

The Advanced Placement Program at Ashland High School

The **Advanced Placement Program** is a group of classes offered in high schools but taught at a college level. An AP class represents an entry year college class. The AP curriculum follows national standards established by the College Board (www.collegeboard.com). All of our AP courses are approved by the College Board.

At the end of an AP class, students may choose to take the AP Exam for that course. The Exams are given during the first two weeks of May. The AP Exam, usually a combination of multiple choice and extended response questions, is scored on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). If students score high enough, they may receive college credit hours, may skip the introductory college course, or both. Over 4000 colleges recognize the AP Program and grant some type of credit to students who score a 3 or above.

The **cost** of an AP Exam: Our district provides funding. There is no cost to our students.

Some benefits of taking an AP course:

1. Students could receive a number of credit hours prior to college.
2. Students show colleges a willingness to be pushed academically. Some universities consider the number of AP courses taken by a student in their admission consideration.
3. If a student transfers colleges later, there is no question about material covered, and credits usually will transfer.
4. Courses are taught at a college level at the high school, with high demands and expectations. Through the experience students gain an appreciation of what is expected of them in college. College Board research shows that AP students have a significantly higher rate of graduating college in 5 years than non-AP students.
5. Students sharpen writing and problem-solving skills, learn to read college level texts, and improve study skills. Our AP teachers are devoted to teaching skills useful for college success.

AP Courses offered at AHS:

Full Year, One Period

English	12 th
(two test options: Literature/Composition and/or Language/Composition)	
Calculus A and B	11 th or 12 th
Statistics	11 th or 12 th
US Government and Politics	11 th or 12 th
History	11 th or 12 th
Environmental Science	11 th or 12 th

Full Year, Two Periods

Biology	11 th or 12 th
Chemistry	11 th or 12 th

AP at AHS last year:

Students enrolled: **158**

AHS 3+ score: **79%**

Ohio 3+ score: **61%**

Student Testimonials from Mrs. Oberholtzer's AP Statistics Class:

It's a good class to take in the sense that it is more applicable to the real world and future classes than other math classes at the high school. (Mrs. O. adds that all your math classes are applicable but you have to learn the skills first!)

Taking stats was a great decision for me for continuing on in mathematics courses. While some of the concepts may be hard to grasp, you learn many skills and problem-solving tips that can be applied to many other classes. There isn't too much homework either. (Mrs. O. notes that this class does not replace a precalculus course. There is no math ACT prep, etc.)

AP Stats is a slightly more independent class which has been very helpful for getting used to doing things on my own. There is also a lot of practice for the AP exam at the end of the year and I have heard that most people do well on the AP exam. (Mrs. O. adds that last year about 80% passed the AP Stats exam and earned college credit!)

Stats is an easy class with real world application which keeps it very interesting. It also lets you know if you have an interest in that job field. (Mrs. O. adds that it is a good class for prospective business majors.)

There is a lot of writing and you have to take the time to understand what you are doing. Fun class!

A Texas study highlights the benefits to students who take AP courses. Even those who took an AP Exam, but did not pass, still showed a distinct advantage with future college success. (2005, reevaluated in 2009)

In November of 2014, Ashland High School was recognized for our dedication to our students and the AP Program:

Ashland High School is one of 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams

AP's Impact on Texas Students

Percent of Texas high school students receiving bachelor's degrees from Texas colleges and universities within five years of graduation:

	Passed an AP Exam in High School	Took, Did Not Pass AP Exam	Did Not Take AP Exam
Anglo (47,647 students)	57%	43%	22%
Hispanic (19,868 students)	47%	26%	8%
African American (7,813 students)	42%	36%	11%
Low-Income (22,028 students)	40%	24%	7%
Total (78,079 students)	57%	37%	17%

Source: National Center for Educational Accountability