



The AP[®] Program

at United Independent School District



The Basics

Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) **courses** are college-level courses offered in high school. AP courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses

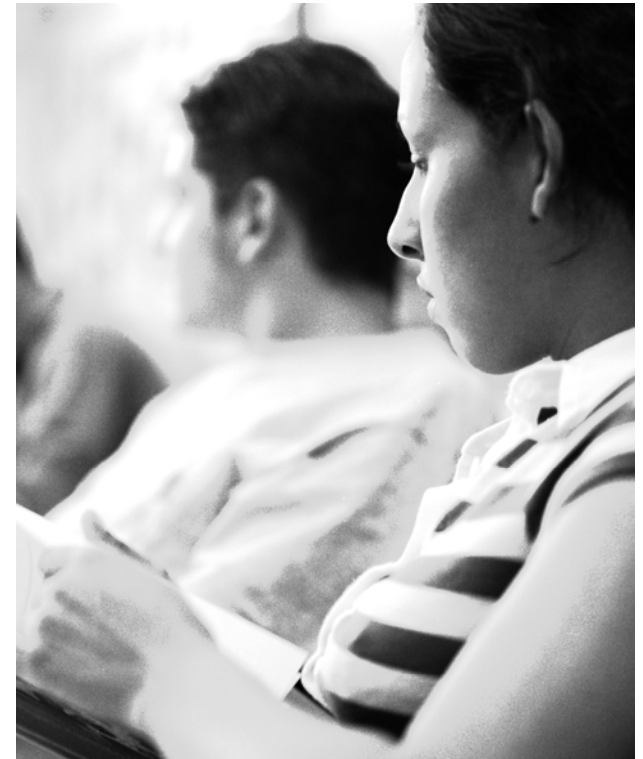
At the end of course, students take **AP Exams**—standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered college-level course work.

Students who do well on AP Exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

The Benefits of AP Courses

AP courses can be challenging, but it's work that pays off.

- AP courses are often the most interesting and fulfilling courses a student takes in high school.
- AP teachers are among the most prepared, dedicated, and inspiring teachers at their schools.
- Students develop confidence, and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college.



AP and College Admission

- Colleges rank “Grades in college prep courses” and “Strength of curriculum” as the **top two factors** in the admission decision.*
- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student’s AP experience **favorably impacts** admission decisions.**

“We look favorably on students who have taken AP courses. The presence of AP courses is a sign that a student has chosen to challenge him/herself.”
—Admission Officer

AP Courses Offered by Our District:

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Spanish Language and Composition
- AP Spanish Literature and Composition
- AP Government and Politics: United States
- AP United States History
- AP Macroeconomics

AP Courses Offered by Our District:

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics B
- AP Physics C: Mechanics

AP Courses Offered by Our District:

- AP Studio Art: Drawing [currently only at AHS]
- AP Computer Science [currently under review for audit approval at UHS]

What Are AP Courses Like?

AP courses typically demand more of students than regular or honors courses.

- Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typical high school classes.
- More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments and homework.
- AP teachers expect their students to think critically, analyze and synthesize facts and data, weigh competing perspectives, and write clearly and persuasively.

AP Exams

- AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates each May.
- Exams usually last around three hours.
- Each AP Exam contains:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response questions (essay, problem-solving, oral response)



AP Exam Fees

- AP Exam fee for 2011 is \$87 per exam.
- For students with financial need, the College Board provides a \$22 per exam fee reduction.
- In Texas, additional federal and/or state funding provide these additional fee subsidies:

\$30.00 fee subsidy for all students-Final Cost: \$57.00

Free and Reduced Lunch Program: Additional \$18.00 subsidy (upon approval of state funding); \$22.00 College Board Fee Waiver; \$8.00 Local Fee Waiver-Final Cost : \$8.00

Eligible UISD students pay \$14.00 per exam (unused exam fee of \$13.00+\$1.00 administrative fee)

Why Take AP Exams?

More than 3,200 colleges and universities offer credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP Exam scores. This includes more than **90 percent** of four-year U.S. colleges and universities.

- Credit:** Students earn points toward their college degrees
- Advanced placement:** Students can skip introductory courses, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.

AP Credit Expands Students' Options

College credit earned through AP Exams allows students to move into upper-level college courses sooner, pursue a double major, and gain time to study and travel abroad.

“As a freshman, I was able to skip general education requirements and head straight into the higher-level classes I wanted to take. Taking AP Exams literally saved me semesters of time.”—Brent Wiese, University of Iowa



AP Credit Policy Information

Information about AP credit and placement policies at many colleges and universities is available at www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy.

1. Search by college or university name or by letter of the alphabet
2. You will see two things for each school:
 - A link to the college's own Web page that details its AP credit and placement policies.
 - A statement by the college or university about its AP policy.

The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FOR STUDENTS | FOR PARENTS | FOR PROFESSIONALS', 'About Us | Store | Help | En Español', and a search box. Below this is the CollegeBoard logo and a 'for Students' button. A horizontal menu contains five categories: 'College Board Tests', 'Plan for College', 'Find a College', 'Apply to College', and 'Pay for College'. The main content area is titled 'AP®' and includes a sidebar with links: 'About AP', 'Registering', 'Preparing', 'Calendar & Fees', 'Exam Day', 'Exam Grades', 'Exam Security', 'Contact Us', and 'Subjects'. The main content area is titled 'AP Credit Policy Info' and 'Advanced Placement Program'. It contains the text: 'Find colleges and universities with AP credit policy information:' followed by an alphabetical list 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'. Below this is a 'School Name:' input field with a 'Go' button. A note states: '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.' On the right side, there is a box for 'AP International Recognition' with the text: 'For information on the recognition of AP at universities outside the United States.' and a link: 'Go to AP International Recognition'.

AP Helps Students Graduate on Time...

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time.

- Only **one in four** students who enter college complete a bachelor's degree in four years.*
- A recent study** showed that students taking AP courses and exams were **much more likely** to earn a college degree in four years.

For example, AP English Literature students had four-year college graduation rates that were **62% higher** than students that had not taken AP English Literature.

... and Save Money

- Students who take five years or more to graduate can spend **\$8,000-\$27,000 for each additional year in college.**
 - The typical college cost per year for a four-year public institution is \$8,142 for in-state students and \$19,670 for out-of-state students.*
 - Students attending private institutions might expect to incur \$27,389 for each additional year it takes to earn a bachelor's degree.*

Rising Costs of College Education

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Cost of One 3 Hour Course at TAMIU | \$767.50 |
| AP Exam Fee after state subsidy | \$57.00 |
| SAVINGS PER 3 HOUR COURSE | \$710.50 |
| | |
| Cost of 12 Hours at TAMIU (4 Classes) | \$2,542.65 |
| AP Exam Fees (4 Exams) | \$228.00 |
| SAVINGS FOR 4 COURSES | \$2,314.65 |
| Source: Texas Resident Undergraduate Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 TAMIU Tuition and Fee Schedule | |



Additional Incentive at UISD

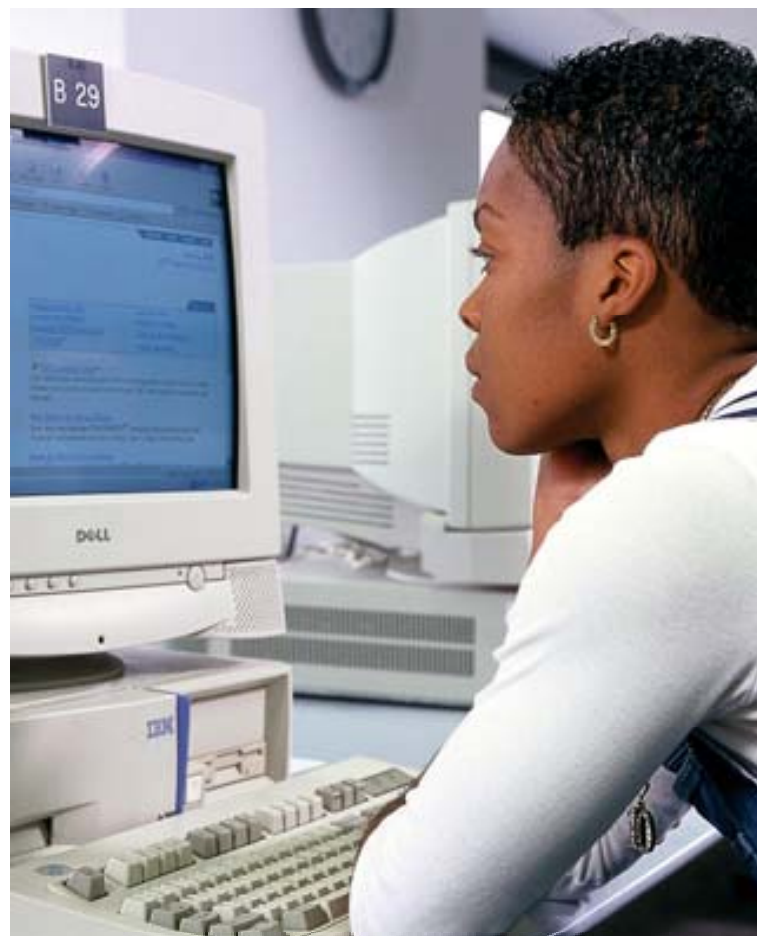
- Students receiving qualifying scores of 3, 4, or 5 may receive reimbursement of exam fees paid.
- Parent must submit a letter requesting reimbursement along with a W-9 tax form, a copy of exam scores, and a copy of receipt showing fees paid to the campus AP Coordinator (who forwards to the GT/AA Department) on or before Dec. 17.

*First come-first serve basis until funds are exhausted and contingent upon availability of funds

AP Boosts Eligibility for Scholarships

31% of colleges and universities consider a student's AP experience when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.*

“Having the AP Exam score can make the difference when it comes down to awarding precious scholarship dollars.”
—Edwina Harris Hamby, former Dean of Admission, Fisk University



AP and College Success

A recent study* showed that students who earned a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Exam had **higher first-year college grade point averages** and were **more likely to return for the second year of college** than non-AP students of similar ability.

“One of the best standard predictors of academic success at Harvard is performance on Advanced Placement Examinations.”

—William Fitzsimmons,
Dean of Admissions &
Financial Aid, Harvard
University

Learn More

- See Lisa M. Dunn-Flores for more information about the AP program at United ISD.
- Elvira Gaona, AHS AP Campus Coordinator
- Carmen Gamez, LBJHS AP Campus Coordinator
- Angelica Sanchez, UHS AP Campus Coordinator
- Priscilla Muñoz, USHS AP Campus Coordinator
- For more information about AP courses and exams visit www.collegeboard.com/apstudents.