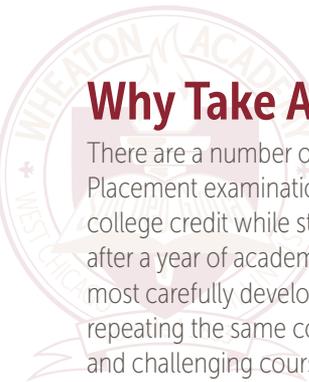




Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement is a great way for students to get ahead when entering college and prepare for that level of academic rigor.

This document explains the benefits of AP classes and the available courses offered to our students.

The logo for Wheaton Academy is a circular seal. It features a central figure, possibly a saint or scholar, surrounded by the text "WHEATON ACADEMY" at the top and "1862" at the bottom. The seal is rendered in a light, faded color.

Why Take AP Exams?

There are a number of reasons it makes sense for students to take an Advanced Placement examination at the end of an AP course. AP exams are taken to earn college credit while still in high school. These exams provide an opportunity, after a year of academic study, to find out how well a student does on one of the most carefully developed examinations he/she will encounter. Students can avoid repeating the same course material in college. Instead, they will be able to take new and challenging courses as an entering freshman.

Unlike most other placement tests, AP exams may award students college credit for their performance. When students receive college credit, a number of additional options may become available to them in college. They may:

- Enroll in courses in other disciplines without adding to their course load
- Enter honors programs
- Cut back on courses during a semester of heavy reading or lab work
- Facilitate the possibility of a double major
- Take graduate courses as an undergraduate
- Change majors without staying in college longer

College costs can be reduced. Students have been known to receive credit for as much as one year of college because they have received qualifying scores on multiple AP examinations. This can also mean starting a job and earning income a year earlier. Each college awards AP credit differently, so it is important to see what opportunities exist at your prospective college.

More typically, candidates take one or two AP exams, but this too can lead to a reduction in the usual four-year requirement, especially if combined with extra courses during the year or summer.

AP credit is probably the least expensive college credit a student can receive. Six semester hours of credit for an AP exam costing \$100 means each credit costs less than \$20. Similar per-semester-hour college tuition now costs from \$100 to more than \$1,000. Therefore, the savings may range from \$600 to more than \$6,000 for six credit hours.

AP examination scores are kept on file by The College Board; therefore students can bank their AP results and withdraw them easily at any time. If they transfer to another college, students will be glad their AP score is available. AP scores are so widely accepted, they may be easier to transfer than certain college courses.

Usually an AP exam is taken only once. Although a student may take the AP exam twice, it is most appropriate to take it at the end of the AP course when he/she is best prepared. Since an AP exam is offered only once a year, it is very important not to miss the opportunity to take it in May.

The AP Effect

Students involved in the AP Program often exhibit the following tendencies:

- Better prepared academically than students who do not take AP classes
- More likely to specialize in majors with tougher grading standards
- More likely to complete more course work
- More likely to take more college courses in the AP subjects
- More likely to be superior in terms of leadership and significant accomplishments
- More likely to graduate with a double major
- Twice as likely to go into advanced study: PhD programs, medicine, and law
- Their grades are a useful predictor of college GPA



Advanced Placement Award

College Board AP Scholar Awards:

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. (*Wheaton Academy had 48 AP Scholars in 2017.*)

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams with an average exam score of at least 3.25. (*Wheaton Academy had 23 AP Scholars with Honor in 2017.*)

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams with an average exam score of 3.5. (*Wheaton Academy had 21 AP Scholars with Distinction in 2017.*)

National AP Scholar

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. (*Wheaton Academy had 3 National AP Scholars in 2017.*)

2018-19 AP Course Offerings

AP English Language & Composition

AP English Literature & Composition

AP Studio Art: 2-D Design

AP Studio Art: Drawing

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics

AP Biology

AP Chemistry

AP Environmental Science

AP Physics C

AP Art History

AP Comparative Government/Politics

AP Economics (Macro/Micro)

AP Psychology

AP U.S. Government/Politics

AP U.S. History

AP World History

AP French Language & Composition

AP Spanish Language & Composition

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