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 *each* AP course	Hours per day ……
	Total hours per day……

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

Comparison of the differences among the various levels of placement.

	General Education	Honors	AP
Concepts	Abstraction from concrete examples	Analysis, inference, and abstraction	Analysis, inference, abstraction, interpretation and synthesis leading to complex concept development
Pace	Moderate	Accelerated	Rapid
Scope	Focused	Expanded	In-depth
Instructional Approach	• Sequential and guided • Concrete, lineal emphasized • Emphasis on building and reinforcing skills leading to independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged	• Combination of guided instruction and independent inquiry • Connection established between concrete, literal and abstract, theoretical • Emphasis on building skills leading to independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged	• Less guided instruction and more independent inquiry • Abstract, theoretical emphasized • Emphasis on independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged
Communication Skills (e.g., writing, speaking, listening)	• Basic Conventions of correct spoken and written expression	• Correctness of standard convention plus introduction to rhetorical approaches	• Strong degree of proficiency in standard conventions and deliberate rhetorical techniques
Class Activities (e.g., discussions, problem solving, group work)	• Explicitly structured and ordered • Teachers directed, some open-ended activities • Frequent content/skill review	• Moderately structured and ordered • Some student initiative expected • Some content/skill review	• Minimally structured and open-ended activities • Student initiative expected • Infrequent skill review, content review done independently
Assignments (e.g., homework, projects, papers, research)	• Explicitly structured and directed • Some amount of reading/writing required • Independent work reinforces new material introduced in class	• Explicitly structured and moderately directed • Moderate amount of reading/ writing required • Independent work requires some new material to be learned outside of class	• Explicitly structured and open-ended • Extensive amount of reading/ writing required • Independent work requires significant amount of new material to be learned outside of class

Adapted from New Trier High School's Levels description.

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

9th grade

English ● English 9 Honors	Science ● Honors Biology
Math ● Honors Geometry ● Honors Algebra 2	Social Studies ● World History 1 Honors ● **AP Human Geography**

10th grade

CTE ● *Honors STEM Engineering*	Science ● Honors Chemistry
English ● English 10 Honors ● **AP Seminar English 10**	Social Studies ● World History 2 Honors ● **AP World History** ● **AP Human Geography** ● ***AP African American Studies***
Math ● Honors Geometry ● Honors Algebra 2 ● **AP Precalculus AB** ● **AP Precalculus BC** ● ***AP Computer Science A*** ● ***AP Computer Science Principles***	General ● ***AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)***

11th grade

CTE ● *Honors STEM Engineering* ● *Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics* ● *Honors STEM Research and Development Engineering* ● *DE Entrepreneurship* ● *DE Small Business Management* ● *DE Early Childhood Careers I*	Performing Arts ● ***AP Music Theory***
English ● English 11 Honors ● **AP English Language and Composition** ● DE English 111	Science ● Geosystems Honors ● Honors Physics ● DE Chemistry ● **AP Biology** ● **AP Chemistry** ● **AP Physics 1** ● **AP Physics C - Mechanics & Electricity & Magnetism** (uncommon for juniors) ● ***AP Environmental Science***
Fine Arts ● ***AP Drawing*** ● ***AP 2D Art & Design*** ● ***AP 2D Photography*** ● ***AP 2D Digital Art*** ● ***AP 3D Art & Design***	Social Studies ● US/VA History Honors ● DE US History ● **AP US History** ● ***AP Psychology*** ● ***AP Micro/Macroeconomics*** ● ***AP African American Studies*** ● ***AP Human Geography***
General ● ****AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)*** ● ****AP Research (AP Capstone course 2)***	World Languages ● *DE American Sign Language* ● ***AP Chinese*** ● ***AP French*** ● ***AP Spanish***
Math ● Honors Algebra 2 ● DE Precalculus ● **AP Precalculus AB** ● **AP Precalculus BC** ● DE Calculus I ● **AP Calculus AB** ● **AP Calculus BC** ● ***AP Computer Science A*** ● ***AP Computer Science Principles*** ● *DE Computer Science (Discrete Structures and Computer Organization)* ● ***AP Statistics*** ● *DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra*	

12th grade

CTE ● *Honors STEM Engineering* ● *Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics* ● *Honors STEM Research and Development Engineering* ● *DE Entrepreneurship* ● *DE Small Business Management* ● *DE Early Childhood Careers I* ● *DE Early Childhood Careers II*	Science ● Honors Physics ● DE Chemistry ● **AP Biology** ● **AP Chemistry** ● **AP Physics 1** ● **AP Physics 2** ● **AP Physics C - Mechanics & Electricity & Magnetism** ● *DE Geospatial Analysis* ● ***AP Environmental Science***
English ● English 12 Honors ● **AP English Literature and Composition** ● DE English 111/112 ● DE English 255	Social Studies ● US Government Honors ● **AP US Government** ● **AP US & Comparative Government** ● ***AP Psychology*** ● ***AP Micro/Macroeconomics*** ● ***AP African American Studies*** ● ***AP Human Geography***
Fine Arts ● ***AP Drawing*** ● ***AP 2D Art & Design*** ● ***AP 2D Photography*** ● ***AP 2D Digital Art*** ● ***AP 3D Art & Design***	World Languages ● *DE American Sign Language* ● ***AP Chinese*** ● ***AP French*** ● ***AP German*** ● ***AP Latin*** ● ***AP Spanish***
Math ● DE Precalculus ● **AP Precalculus AB** ● **AP Precalculus BC** ● DE Calculus I ● **AP Calculus AB** ● **AP Calculus BC** ● ***AP Statistics*** ● ***AP Computer Science A*** ● *DE Computer Science (Discrete Structures and Computer Organization)* ● ***AP Computer Science Principles*** ● *DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra*	General ● ****AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)*** ● ****AP Research (AP Capstone course 2)***
Performing Arts ● ***AP Music Theory***	