



Hays Consolidated Independent School District

Thank you for challenging yourself through advanced academic coursework. The purpose of this Letter of Understanding is to provide information to parents and students and to facilitate students' success in academically challenging courses. Advanced and Advanced Placement (AP) courses stimulate and challenge students to perform at an advanced academic level. Therefore, advanced and AP coursework requires students to engage in more independent analytical reading and writing assignments, both inside and outside of the classroom. While advanced and AP courses are open to any student wishing to enroll, parents and students should consider the extra effort required of students who typically experience success in advanced and AP courses. The decision to enroll in advanced and AP courses ultimately rests with the parents and the students.

Advanced courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course. Students who enroll in advanced courses should expect to continue on into college-aligned coursework (Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and/or OnRamps Dual Enrollment) as they progress through high school.

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative endeavor between secondary schools, the College Board, and colleges and universities. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then gives them an opportunity to show what they have learned by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities often grant credit, placement, or both, to students who are successful in the course and on the AP exam. Students can find colleges with AP credit policies by visiting [AP Credit Policy Information](#).

The content and curricular goals of each AP discipline are outlined in an [AP Course Description](#) supplied by the College Board. AP courses are characterized by an immersion in college-level content, an accelerated pace, and a performance assessment at the synthesis and evaluative levels. Typically, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, and able to prioritize time effectively. The AP program prepares students for the future by introducing tools that will serve them well throughout their college career.

Students are encouraged to take advanced and AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of advanced and AP courses a student takes also varies with students' motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class. Advanced courses are rigorous and may require extra commitment and work.

Due to the rigor, high level of expectation and preparation time required in advanced and AP courses, students and parents must submit a signed letter of understanding at the start of the school year. (Please note that there may be other pieces of documentation required for Dual Credit classes through Austin Community College, ACC, and through the University of Texas (UT) for its OnRamps Dual Enrollment courses.)

Confirmation of receipt of this Letter of Understanding will be completed by electronic signature through the online student registration process for the 2023-24 school year.

General Course Expectations

- Successful completion of each advanced and AP course requires additional hours of individual study time outside of class on a regular basis.
- For a student whose grade average for the first semester is less than 70, a student-parent-teacher-counselor conference may be held to evaluate the advisability of the student remaining in the class.
- Students are encouraged to take the AP exam for every AP course in which they are enrolled during the 2024-25 school year. The exams are given over a two-week period in May. Hays CISD supplements the cost of AP exams. Students may also apply for additional financial assistance.
- Guidelines for grading shall be clearly communicated to students and parents. In accordance with grading guidelines, a student shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. (Board Policy EIA (Local))
- Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty may be subject to disciplinary and academic penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. (Board Policy EIA (Local))

Exit Policy/Process

- Attend a documented student/parent/teacher conference
- Obtain an Exit Conference Course Drop Form from the counseling office
- Attend a conference between student, parent/guardian, teacher, and principal or designee. If the request is approved, schedule changes will be subject to course availability. If a student transfers out of an advanced or AP class, the student's grades will directly transfer to the course into which the student enters if the course is a different level course of the same subject.

Student Agreement

In signing up for this advanced and/or AP course, I agree to organize my time and effort to successfully complete all work in this rigorous course. I have read the course description, and I agree to the college preparatory and college level requirements and expectations of the class. I understand that I may need to seek additional help from my teacher outside of class.

Parent or Guardian Agreement

I understand the expectations of this Advanced and/or AP course, and I agree to support and encourage my son/daughter in his/her endeavors in the course. I will notify the teacher of any concerns relating to the course or my student's progress. I understand that my son/daughter may need to seek additional help from the teacher outside of class.

Hays Consolidated Independent School District

Advanced Course List

6th Grade Advanced Math
7th Grade Advanced Math
8th Grade and 9th grade Algebra 1 Advanced
Geometry Advanced
Algebra II Advanced
Pre-Calculus Advanced

6th Grade English Language Arts Advanced
7th Grade English Language Arts Advanced
8th Grade English Language Arts Advanced
English I Advanced
English II Advanced

6th Grade Science Advanced
7th Grade Science Advanced
8th Grade Science Advanced
Biology 1 Advanced
Chemistry 1 Advanced

6th Grade World Cultures Advanced
7th Grade Texas History Advanced
8th Grade U.S. History Advanced
World Geography Advanced

French III Advanced
Spanish III Advanced

Hays Consolidated Independent School District

AP Course List

AP Pre-Calculus

AP Statistics

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP English Language and Composition

AP English Literature and Composition

AP Biology 2

AP Chemistry 2

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

AP Physics 2C: Electricity & Magnetism

AP Physics 2C: Mechanics

AP Environmental Science

AP Human Geography

AP World History

AP United States History

AP European History

AP United States Government & Politics

AP Macroeconomics

AP Comparative Government & Politics

AP Psychology

AP French IV: Language and Culture

AP Spanish IV: Language and Culture

AP Spanish V: Literature and Culture

AP Studio Art Drawing Portfolio

AP Studio Art/2-D Design Portfolio

AP Studio Art/3-D Design Portfolio

AP Art History

AP Music Theory

AP Computer Science A

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Research and AP Seminar (Capstone classes)