

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

What is AP?

- The Advanced Placement Program (AP) is a collaborative effort between students, dedicated teachers, and committed high schools, colleges, and universities. Since its inception in 1955, the Program has allowed millions of students to take college-level courses and exams and to earn college credit or placement while still in high school.
- AP courses are available in a wide variety of subject areas. Each course is developed by a committee of college faculty and AP teachers and covers the information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course.
- Each AP course has a corresponding exam that is administered in May. Based on their performance on the AP exam, students have the opportunity to earn credit or placement at most of the nation's colleges and universities. In Texas, public colleges must award credit for a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam. At private and out-of-state universities, credit is awarded at the discretion of the college.

Why should I take an AP course?

- Taking an AP course will allow you to study subjects in greater depth and detail than in academic classes and will give you the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school.
- Taking AP courses and exams can improve your chances of getting into your college of choice and can even help you minimize the cost of your overall college education.
- Taking AP courses help you develop the writing skills, problem solving skills, and time management skills necessary to be successful in college.

What are the requirements to take an AP course?

- There are no requirements that students must meet to be eligible to take an AP course. Any student may take an AP course as long as she/he has met the general prerequisites for the course.

How does taking an AP course help with college admission?

- Colleges and universities value students who take the most challenging courses available at their school – for many schools, AP courses are the most advanced courses offered.
- In fact, 85% of selective institutions report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions.
- AP courses on your transcript show colleges that you are intellectually curious, unafraid of hard work, and capable of learning the knowledge and skills expected of college students.

How does taking an AP course impact my GPA?

- AP courses receive a higher multiplier than other types of classes for class rank purposes. The multiplier for AP courses is 1.3.
- AP courses also receive a higher weight on the 5.0 GPA scale used for college and scholarship applications.

How do I enroll in an AP course?

- All you have to do is talk to your counselor about the AP courses that are available at Foster and choose the one that is right for you.

Can I get out of an AP course if it is too hard?

- Yes, you can do a level change in the first semester any time before the 1st Friday after the end of the first six weeks. In the second semester, a level change can be done any time before the 1st Friday after the end of the fourth six weeks.

The AP program is governed by the College Board. More information can be found at www.collegeboard.org.

AP COURSES OFFERED AT FOSTER HIGH SCHOOL

SUBJECT/AP COURSES	PREREQUISITES	GRADES COURSES MOST LIKELY TAKEN IN
History and Social Science:		
Psychology	None	9 th through 12 th
Human Geography	None	9 th through 10 th
World History	None	9 th through 10 th
United States History	World Geography, World History, or Human Geography	10 th through 12 th
European History	None	10 th through 12 th
United States Government and Politics	US History	11 th through 12 th
Macroeconomics	US History	11 th through 12 th
English:		
Language/Composition (Eng III)	English II	11 th
Literature/Composition (Eng IV)	English III	12 th
Mathematics:		
Statistics	Geometry and Algebra 2	10 th through 12 th
Calculus AB	Pre-Calculus	11 th through 12 th
Calculus BC	Pre-Calculus	11 th through 12 th
Science:		
Biology 2	Chemistry (concurrent)	10 th through 12 th
Chemistry 2	Chemistry and Algebra 2 (concurrent)	10 th through 12 th
Environmental Science	Algebra 1, Physics, or Chemistry	10 th through 12 th
Physics C: Mechanical	Physics and Calculus (concurrent)	11 th through 12 th
Computer Science:		
Computer Science Principles	None	9 th through 12 th
Computer Science A	Computer Science Principles AP	10 th through 12 th
World Languages:		
Spanish Language (Spanish IV)	Spanish III	11 th through 12 th
Spanish Literature (Spanish V)	Spanish IV	11 th through 12 th
French Language (French IV)	French III	11 th through 12 th
Arts:		
Art History	None	10 th through 12 th
Art IV Drawing Portfolio	Art III Drawing	11 th through 12 th
Music Theory	One high school music course	10 th through 12 th
Capstone:		
Seminar	English II	11 th through 12 th
Research	AP Seminar	12 th