

AP & DE Course Expectations: McLean High School

The following chart is meant to convey an **approximation** of how much time is needed to prepare for each class period of the AP Courses. Different teachers for the same course may have slightly different expectations but the time commitment should be about the same. Some students will need less time, and some will need more to do the assignments depending on their skill levels.

To be successful in the AP program, students will need to budget their time taking in account the following:

- These are **COLLEGE LEVEL** courses.
- These courses may require more time than non-AP classes.
- Students need to factor in time needed for after school activities.

CAREER & TECHNICAL ED	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
DE ECC1DE /DE CHD120 <i>Introduction to Early Childhood Education</i> DE ECC1DE /DE CHD145 <i>Teaching Art, Music and Movement to Children</i> (Double Block - Concurrent Courses)	Approximately 20 pages.	1 hour per class.	Chapter Quizzes, Chapter Course Work, Lesson Plans	Professional Digital Portfolio, Early Childhood Development Projects
DE ECC2DE /DE CHD165 <i>Observation and Participation in Early Childhood / Primary Settings</i> (Double Block Course)	Varies.	1 hour per class.	Lesson Plans, Unit Essays	Observations, Case Study
DE Entrepreneurship I /BUS 116	Varies per assignment and source (websites, cases, articles)	1 hour per class.	Podcast reviews, case studies, Market Research.	Business Plan, Market Days/Pop-up store, Innovation Plan Prototype
DE Small Business Management /BUS 165	Varies per assignment (cases, articles, annual reports, business plans)	1 hour per class.	Case studies, presentations, Entrepreneur podcasts & interviews	Business Plan, Financial Records and statements, Market Days

ENGLISH	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Language and Composition (11th grade)	Varies depending on unit of study – 30-50 pages per week est.	Varies by student. Average of 1 hour per class.	2-3 timed writings and/or process writings per quarter	Research paper, discussion seminars, and various projects throughout the year
AP Literature and Composition (12 th grade)	Varies depending on unit and difficulty of the text.	Varies by student. Average of 1-2 hours per class.	3 essays per quarter -- mix of in and out of class. In class timed writing assignments	Reading group / major research project.
DE English 111/112	Varies depending on unit. Most readings are short essays, not full length books.	Varies by student. 2-4 hours per week.	One process essay per quarter, two of which are document-based research. There are no timed writings or major tests.	One process essay per quarter, two of which are document-based research.
DE English 255	Varies depending on place within unit; sometimes reading is due at the beginning of the unit, with some weeks of discussion subsequent without new readings being due. During this period, analytical assignments and writing about the reading is the focus. Longer novels are staggered at a rate of approximately 40-50 pages/class rotation. Shorter novels (less than 200 pages) are generally assigned and due within 1-1.5 weeks time.	Varies by student. 2-4 hours per week. When reading is due, generally writing is not due at the same time and it is alternated.	One process essay per quarter, which are analytical literary analysis papers focused on literary technique and theme/author's purpose. There are no timed writings or major tests.	Socratic seminars and oral presentations at a rate of once per quarter.
FINE ARTS	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Drawing, AP 2D Art & Design, AP 2D Photography, AP 2D Digital Art, AP 3D Art & Design (12 th grade)	Varies by student	2 hours per class	Students are submitting a portfolio of 15 digital images that include works of art and design and process documentation.	

MATH & COMP SCI	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Computer Science A (10 th -12 th grade)	10-20 pages	1 hour per class	2-3 Unit Tests in each of the 1st three quarters.	Java Programming Project
AP Computer Science Principles (9 th - 12 th grade)	Little outside reading – most done in class.	Varies based on in-class progress	Each of 6 units has a major project and test.	Project Based Learning experiences that take place during class time.
DE Computer Science: Discrete Structures and Computer Organization <i>*Not offered 2024-2025.</i>	20-30 minutes per class	1 hour (about 10 HW problems) per class	3 tests per semester.	None.
AP Statistics (10 th - 12 th grade)	Optional textbook reading-varies by week	1-2 hours per class (includes homework, reviewing notes, review assignments, and labs)	2-3 unit tests per quarter. 1 quiz most units.	Unit 1 Project & year-end major project
DE Precalculus (10 th - 12 th grade)	0	1 hour per class	~ 2 test and ~ 2 quizzes per quarter, study 2-3 hours per test	Midterm & Final Exam
AP Precalculus AB (9 th - 12 th grade)	0	1-2 hours per class	~ 2 test and ~ 2 quizzes per quarter, study 2-3 hours per test	Final Exam
AP Precalculus BC (9 th - 12 th grade)	0	1-2 hours per class	~ 2 test and ~ 2 quizzes per quarter, study 2-3 hours per test	Final Exam
DE Calculus I (11 th or 12 th grade)	0	30-60 minutes per class	~ 2 tests per quarter, study 2-3 hours per test	Midterm and Final Exam
AP Calculus AB (9 th - 12 th grade)	0	2 hours per class	2-3 tests per quarter, study 3-4 hours per test	4th quarter portfolio.
AP Calculus BC (9 th - 12 th grade)	0	1-2 hours per class	2-3 tests per quarter; expect to study 6-8 hours per test	4th quarter portfolio.
DE Multivariable Calculus & DE Linear Algebra	0	1-2 hours per class	~ 2 quizzes per quarter, ~ 2 tests per quarter, study 3-4 hours per test	Final Exams in January (1st semester final exam) and May (2nd semester final exam)

SCIENCE	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Biology (11 th or 12 th grade)	1 to 2 chapters per week (about 25 pages each).	1-2 hours per class	2 tests/qtr 2 in class essays per quarter 3 quizzes per qtr	2-3 labs with reports per qtr
AP Chemistry (11 th or 12 th grade)	Approximately 20 pages. Reading textbook is recommended, not required.	1-2 hours per class; varies widely by student	2-3 tests/qtr Frequent quizzes	~3 lab quizzes per quarter as well as virtual labs
DE Chemistry (11th or 12th grade)	About 10-15 pages	1 hour per class	2 test per quarter 2-3 quizzer per quarter	2-4 labs per quarter - assessed by report or quizzes
AP Environmental Science (11th or 12 th grade)	1-2 textbook chapters per week.	1-2 hours per class	One test per unit, combination of multiple choice and short answer	1-2 labs per unit
Geospatial Analysis DE	Periodic reading of current events articles, mainly during class.	Self-directed as needed to maintain pace of course.	4 quarterly exams.	Mid-Term and Final Project (Must present project to JMU advisor for college credit).
AP Physics 1 (11 th or 12 th grade)	Varies by student (nothing assigned)	Roughly 1 hr per class of Flipped Video Lectures and notes, done before class; an additional 1-2 hours a week of practice problems done outside of class; additional work varies by student	1-2 AP Style Multiple Choice/Free Response tests per quarter 4-6 quizzes/quarter	1-2 labs per unit
AP Physics 2 (12 th grade)	Varies by student (nothing assigned, but books are available)	1 hour per class	1-2 AP Style Multiple Choice/Free Response tests per quarter 3-4 quizzes/quarter	1-2 labs per unit
AP Physics C (12th grade)	varies by student (nothing assigned)	roughly ½ to 1 hour per class, however this varies largely from student to student	2 tests/qtr 3-5 quizzes/qtr	none

SOCIAL STUDIES	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP African American Studies (10 th - 12 th grade)	10-20 pages per week	1 hour per class	1-2 Unit Quests/Tests per unit.	Final Project for AP College board that also counts for the final of the class. (subject to change as this is a pilot course!)
AP Comparative Government and Politics (12 th grade)	15-20 page per block including textbook, primary sources, news and academic sources	1 hour per class	At least two multiple choice assessments per quarter. At least 1 timed essay and short essay per quarter.	One major project per quarter
AP Human Geography (10 th , 11 th or 12 th grade)	30-40 pages per week	0.5-1 hour per class	7 major unit tests with MC and FRQ, geography current events assignments, and map tests by region	Group projects based on religion, culture, and agriculture
AP Micro/Macro Economics (11 th or 12 th grade)	20-40 pages per week in a college- level text	1 hour per class	2-3 summative assessments per quarter. 2 cumulative finals: 1 micro and 1 macro.	One 4th quarter project.
AP Psychology (11 th or 12 th grade)	30-50 pages per week in a college-level text	1-2 hours per class	1-2 vocab quizzes per unit; 3-5 timed cumulative tests with timed essays per quarter	Unit application activities, often completed in class
AP US Government and Politics (12 th grade)	15-30 pages per week including textbook, primary sources, news and academic sources	1 hour per class	At least two multiple choice assessments per quarter. At least 1 timed essay per quarter. At least 1 timed short essay per quarter	One major project per quarter
AP US History (11 th grade)	30-40 pages per week	1-2 hours per class	At least 2 tests per quarter, at least 2 essays per quarter	None
AP World History (10 th grade)	25-30 pages per week	1-2 hours per class	Regular Reading Quizzes, 2-3 timed MC and Essays per quarter	1-2 Projects/Essays (per quarter)

PERFORMING ARTS	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Music Theory (Audition or Permission of Instructor)	10 pages Extensive Listening	30 mins per class	Quarterly tests/quizzes Composition projects during class time Weekly aural/singing quizzes	Composition projects Analysis Projects Performances
WORLD LANGUAGES	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
DE American Sign Language	30-60 minutes	Up to an hour per class	At least two major grades – test, video, presentation	TBD
AP Chinese Language and Culture	1-7 pages	1 hour per class	2 written tests and 2 speaking tests per quarter	Culminating speaking and writing assessments.
AP French Language and Culture (5th year)	1-7 pages	1 hour per class	2 written tests and 2 speaking tests per quarter	Culminating speaking and writing assessments.
AP German Language and Culture (4 th or 5th year)	1-10 pages	30-60 minutes per class	2-3 speaking or writing tests per quarter	Culminating speaking and writing assessments.
AP Latin (4 th year)	Most work is done in class.	Varies based on in-class progress.	Regular translation presentations, 1 test per unit, various projects.	Final Project: Caesar or Virgil Modern Connection
AP Spanish Language and Culture (5th year)	1-7 pages	1 hour per class	2 written tests and 2 speaking tests per quarter	Culminating oral presentation.
GENERAL	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects
AP Seminar – AP Capstone course 1 (11 th grade)*	Varies – 6+ scholarly articles per week	1-3 hours in addition to class time to work on major projects.	College Board requires one group project and presentation and one individual paper and presentation in addition to a written exam in May as part of the AP Exam score	
AP Research – AP Capstone course 2 (12 th grade)*	Varies according to where the student is in the research process (included in the prep time)	1-3 hours in addition to class time to work on research, data collection, and writing the academic paper.	Students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. An academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (with a performance or exhibition of product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.	