Advanced Placement (AP) and College

Taking AP courses and exams may improve your chances of getting into college and help you minimize your college costs.

AP and College Admission

Colleges and universities value students who take the most challenging courses available at their school. AP courses on your transcript show colleges that you are intellectually curious, unafraid of hard work, and capable of learning the knowledge and skills expected of college students.

How AP Can Help You Save on Cost of College

You probably know that if you earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam, you may receive credit for the equivalent course or advanced standing in that subject area at some colleges and universities. Depending on which college you attend, this could mean thousands of dollars saved.

Here are some other ways that AP can help you save on college:

- Students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to graduate in four years. This means that the AP students who graduate on time save themselves and their families a lot of money in unnecessary college costs.
- AP could increase your eligibility for scholarships. Many colleges and universities, as well as private donors, consider a student's course rigor when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.
- Additionally, with a head start on your degree, you may have the flexibility to pursue a double major or study abroad.

So, How Does It All Work?

- The first thing to understand is that each college and university — not the College Board or the AP Program — makes its own decisions about awarding credit and placement. Most have a written policy spelling out things like the minimum required score to earn credit for a given AP Exam, the amount of credit awarded, and how credits are applied. You can review this information using the AP Credit Policy Search, but make sure to confirm it on the college's website since policies can change.
- To receive credit, you must request that the College Board send your official AP score report to the college of your choice, either at the time of testing or afterward through a score report request. Colleges will usually notify you during the summer, after receiving your scores, about any credit, placement and/or course exemptions you have earned. If you have questions about the status of your AP credit or placement, you should contact your college.