than a B?**

## From the National Association for College Admission Counseling

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

Note: “College Prep Courses” are not necessarily honors or AP courses. NACAC refers to “College Prep Courses” as core courses in English, Science, Math, and Social Studies (versus the fine and practical arts). AP and Honors come into play when they mention “Strength of Curriculum.”

Source:

[https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/2019\\_soca/soca2019\\_ch3.pdf](https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/2019_soca/soca2019_ch3.pdf)

List of Advanced Placement & Dual Enrollment Courses at McLean High School  
*Electives are italicized, AP Courses are bolded*

9<sup>th</sup> grade

English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9 Honors</li> </ul>	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Biology</li> </ul>
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Geometry</li> <li>Honors Algebra 2</li> </ul>	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World History 1 Honors</li> </ul>

10<sup>th</sup> grade

CTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i></li> </ul>	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Chemistry</li> </ul>
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 10 Honors</li> </ul>	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World History 2 Honors</li> <li><b>AP World History</b></li> <li><b>AP African American Studies</b></li> <li><b>AP Human Geography</b></li> </ul>
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honors Geometry</li> <li>Honors Algebra 2</li> <li><b>AP Precalculus</b></li> <li><b>AP Computer Science A</b></li> <li><b>AP Computer Science Principles</b></li> </ul>	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)</b></li> </ul>

11<sup>th</sup> grade

<p>CTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i></li><li>● <i>Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics</i></li><li>● <i>Honors STEM Research and Development Engineering</i></li><li>● <i>DE Entrepreneurship</i></li><li>● <i>DE Early Childhood Careers I</i></li></ul>	<p>Performing Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b><i>AP Music Theory</i></b></li></ul>
<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● English 11 Honors</li><li>● <b>AP English Language and Composition</b></li><li>● DE English 111/112</li></ul>	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Geosystems Honors</li><li>● Honors Physics</li><li>● DE Chemistry</li><li>● <b>AP Biology</b></li><li>● <b>AP Chemistry</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics 1</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics 2</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics C - Mechanics &amp; Electricity &amp; Magnetism</b> (uncommon for juniors)</li><li>● <b>AP Environmental Science</b></li></ul>
<p>Fine Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b><i>AP Studio Art 2-D Design</i></b></li><li>● <b><i>AP Studio Art 3-D Design</i></b></li><li>● <b><i>AP Studio Art Drawing</i></b></li></ul>	<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● US/VA History Honors</li><li>● <b>AP US History</b></li><li>● <b>AP Psychology</b></li><li>● <b>AP Micro/Macroeconomics</b></li><li>● <b>AP African American Studies</b></li><li>● <b>AP Human Geography</b></li></ul>
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b><i>*AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)</i></b></li></ul>	<p>World Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>AP French</b></li><li>● <b>AP Spanish</b></li><li>● <b>AP Chinese</b></li></ul>
<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Honors Algebra 2</li><li>● DE Precalculus</li><li>● <b>AP Precalculus</b></li><li>● <b>AP Calculus AB</b></li><li>● <b>AP Calculus BC</b></li><li>● <b>AP Computer Science A</b></li><li>● <b>AP Computer Science Principles</b></li><li>● <i>DE Computer Science (Discrete Structures and Computer Organization)</i></li><li>● <b>AP Statistics</b></li><li>● <i>DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra</i></li></ul>	

12<sup>th</sup> grade

<p>CTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i></li><li>● <i>Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics</i></li><li>● <i>Honors STEM Research and Development Engineering</i></li><li>● <i>DE Entrepreneurship</i></li><li>● <i>DE Early Childhood Careers I</i></li><li>● <i>DE Early Childhood Careers II</i></li></ul>	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Honors Geosystems</li><li>● Honors Physics</li><li>● DE Chemistry</li><li>● <b>AP Biology</b></li><li>● <b>AP Chemistry</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics 1</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics 2</b></li><li>● <b>AP Physics C - Mechanics &amp; Electricity &amp; Magnetism</b></li><li>● <b>AP Environmental Science</b></li></ul>
<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● English 12 Honors</li><li>● <b>AP English Literature and Composition</b></li><li>● DE English 111/112</li><li>● DE English 255</li></ul>	<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● US Government Honors</li><li>● <b>AP US Government</b></li><li>● <b>AP Comparative Government</b></li><li>● <b>AP Psychology</b></li><li>● <b>AP Micro/Macroeconomics</b></li><li>● <b>AP African American Studies</b></li><li>● <b>AP Human Geography</b></li></ul>
<p>Fine Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>AP Studio Art 2-D Design</b></li><li>● <b>AP Studio Art 3-D Design</b></li><li>● <b>AP Studio Art Drawing</b></li></ul>	<p>World Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>AP Chinese</b></li><li>● <b>AP French</b></li><li>● <b>AP German</b></li><li>● <b>AP Latin</b></li><li>● <b>AP Spanish</b></li></ul>
<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● DE Precalculus</li><li>● <b>AP Precalculus</b></li><li>● <b>AP Calculus AB</b></li><li>● <b>AP Calculus BC</b></li><li>● <b>AP Statistics</b></li><li>● <b>AP Computer Science A</b></li><li>● <i>DE Computer Science (Discrete Structures and Computer Organization)</i></li><li>● <b>AP Computer Science Principles</b></li><li>● <i>DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra</i></li></ul>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>*AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)</b></li><li>● <b>*AP Research (AP Capstone course 2, if AP Seminar has been taken)</b></li></ul>
<p>Performing Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>AP Music Theory</b></li></ul>	

**Comparison of the differences among the various levels of placement.**

	<b>General Education</b>	<b>Honors</b>	<b>AP</b>
<b>Concepts</b>	Abstraction from concrete examples	Analysis, inference, and abstraction	Analysis, inference, abstraction, interpretation and synthesis leading to complex concept development
<b>Pace</b>	Moderate	Accelerated	Rapid
<b>Scope</b>	Focused	Expanded	In-depth
<b>Instructional Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sequential and guided</li> <li>• Concrete, lineal emphasized</li> <li>• Emphasis on building and reinforcing skills leading to independent learning</li> <li>• Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of guided instruction and independent inquiry</li> <li>• Connection established between concrete, literal and abstract, theoretical</li> <li>• Emphasis on building skills leading to independent learning</li> <li>• Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less guided instruction and more independent inquiry</li> <li>• Abstract, theoretical emphasized</li> <li>• Emphasis on independent learning</li> <li>• Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> </ul>
<b>Communication Skills (e.g., writing, speaking, listening)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Conventions of correct spoken and written expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctness of standard convention plus introduction to rhetorical approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong degree of proficiency in standard conventions and deliberate rhetorical techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Class Activities (e.g., discussions, problem solving, group work)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicitly structured and ordered</li> <li>• Teachers directed, some open-ended activities</li> <li>• Frequent content/skill review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderately structured and ordered</li> <li>• Some student initiative expected</li> <li>• Some content/skill review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimally structured and open-ended activities</li> <li>• Student initiative expected</li> <li>• Infrequent skill review, content review done independently</li> </ul>
<b>Assignments (e.g., homework, projects, papers, research)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicitly structured and directed</li> <li>• Some amount of reading/writing required</li> <li>• Independent work reinforces new material introduced in class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicitly structured and moderately directed</li> <li>• Moderate amount of reading/writing required</li> <li>• Independent work requires some new material to be learned outside of class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicitly structured and open-ended</li> <li>• Extensive amount of reading/writing required</li> <li>• Independent work requires significant amount of new material to be learned outside of class</li> </ul>

Adapted from New Trier High School's Levels description.