

Advanced Placement 2025-2026

Attached please find documentation about our 2025-2026 Advanced Placement course offerings. This package includes the following documents:

- 1) [Why AP?](#) A description of Advanced Placement
- 2) Advanced Placement at SSCPS: recommendations for enrollment and expectations of AP students
- 3) Advanced Placement course offerings for 2025-2026: includes prerequisites and homework expectations
- 4) Advanced Placement Contract (Complete using Google Forms)

Important dates:

Monday, March 24th: Advanced Placement meeting for students

Thursday, April 3rd: Advanced Placement contracts due

What is an Advanced Placement (AP) Course?

An AP course is comparable to a course taught at a college or university. AP courses are significantly more rigorous than high school college preparatory courses. In all AP courses, students learn how to think critically, read closely, and write clearly.

Committee members sponsored by the [College Board](#) put together a set of topics and objectives for each AP course. AP teachers at South Shore Charter Public School use these topics and objectives as a guideline for their curriculum. The [AP exams](#) administered during the first weeks of May test student mastery of the College Board objectives. If a student passes an AP exam, then he/she may [receive college credit](#) and/or be able to place out of an introductory course. Colleges differ in what scores are required for credit and what courses they will accept.

In order to be permitted to use the College Board's AP designation, all SSCPS AP teachers must submit syllabi for their courses, which are approved by the College Board. All of our AP teachers participate in AP professional development prior to teaching an AP course.

Should you take an AP course?

AP courses are more demanding than other college preparatory courses at SSCPS both in terms of content and time commitment. They move rapidly and cover a great deal of content. If you are a strong student in a particular subject area, then you will probably do well. Your current teachers can advise you. Colleges look favorably on students who succeed in AP courses, as success in these courses indicates that students can succeed doing college-level work. The presence of AP courses on a student's transcript indicates that a student took the most rigorous courses available.

The College Board has also compiled the following statistics:

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor's degree in four years or less.
- Students who do well on an AP exam are academically prepared to place out of a corresponding introductory college course and move on to the next higher-level course.
- Students who take an AP course, even those who score a 1 or a 2 on the exam, outperform their peers when they take an introductory course in the subject area at the college level.

Advanced Placement® (AP®) at South Shore Charter Public School

Goals of the program:

The AP program at SSCPS provides students with exposure to rigorous, college-level academics in a high school setting. AP courses aim to improve not only a student's knowledge of the relevant subject matter, but their time management skills, study habits, and close reading skills in preparation for the demands of a college curriculum.

Recommendations for enrollment:

AP courses place a high demand on students both in and out of the classroom. Students who meet the following qualifications are best prepared to meet those demands.

- Attendance rate of 90% or higher
- Class average of at least a B+ in courses in the AP subject area
- Experience with Honors level coursework
- Recommendation of their current teacher in the AP subject area

Students who do not meet the above qualifications will be considered on a case by case basis by a committee of the student's current teachers.

Expectations of AP students:

Students in AP courses are expected to:

- Commit for the entire year. Once enrolled in a course students may not withdraw unless approved by an administrator prior to the close of the first quarter.
- Complete all summer assignments.
- Maintain an attendance rate of 90% or higher.
- Keep up with class assignments and ask for help when needed.
- Take the relevant AP exam in May.
- Complete a contract signed by both themselves and a parent committing to the above.

Students who do not meet the above expectations may be dropped from the course or not receive an AP designation on their transcript.

Advanced Placement Courses 2025-2026

Course	Grade (s)	Instructor	Prerequisites	Homework to Expect
AP Language and Composition	11	Katie Cianelli	None	1 hour per night, 5 nights a week
AP Literature and Composition	12	Kathy Campbell	None	1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP U.S. History	11/12	Tom O'Connell	United States History I	1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP World History: Modern	10	Margaret Bulger	United States History I	1 hour per night, 5 nights a week
AP African American Studies	12	Nadeen Sullivan	United States History I	1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Calculus AB	11/12	Kim Williamson	AP Precalculus	7.5 hours per week
AP Calculus BC	12	Kim Williamson	AP Precalculus or AP Calc AB	7.5 hours per week
AP Statistics	11/12	Donika Darabus	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II, may be taken concurrently with Precalculus	1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Precalculus	11/12	Greg Roaf	Honors Algebra II	1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Biology	10-12	Jamie Allen	Biology and Chemistry (recommended)	1-1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Chemistry	11/12	Rowena Samuels	Chemistry (recommended) and Algebra II, may be taken concurrently with Algebra II	1-1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Physics	11/12	VHS	Geometry, may be taken concurrently with Algebra II	1-1.5 hours per night, 5 nights a week
AP Comp Sci Principles	11/12	TBD	Familiarity with Algebra	1 hour per night, 5 nights a week

*Keep in mind that the expectations for work outside of class listed above are guidelines. The workload will vary from week to week depending on the topics covered and will include long term assignments that require a significant time commitment. **All Advanced Placement courses require summer coursework.***



Advanced Placement® (AP®) Course Contract 2025-2026

Student Name: _____

AP Course

Selected: _____

A contract must be completed in order to take an Advanced Placement course. Enrollment is contingent on a student's current level of academic achievement including grades and testing. Refer to the Student Handbook for the goals of the program, recommendations for enrollment, and expectations of AP students.

AP Exam Requirement: Completion of the AP exam is an important component of each AP course. Enrollment in an AP course requires that the student take the AP exam. If the student named above does not take the AP exam for the subject class, the class credit earned for completion of the course will not be reflected on the transcript with an AP designation. If the student does not take the exam she/he is obligated to pay the exam fee. Currently the cost is \$98 per exam. Waivers are available for those who qualify.

Withdrawing from an AP Course: Students may withdraw from AP courses without penalty if the withdrawal is processed within the first quarter of the school year. AP students who withdraw from an AP course later in the year will have a WP (Withdrawal Pass) or a WF (Withdrawal Failure) recorded on their transcript. Student withdrawals may result in an inability to enroll in other replacement courses of choice as the schedule is built around initial student course selections. Students may be required to make significant schedule changes to accommodate the AP course withdrawal.

Academic Credit for AP Courses: SSCPS will grant AP level credit to students who successfully complete the required coursework and take the related AP exam. Any student who passes an AP class but does not take the AP exam or violates the AP test policy will not have the AP designation for the course on their transcript.

(over)

Advanced Placement Course Commitment

Student Commitment	Parent/Guardian Commitment
As a student enrolled in this course, I agree to: ● Commit for the entire year ● Complete the summer work as assigned ● Be prepared for class each day ● Complete assignments by the due dates ● Attend class punctually and regularly ● For Seniors, continue to attend class once Senior Project begins ● Strive for a higher level of learning at all times ● Ask for help when I need assistance in understanding assignments and successfully completing them ● Participate in extra help before school and after school as needed ● Take the appropriate AP exam in May (approximately \$98 per AP exam)	As the parent/guardian of a student enrolled in this course I agree to: ● Support my child's completion of the summer work ● Encourage my child to be prepared for class each day, complete assignments by their due dates, and be on time to class ● Make sure that my child is not absent unnecessarily ● Help my child get to and from school for before school or after school help when it is necessary ● Have my child take the appropriate AP exam in May (approximately \$98 per AP exam)

The signatures below verify that the course requirements have been explained to the student, and he/she understands the expectations of a college level course.

I understand that an AP course will be challenging and that initial grades may not reflect later grades in the course. I understand that if I violate any College Board test policy, including the cell phone policy, by bringing a cell phone into the exam room or using a cell phone during the break, the phone will be confiscated and accessed, I will lose AP credit, my exam will be canceled, and I will be obligated to pay for the exam. **I understand that if I do not adhere to the above conditions and requirements, AP credit may not be awarded for this course.**

Student Signature: _____

I support my child's decision and I understand the ramifications of this selection.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____