



AP[®]

An Introduction to the Advanced Placement[®] Program

Burnaby Mountain Secondary



February 2023



Welcome

Burnaby Mountain is committed to every student's success. We believe access to college-level studies such as Advanced Placement[®] (AP[®]) plays an important role in that success.

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What Are Advanced Placement Courses?



The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school.
- Courses reflect what's taught in introductory college courses.
- Students take AP Exams at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.
- Students can typically earn college credit and/or placement into honors or advanced courses when they score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

Our AP Courses

- **Arts:**
 - Art History
 - Music Theory
- **English and World Languages:**
 - English Literature and Composition
 - Chinese Language and Culture
- **History and Social Sciences:**
 - Human Geography
 - Macroeconomics & Microeconomics
 - Psychology
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:**
 - Calculus AB
 - Computer Science A
 - Computer Science Principles
 - Statistics
- **Sciences:**
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics 1: Algebra-Based
 - Physics 2: Algebra-Based



AP at Burnaby Mountain

- This year, we are offering 16 AP courses during course selection
- We currently have about 150 students registered in an AP course.
- Last year in 2022, 202 AP exams were written.
 - 87% of students scored a 3 or higher
 - 36 AP scholars with an average score of 4.61



Benefits of Taking AP

About the AP Experience

- Research shows that when students are given **access to advanced coursework** opportunities, they:
 - Work harder.
 - Engage more in school.
 - Have fewer absences/suspensions.
 - Graduate at higher rates.

(EdTrust, 2019)

“It’s a good learning experience, no matter what the outcome is.”

— Ny’Asia, AP Student

“The AP credits I received allowed me to skip straight to higher-level, more demanding courses in my major.”

— Tyler V., University of Washington

A Head Start in High School

Research consistently shows that AP students are **better prepared** for college and university than students who don't take AP. They're more likely to enroll and stay in post-secondary programs, do well in their classes, and graduate in four years.



Get a Taste of College/University

Get familiar with college-level work—and boost your confidence by tackling it.



Develop College Skills

Time management, critical thinking, scholarly writing—AP courses help you hone skills you'll need



Discover Your Passion

Studying a subject in depth could give you new insights and even put you on the path to a career.

An Edge in Post-Secondary

Taking AP courses in high school could give you an advantage in your post-secondary program.



Earn College Credit

Your AP score could earn you college or university credits before you even set foot on campus.



Stand Out to Colleges

AP on your high school transcript shows colleges you've tackled college-level work.



Placement in Advanced Courses

Your AP score can let you skip introductory courses in college or university.



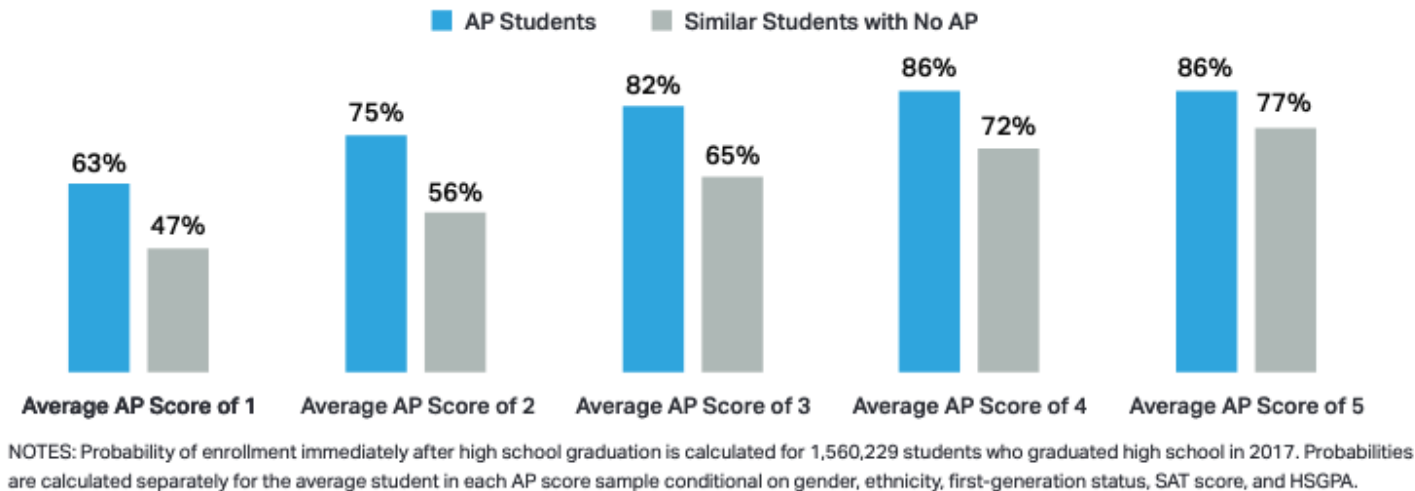
Save Money and Time

Earning credit or placement can free up time on your schedule or even let you graduate early.

New Findings on the AP Experience

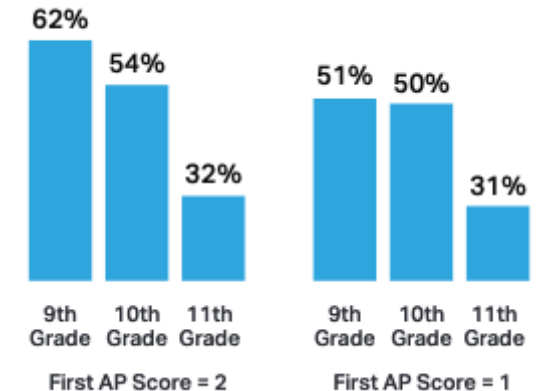
Regardless of the score, completing an AP Exam has benefits.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROBABILITIES, BY AVERAGE AP SCORE



AP students, including those with average scores of 1 or 2, are more likely to enroll in a four-year college compared to academically similar students who did not take AP in high school.

PERCENTAGE EARNING A HIGHER SCORE ON A SUBSEQUENT AP EXAM

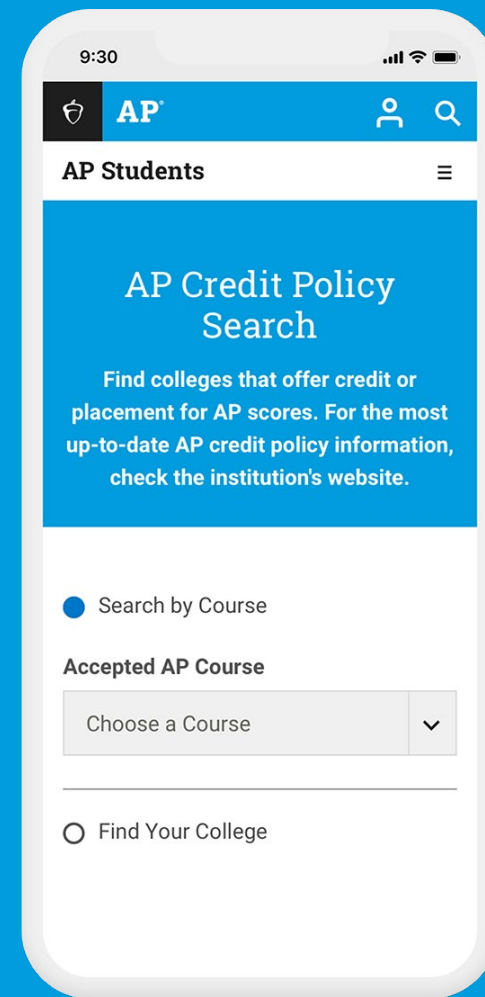


Many students who first earn an AP Exam score of 1 or 2 will then earn a higher score on the subsequent AP Exams they take.

Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP credit and placement.

- SFU:
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/admission/admission-requirements/advanced-placement.html>
- UBC:
<https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/requirements/advanced-placement/>
- For US colleges:
collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy



Credit vs. Placement

- **Credit**

- Many colleges offer credit for AP scores.
- Example—a student earns a 4 on their AP Biology Exam, and the college grants 8 credits for that score. That means the student has earned 8 credits before taking their first class there.

- **Placement**

- Many colleges recognize that AP scores demonstrate knowledge of material in certain courses and let students skip those courses.
- These could be introductory courses required in your major, or core courses the college requires all its students to take.

- In some cases, students can get both credit and placement for a qualifying score.

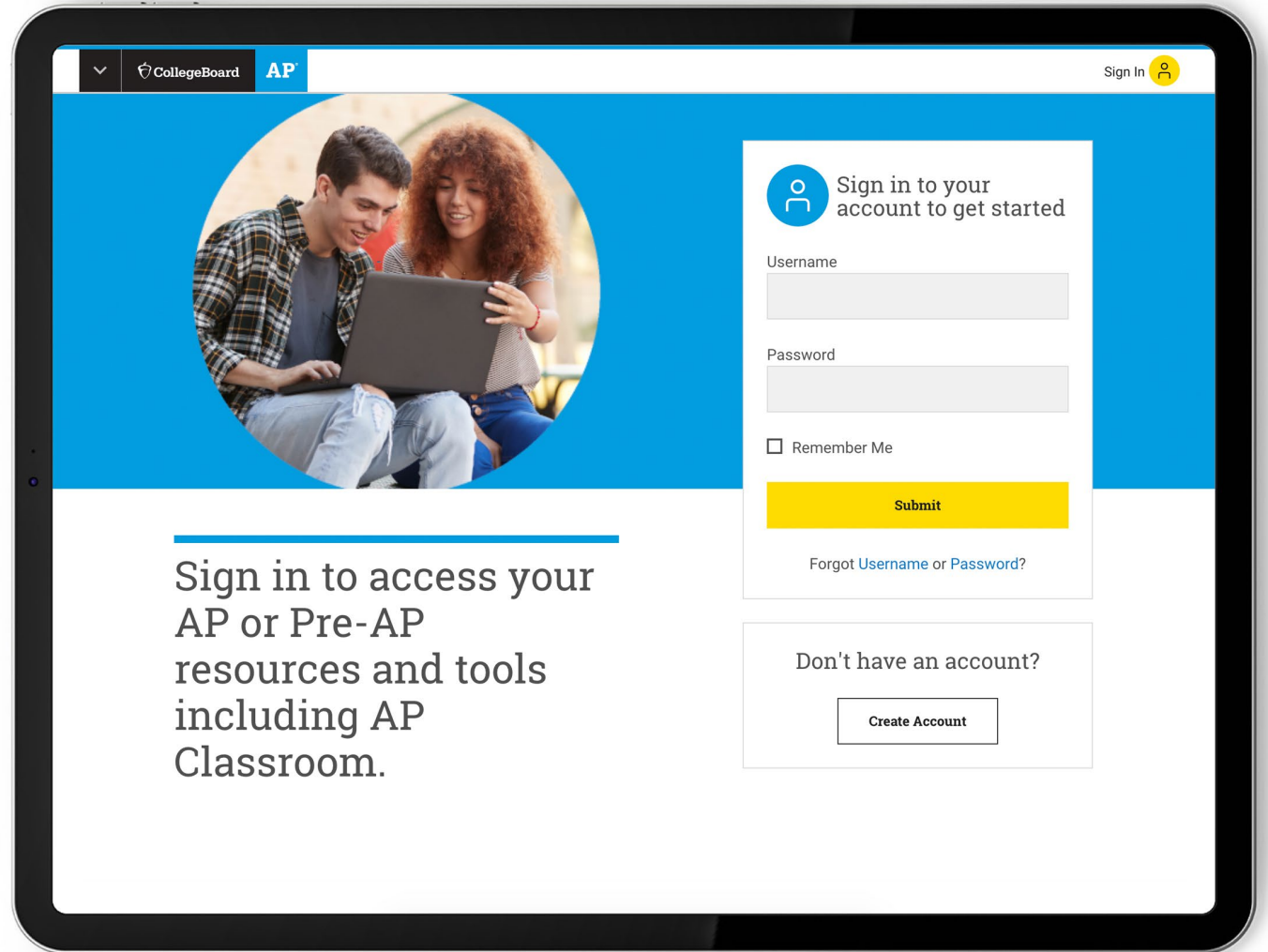


Resources and Supports for Student Learning

Sign In to Access AP Resources

myap.collegeboard.org

- AP Classroom is an online resource that helps students improve their performance all year long.
- It's mobile friendly, so students can access it anytime, anywhere, once they've joined the class online.
- AP Classroom includes:
 - AP Daily Videos
 - Practice Questions
 - Personal Progress Checks
 - Progress Dashboard



CollegeBoard AP Sign In

Sign in to your account to get started

Username

Password

☐ Remember Me

Submit

[Forgot Username or Password?](#)

Don't have an account?

Create Account

Sign in to access your AP or Pre-AP resources and tools including AP Classroom.



AP Exams



About AP Exams

- Standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course
- Administered worldwide every year in May
- Most AP Exams are 2–3 hours long.
 - The first part of the exam usually consists of multiple-choice questions.
 - The second part of the exam usually consists of free-response questions.
 - Some exams have a different format (e.g., AP Music)
- Created and scored by teams of AP teachers and college professors
- Cost in Burnaby: \$145 per exam



The Reality of AP

Myths and Facts About AP

Myth #1 – AP courses are for students who always get good grades.

Reality – You don't need to be top of your class to be an AP student, but you'll want to be prepared for the AP course you choose. AP courses ask that you come willing to do your best work.

Myth #4 – Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.

Reality – Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically. You'll likely improve your academic abilities and do better in your other courses too!

Myth #2 – AP courses are too hard and stressful.

Reality – AP classes can be challenging, but that doesn't mean you're not up to the task. If you're willing to work hard and if you're prepared academically, you should be able to succeed in an AP course.

Myth #5 – I'm not sure AP is for me. How do I know if I'm ready?

Reality – If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself—talk to a teacher or counselor.

Myth #3 – I don't think I'll score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.

Reality – Many colleges grant credit, placement, or both based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

Myth #6 – The final step in your AP journey is taking the AP Exam.

Reality – Every year that you take AP Exams, you can send one score report for free to the college, university, or scholarship organization of your choice. Be sure to take this important last step.



Next Steps

- Decide which AP courses are right for you:
 - What subjects do you enjoy most?
 - Which subjects do you excel in?
 - Have you completed the course prerequisites?
- Talk to your teachers and counselor.
- Talk to other students who have taken AP courses.
- Think about balance: don't take too many AP courses at once! Spread them out over 2 years if you can.
- Deadline to register for AP courses for 2023-24 school year: End of course selection (February 17)



Planning Grade 11 and 12

Courses you can take in grade 11:

- AP Statistics (after English 10 and Math 10)
- AP Psychology
- AP Human Geography
- AP Macroeconomics and Microeconomics
- AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Physics 1 (Algebra-based)
- AP Music Theory
- AP Chinese Language and Culture (be fluent in Mandarin)
- AP Art History

Courses you will most likely take in grade 12:

- AP Biology (after Life Sciences 11 Enriched)
- AP Chemistry (after Chemistry 11 Enriched)
- AP Physics 2 (after AP Physics 1)
- AP Calculus AB (after doing well in Pre-Calculus 12)
- AP English Literature and Composition (after English 11)



Questions and Answers