

Frequently Asked Questions about AP at Earl of March

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How can Advanced Placement courses benefit me?

Please see “**What are the advantages?**” on our main [AP webpage](#).

How do Advanced Placement courses work at Earl of March?

In Ontario, students follow the Ministry of Education curriculum. At Earl of March, we offer enriched versions of the Ontario curriculum courses to assist students in preparing for AP exams. At the completion of the course, students earn the Ontario course credit. To earn an AP first-year university credit, students may then choose to write a College Board AP examination, the results of which are *not* related to the student’s Ontario course grade. College Board AP examinations are written in May of each year.

What is the difference between AP and IB (International Baccalaureate)?

In essence, AP is a course choice, and students can choose which courses they wish to take in Advanced Placement based on their strengths and interests. IB is a two-year diploma program with specific course requirements across all subjects. The following websites offer discussions that may help with differentiating the two: [IB vs AP – University Admissions in Canada](#) & [AP vs. IB: A Practical Comparison](#). For more information about IB at the OCDSB, please see International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme under [Programs](#) on the OCDSB website.

Are AP courses “marked harder” than regular U courses?

No. Course work and exams are assessed according to the Ontario Curriculum standards in each subject, and College Board AP exam results do not affect the student’s Ontario course grade.

Do I have to take the AP exam? What if I take the exam and I don’t do well?

Many students choose the AP stream for the rich classroom experience rather than strictly for the university credit. Students who take AP-stream courses are *not* obliged to take the College Board AP exam. In all courses, students must take the Earl of March course exam at the end of the term. Students may then choose to write the College Board AP exam in May to earn a university-equivalency credit. Furthermore, AP exam results are disclosed to universities *only* if the student chooses to send them.

Do Canadian universities accept AP credits?

Yes, and most will accept several credits towards a degree program. The number and type of credits varies by university and program. **Most Canadian universities require an AP exam grade of 4 (out of a possible 5) to grant Advanced Standing for required and/or elective courses.** The College Board offers a search tool, but unfortunately it is not very good for Canadian universities:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies> and <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/ap-around-the-world>. You can verify your findings and get specific details by program by searching “**advanced standing**,” “**transfer credit**,” or “**advanced placement**” on individual universities’ Admissions webpages.

You can also check [this website](#) as a shortcut to the relevant pages in each university’s website, but be aware that this site is a) not official, b) not affiliated with OUAC, universities, or AP, and c) not recently updated.

How well do Earl of March students do on AP exams?

Exceptionally well! The AP College Board considers an exam successful if it receives a grade of 3 or higher out of a possible 5 levels. In the past five years, 92-98% of Earl of March students who took an AP exam received a grade of 3 or higher, compared to 79-80% in Ontario and 60-61% worldwide. Furthermore, many Earl students are awarded the prestigious designations of [AP Scholar](#), [AP Scholar with Honor](#), [AP Scholar with Distinction](#), and [AP National Scholar](#).

How do I apply for AP courses?

Earl of March students do not need to apply or register for the AP program before choosing courses. Advanced Placement courses begin in Grade 11 or 12, depending on the subject, which allows students to 'find their feet' in the junior grades before deciding what interests they might like to explore at a greater level of depth and challenge in the senior grades. We suggest that students consult with their teachers to see if Advanced Placement is a good fit for them.

To take Advanced Placement courses, students choose the AP version of the course (final letter R or H) when entering their course selections (see AP course codes [here](#)).

Do I have to take all my courses as AP courses?

No, Advanced Placement is a course option in certain subjects. You can choose which course(s) you wish to take as Advanced Placement courses.

Can I take an Earl of March AP exam if I have not taken the AP course?

Our Advanced Placement courses offer an enriching academic environment with specialist teachers who support students in achieving their goals. In order to best support our students, Earl of March AP exams are open **only to students enrolled in the associated Earl of March AP courses**.

In **rare** exceptional circumstances (for example, an unavoidable change of timetable that removes a previously-enrolled student from the R version of the course), students may consult with their guidance counsellor and the AP subject teacher about getting special permission to attend extracurricular preparation sessions, if offered, and write the exam along with the students taking the course.

Please note that choosing to take the non-AP version of a course, regardless of your reason, would not normally constitute an exceptional circumstance. If you would like to challenge an exam without having taken the Earl of March course, you may take it at a school that hosts “exam-only” exams (see the next question below for further information about writing at other schools).

I would like to take an AP exam that is not offered at Earl of March. What are my options?

Earl of March offers only the exams associated with our AP courses. Students who are interested in writing an exam not offered at Earl of March have the option of seeking out an AP exam center that offers “exam-only” exams, and making independent arrangements. Search the [AP Course Ledger](#) to find schools that offer AP courses in the subject of your choice, and contact the school to see if you can write the exam at their location. *Note that the registration deadline is early November, so start the process early.*

Some private schools will also host AP exams in subjects outside their course offerings (which does not show in the Course Ledger), so try contacting AP schools directly if you can not find your exam in the Course Ledger. You can also do a Web search for “AP exam center near me” and then look up the school in the Course Ledger to ensure that it is a registered AP school.

You can also use the Course Ledger to find authorized online providers of AP courses. Please note that the College Board does not offer online exams, so if you prepare for an exam online, make sure that you can find a place to write the exam in person.

Please note that for any of the above, Earl of March is not affiliated with any of these schools, does not have any knowledge of them, and does not endorse them in any way.

How do I register for AP exams?

Please see **AP Exams This Year** on the [Earl of March AP webpage](#).

How do I pay for AP exams?

If you are enrolled in an Earl of March AP course this year, the exam will appear in your School Cash Online about six weeks after the beginning of the course. If it does not appear, please [email Ms. Johnstone](#) with the following details:

- Use the Subject line **Please add me in School Cash Online**
- In your email:
 - give your full name and student number
 - give the course in which you are enrolled and your teacher's name
 - indicate specifically which exam(s) you would like added to School Cash Online
 - **confirm that you have already registered for the exam.** (Please note that belonging to the class and paying for the exam is **NOT** an exam registration; you must register with the College Board as per the instructions given in your class).

How do I get my AP exam scores?

Exam scores are released starting around July 5 each year. To access your scores, log in to your College Board account at apstudents.collegeboard.org. Please note that exam scores will NOT be sent directly either to you or to the school – you must log in to your College Board account to get them.

How do universities see my AP exam marks?

Once you have taken your exam(s) and received your results, you will log in to your account on the College Board website to send a Score Report to the institution(s) of your choice and request Advanced Standing credits.

Do universities know that I have taken AP courses?

The Ontario Student Transcript sent to universities shows only the first five characters of a course code (e.g. SCH4U). However, there is a place on the OUAC application to

indicate that you have taken AP courses and exams, and you can also include your exam results in the Document Upload section of the application.

I am not an Earl of March student. Can I take AP courses at Earl of March?

No, you must be enrolled as a Earl of March student to take courses at Earl of March.

I would like to transfer to Earl of March to take AP courses.

Unfortunately, since Earl of March has a zero transfer cap, Advanced Placement is not usually considered grounds for transfer. Generally, you must live in the Earl of March school catchment zone to attend Earl of March. For more information about OCDSB school registration, catchment zones, and transfers, please see the [Registration](#) page on the OCDSB website.

My school does not offer the AP exam(s) I wish to take, but I intend to prepare independently. Can I take my AP exam(s) at Earl of March?

No, Earl of March is not a testing centre and can not host external students. You can consult the [AP Course Ledger](#) to find schools near you that may be hosting AP exams, or do a web search for “AP exam center near me” and use the Course Ledger to verify that the school is a registered AP school.

You can also use the Course Ledger to find authorized online providers of AP courses. Please note that the College Board does not offer online exams, so if you prepare for an exam online, make sure that you can find a place to write the exam in person.

Further questions?

If your question was not answered here, please contact the Earl of March AP Coordinator, Ms. Johnstone, at laura.johnstone@ocdsb.ca.