

Advanced Placement Exams

Background

The College Board administers the Advanced Placement Exams.

Following is content from the College Board Advanced Placement website:

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ap/about>

Fast facts about AP Exams

- In 2008, 2.7 million exams were taken by 1.6 million students at over 17,000 high schools.
- The AP Program offers 37 courses and exams.
- The majority of U.S. high schools currently participate in the AP Program.
- Except for the three Studio Art exams, which are portfolio assessments, AP Exams contain multiple-choice questions and a free-response section.
- Because the College Board is committed to providing access to AP Exams to all students—including homeschooled students and students whose schools do not offer AP—students do not have to take an AP course before taking an AP Exam.
- The AP Exam fee is \$86. The College Board provides a \$22 [fee reduction](#) for qualifying low-income students. Most states use federal and/or state funds to cover part or all of the remaining exam fee for low-income students.
- More than 90 percent of four-year U.S. colleges and universities grant [credit or placement](#) for qualifying AP Exam grades.

Grading the AP exam

AP Exam grades are reported on a 5-point scale as follows:

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

In general, the AP composite score cutpoints are set so that the lowest composite score for an AP grade of 5 is equivalent to the average score for college students earning grades of A. Similarly, the lowest composite scores for AP grades of 4, 3, and 2 are equivalent to the average scores for students with college grades of B, C, and D, respectively.

Students who earn AP Exam grades of 3 or above are generally considered to be qualified to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses due to the fact that their AP Exam grades are equivalent to a college course grade of "middle C" or above. However, the awarding

of credit and placement is determined by each college or university and students should check with the institution to verify its AP credit and placement policies.

Types of Credit that Institutions can award for Advanced Placement Exams

Institutions determine what type of credit, if any, they will award for passed Advanced Placement exams. The types of credit are as follows:

Unit Credit: Units awarded toward degree for a passed AP exam.

General Education Credit: General Education requirement fulfilled for a passed AP exam.

Course Credit: Specific course credit awarded for a passed AP exam.

Each of these types of credit is discrete. Additionally, the AP score required for credit may vary depending on the type of credit being awarded. This is at the discretion of the institution.