

## Frequently Asked Questions about AP

### *What is Advanced Placement (AP)?*

- is a challenging rigorous study in **one or more** academic, fine and performing arts, languages, and computer science subjects
- have the experience of a first year university student while in high school
- through grades 10 -12, you study the Alberta curriculum and the AP curriculum
- gain the knowledge, skills, and strategies to successfully write the Advanced Placement Examination(s) in May

### *Why take an AP class?*

- earn advanced credit and/or advanced placement (skip introductory courses) at colleges and universities if you do well on the AP Exam for a subject (not all universities recognize AP; check the AP website and the websites of universities in which you are interested)
- develop skills while in high school to get the most out of university or college even if you do not wish to skip an introductory class in university
- AP classes based on your interests and strengths--there is flexibility to take AP in one or more subject areas
- study subjects you are passionate about with more depth and breadth

### *How do I know if I should take AP in one or more subjects?*

The Advanced Placement College Board suggests that you:

- “start with your interests – what do you enjoy? What do you want to learn more about
- are willing to work hard and persist when a task is difficult
- have “curiosity, creativity and commitment”
- “... 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,” and are willing to do your best work

Taken from: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/what-it-takes>

- talk to a counselor, AP coordinator, or a teacher at your designated AP school about the subjects that interest you and ask about your options for learning the skills to help you succeed

### *How will I be evaluated if I am in courses that prepare me to write the AP exam?*

- Marks for courses that appear on Alberta Education transcripts are based on standards for the Alberta Education Programs of Studies: your work is evaluated the same way as it is for students in regular classes

### *Do I still have to write Diploma Exams and how are AP courses recognized?*

- If you are in Advanced Placement courses, **you must write the Alberta Diploma Exams to obtain your high school Diploma**
- Alberta Education does not recognize AP courses on their official student transcripts; for example, Biology 30 (AP) appears as Biology 30 on your transcript
- AP Exams are administered by the AP College Board in May and this is the organization that will provide you with official documentation to use with post- secondary institutions regarding credit for first year courses. You have the choice whether to use the College Board transcripts in addition to your Alberta Education transcripts
- If you are taking several AP courses, your AP coordinator will assist you with scheduling, and you may write some exams in your grade 11 year so that you are not overloaded with exams in grade 12

