



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

LRSD Gifted and Advanced Placement Programs

Welcome

LRSD is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



Overview

- 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
- PSAT/ AP Potential
- 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 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 (For private schools, please go to their website to look up the score cut offs for qualifying scores).
- All courses offered by the LRSD must be approved by the College Board. Teachers of AP coursework must participate in a course audit process to gain approval of each course they teach.

LRSD Approved AP[®] Courses

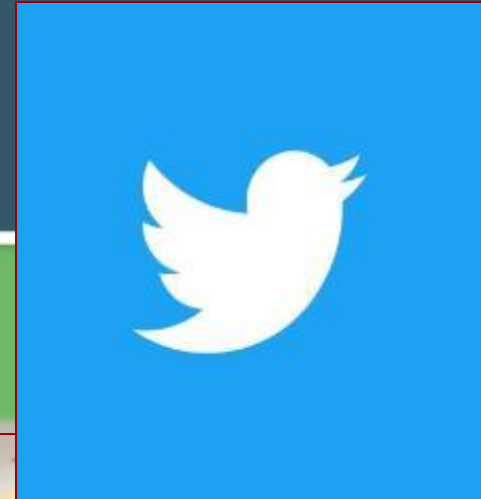
- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar
- **Arts:** Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Comparative Government and Politics, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra-based, Physics 2: Algebra-based, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C: Mechanics
- **World languages:** Chinese Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, Latin, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture

AAIMS AP Prep Boot Camp

Each year the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science hosts a free AP Boot Camp the last week of July. The purpose of the Boot Camp is to engage students in hands-on learning that will enable them to succeed in AP coursework. LRSD students are provided a bus, if needed, to attend the camp at UALR for one week. Announcements about the camp usually go out around February at each high school. Below is the attendance from last year.



AP Ambassadors

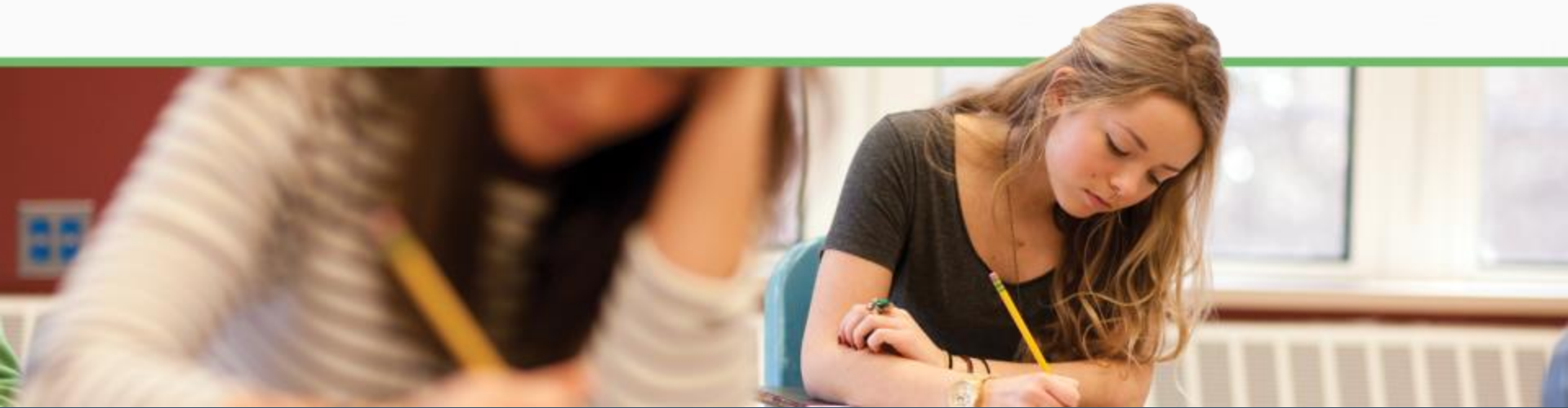




AP[®]: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college
- LRSD offers weight credit for AP courses. An A is worth a 5.0 on the Grade Point Scale, a B is worth a 4.0, a C is worth a 3.0. The normal scale would weight an A as a 4.0, B as a 3.0, and a C as a 2.0



AP[®] from a College Admissions Perspective

- 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
- AP courses inform college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigor they'll encounter in their college careers

**Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- 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*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- 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).

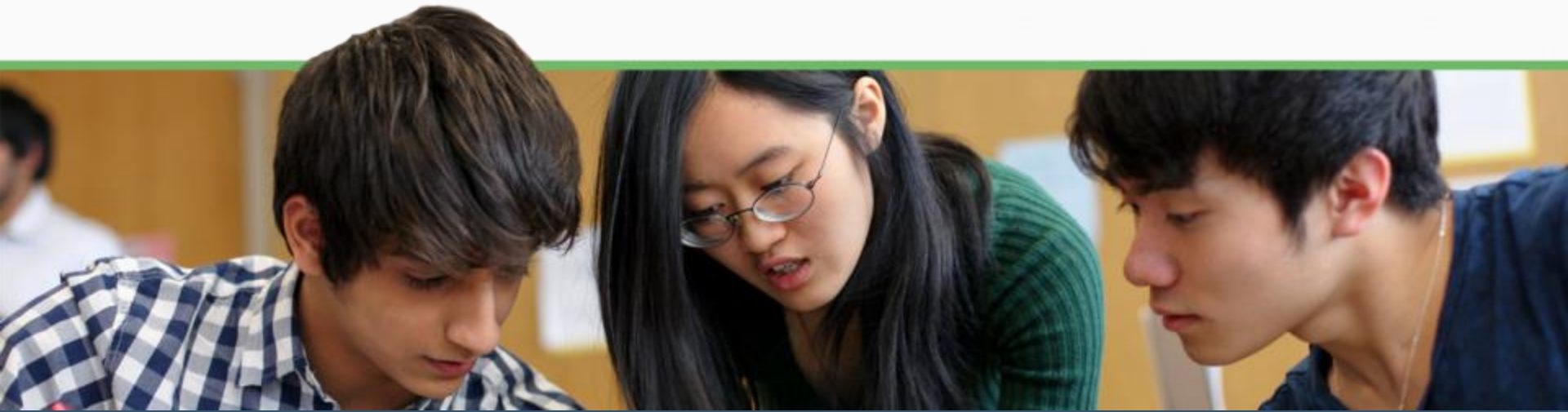
*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board*, 2008

***The College Board*, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1

AP[®] Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



AP[®]: A More Engaging Learning Experience

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 2–3 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 \$94 per exam.
- The legislature appropriated funds to, among other things, cover the testing fee for any Arkansas student taking an AP Exam. Arkansas is the only state in the nation with this particular combination of course mandate and universal funding.

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.

The screenshot shows the 'AP Credit Policy Info' page on the CollegeBoard website. The page has a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are navigation tabs: 'College Board Tools', 'What for College', 'Find a College', 'AP Credit Policy', and 'Pay for College'. The main content area is titled 'AP Credit Policy Info' and 'Advanced Placement Program'. It includes a search bar labeled 'Find colleges and universities with AP credit policy information'. Below the search bar, there are two rows of letters: 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z' and 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z'. There is a 'School Name' input field and a 'Go' button. Below the input field, there is a note: 'To begin your search, enter the name of the college or university or select a letter of the alphabet to find institutions that begin with that letter.' The footer of the page contains links: 'Site Map', 'Contact Us', 'About Us', 'Press', 'Careers', 'Join Us', 'Compliance', 'Terms of Use', and 'Privacy Policy'. There is also a 'TRUSTED' logo.

- 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



What is it like to take AP[®]?

AP[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.

Our School Offers Support for AP[®] Students

- ▶ *After-school Tutoring*
- ▶ *AAIMS AP Prep Boot Camp*
- ▶ *AP Central for Students :*
<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/start-grow-ap/outreach-support-resources>
- ▶ *Non-Profit organizations*

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

[AP Program: The impact of AP credit and placement on the college experience](#)



A horizontal band with a green gradient overlay, containing a blurred image of three students (two girls and one boy) looking down, possibly at a book or device.

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

What AP course is right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

What steps do I need to take?

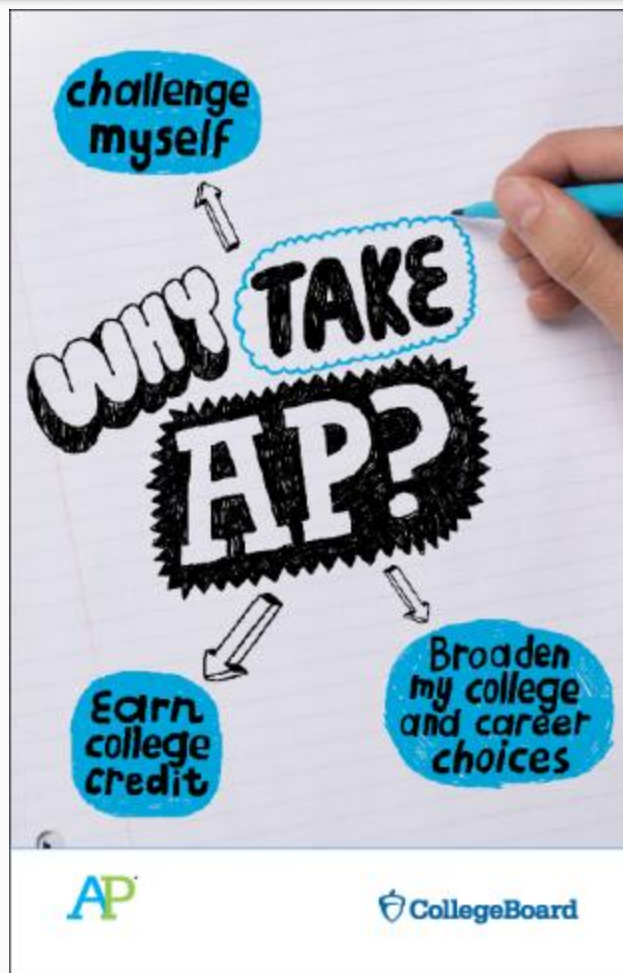
- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?

(See Handout)

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

Explore AP[®]: Take the Next Step



PSAT

What is the PSAT?

PSAT Stands for Preliminary- SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The exam measures the following content areas:

- Critical Reading
- Math Problem Solving
- Writing Skills

Students will not have to recall facts from literature, history or science as part of the exam or complete math formulas. The test measures reasoning and critical thinking skills.

- PSAT scores help provide information about AP Potential

Why do we take the PSAT?

Schools use PSAT test results to look for potential AP Students.

Get feedback about critical academic skills.

Help prepare for the SAT

Start getting ready for college

Enter the National Merit Scholarship Competition (for Junior -11th grade students)

What about PSAT Test Scores?

Scores will be received in December

- Scores will be reported for Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing

Students will receive score reports showing question responses and correct answers so they can review the test .

Score reports will also share the difficulty level of all questions.

Scores can be used to predict AP potential. You may receive a letter from ADE explaining what AP courses may be best for you to attempt, based on your PSAT results.

My College QuickStart

Taking the PSAT will give you access to the on-line college and career planning service called My College QuickStart.

Student Score reports will share an access code for the service.

Key Features of the service include:

- Online Score Report
- My SAT Study Plan
- My Personality
- My Major and Career Matches
- My College Matches

National Merit Scholarship Program

What is the National Merit Scholarship Program and how do you enter?

The NMSP is a program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in cooperation with the College Board to recognize high achieving high school seniors. Some recognition levels are based purely on junior PSAT/NMSQT scores, while other levels have additional qualifications (explained below). The NMSC gives out approximately \$50 million in scholarships each year, and some colleges provide lowered — or even free — tuition for recognized students.

You must take the PSAT/NMSQT as a high school junior and meet certain citizenship requirements. On your PSAT score report, you will see a section with your Selection Index and how you answered the questions about your entry eligibility. If there is an asterisk next to your Selection Index, it means that NMSC believes that you are ineligible.

More Information

Visit My College Quickstart to take a tour

- www.collegeboard.com/quickstart

Visit College Board web-site:

- www.collegeboard.com

Visit the PSAT

- www.collegeboard.com/psat

Visit the National Merit Scholarship web-site:

- www.nationalmerit.org



Questions and Answers