

Advanced Placement Courses and Tests

The advanced Placement (AP) program is sponsored by the College Board, a non-profit organization based in New York City. The College Board, which has run the AP program since 1955, offers standardized courses to high school students that are generally recognized to be equivalent to undergraduate **courses** in college. Participating Colleges and Universities grant credit to students who obtain a minimum score on the exams to qualify.

The AP program currently offers more than 30 courses across multiple subject areas. 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.

The AP examinations are administered each year in May and represent the culmination of college-level work in a given discipline in a secondary school setting. Beginning of 2011, the AP administration changed the way that AP exams are scored. Total scores on the multiple-choice section are now based on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are no longer deducted for incorrect answers and, as always, no points will be awarded for unanswered questions.

AP tests are scored on a 1 – 5 scale as follows:

- 5 – Extremely well qualified
- 4 – Well qualified
- 3 – Qualified
- 2 – Possibly qualified
- 1 – No recommendation

With the new grading scale, many of the colleges and universities have changed the minimum scores accepted to a 4 or 5, in order to obtain college credit.

It is important to check with the specific institution for its AP credit policy.

Some of the benefits of successful completion of AP coursework are as follows:

1. Preparation for rigorous college coursework
2. Obtain college credit for entry level courses, therefore, saving on tuition dollars.
3. Demonstrate to college admissions that the AP student is able to successfully complete college coursework.

4. Qualify for additional scholarships, both at the institutional and private company levels.

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