



# What is AP?

January 7, 2019

Advancement Placement (AP) is a national program that provides secondary students with an opportunity to explore college level academics before enrolling in an institute of higher education. Students enrolled in AP courses explore college level content with the opportunity to earn college credit by performing successfully on a national exam in May. AP is a College Board program information can be found on [www.ap.collegeboard.org](http://www.ap.collegeboard.org)

While attending Seymour High School students are encouraged to participate in a rigorous course of study, which includes Advanced Placement (AP) courses. We use various indicators when discussing AP course registration. These indicators include AP Potential which is found on the PSAT online score report, the student's academic strengths, teacher recommendations and student/family desire.

Students who participate in AP courses and score a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam have the potential to earn college credit in many public and private universities. Students who have earned college credit prior to university registration are often provided preferential treatment when registering for courses and housing selection. These students may also earn enough college credits to graduate from the university early. A 3 credit course awarded through AP can save a student anywhere from \$569 to \$3135 per course. Some of our AP students who attend UCONN or moderately competitive colleges earned sophomore or 2nd semester freshmen status upon registration. This translates to 1 year or 1 semester cost savings! \$\$\$

Use the link to find research colleges AP credit policies,

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

The table below lists the AP/College level course offered at Seymour High School:

## English Department

AP Language and Composition

AP Literature and Composition

## Social Studies Department

AP American Government

AP U.S. History

AP European History

AP Psychology

## Math Department

AP Calculus

AP Probability & Statistics

## Science Department

AP Chemistry

AP Environmental Science

AP Biology

## Arts Department

AP Studio Drawing

## AP Philosophy

Seymour High School embraces high academic standards and provides rigorous academic experiences including a variety of Advanced Placement courses. Advanced Placement courses are introductory college classes that may place a high demand on time spent outside of the classroom which can impact an individual's ability to be successful elsewhere or to participate in extracurricular activities. When considering Advanced Placement (AP) courses, students and their parents need to consider a variety of factors including other obligations and the quality and quantity of family time that may be offset by the demands of AP courses. AP course workloads will be significantly different than those of other classes offered at Seymour High School.

It is not unlikely that students will struggle in AP courses. This may result in lower unweighted grades in that course. Therefore, students will receive a bonus multiplier of 1.2 for AP level courses which is applied to the overall weighted grade point average (GPA), which is utilized to determine class rank. For example, a grade of 80 is a 96 ( $1.2 \times 80$ ) when determining class rank.

For parents and students who are undecided; We encourage a calculated academic risk taking for students who have weighed all of the factors and who have demonstrated a will to persevere through personal inquiry into misunderstood topics, who seek extra help from their teachers and peers, who have a passion for the subject area, who are able to manage their time, who demonstrate integrity to themselves and others, who demonstrate a growth mindset (Carol Dweck) and who demonstrate grit (Angela Duckworth).

### **General AP Course Expectations:**

Students are required to take the AP exams for all AP courses. The exams are given over a two-week period in May. Students and parents will be responsible for paying the College Board the associated fee in order to take the AP exam. Students who fail to take the assessment will have their course changed from an AP to Honors level course and will be required to take a final exam, regardless of their overall average.

Students found to be a discipline problem (i.e. disruptive, insubordinate, refusal to complete tasks) may be removed from the AP class. A student / parent / teacher / administrator / counselor conference will be held before removal. AP fees will not be refunded.

Selection of students is based on their performance in prerequisite classes, entry exams, and a holistic view of their schedule and interests as outlined each of the department's AP philosophy and the course selection guide.

Typically, successful AP students are:

- task oriented;
- proficient readers;
- able to prioritize their time and maintain an organizational system;
- willing to seek help from teachers and outside sources as soon as problems arise; and
- experiencing little to no difficulty meeting the requirements of regular level courses, typically earning grades of A or B

<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Placement</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Commitment</b>
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The Seymour Public School District recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic courses and encourages students to graduate from high school with at least one AP or pre-college class as a foundation of college readiness. AP courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade- level academics and prepare them for success in future advanced academics. Students may require additional encouragement and support from both family and school to be successful in AP courses.

Below is SHS's five year summary to show you the success SHS test takers have had.

### **AP Five Year Summary Report Seymour High School**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total SHS AP testers	110	149	168	182	168
Number of exams	162	225	268	314	283
AP students with scores 3+	59	88	105	110	98
% of total AP students with scores 3+	53.6	59.1	62.5	60.4	58.3