



# The AP<sup>®</sup> Program

at Lone Star High School

# The Basics

Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) **courses** are college-level courses offered in high school. AP courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses

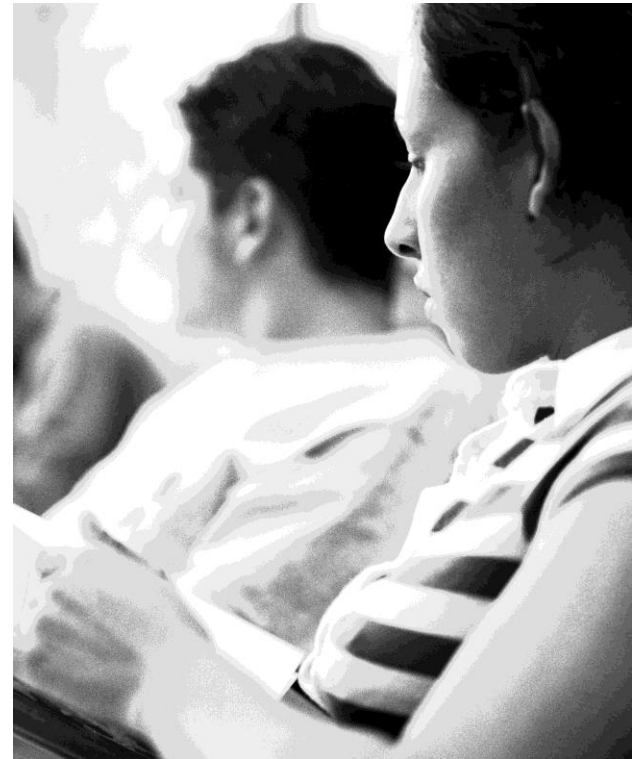
At the end of course, students take **AP Exams**—standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered college-level course work.

Students who do well on AP Exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

# The Benefits of AP Courses

AP courses can be challenging, but it's work that pays off.

- AP courses are often the most interesting and fulfilling courses a student takes in high school.
- AP teachers are among the most prepared, dedicated, and inspiring teachers at their schools.
- Students develop confidence, and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college.



# AP and College Admission

- Colleges rank “Grades in college prep courses” and “Strength of curriculum” as the **top two factors** in the admission decision.\*
- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student’s AP experience **favorably impacts** admission decisions.\*\*

“We look favorably on students who have taken AP courses. The presence of AP courses is a sign that a student has chosen to challenge him/herself.”  
—Admission Officer

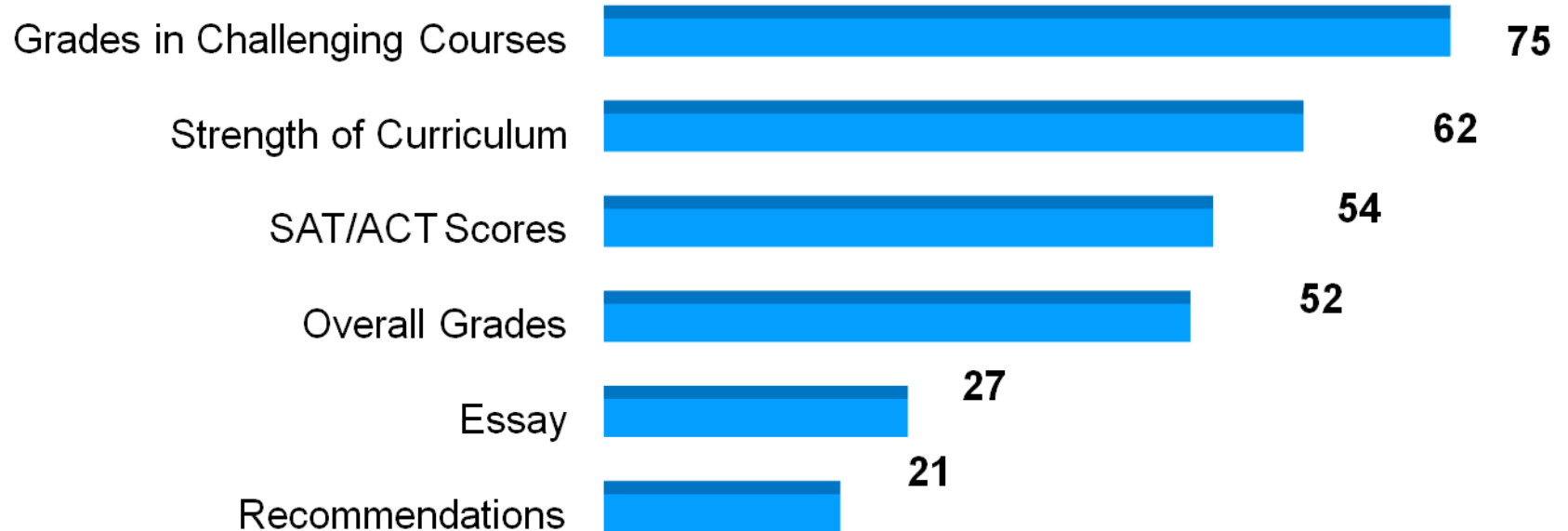
# What is College Readiness?

- “college readiness encompasses a range of behaviors that reflect greater **self-awareness, self-monitoring, and self-control**”
- College Level Performances
  - “Write a 3 to 5 page research paper”
  - “Conduct research on a topic and be able to identify successfully a series of key source materials”
  - “Interpret two conflicting explanations of the same event or phenomenon”
  - “Participate in a study group outside of class”
  - “Complete successfully a problem or assignment that requires two weeks of independent work”
  - “Create and maintain a personal schedule with prioritized tasks and appointments”

# GPA – 6 point scale

<u>AP/PAP</u>	<u>Dual Credit</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Grade Point</u>
95			<b>5.5</b>
94			5.4
93			5.3
92	97		5.2
91	96		5.1
90	95	100	<b>5.0</b>
89	94	99	4.9
88	93	98	4.8
87	92	97	4.7
86	91	96	4.6
85	90	95	<b>4.5</b>
84	89	94	4.4

# What Counts in College Admissions



**% citing “considerably important”**

# AP Courses Offered by Our School:

- Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C
- Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Comp. Science, Statistics
- English Language, English Literature
- European History, Human Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Psychology
- Spanish, French, Art: 2D, Art: Drawing, Art: History
- A variety of Pre-AP courses



# What Are AP Courses Like?

AP courses typically demand more of students than regular or honors courses.

- Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typical high school classes.
- More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments and homework.
- AP teachers expect their students to think critically, analyze and synthesize facts and data, weigh competing perspectives, and write clearly and persuasively.

# AP Exams

- AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates each May.
- Exams usually last around three hours.
- Each AP Exam contains:
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Free-response questions (essay, problem-solving, oral response)



# AP Exam Fees

- AP Exam fee for 2013 is \$89 per exam.
- For students with financial need, the price could be reduced to \$28 per exam.
- [www.collegeboard.com/apexamfeeassistance](http://www.collegeboard.com/apexamfeeassistance)

# Why Take AP Exams?

Most two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States offer credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP Exam scores.

- Credit:** Students earn credit toward their college degrees.
- Advanced placement:** Students can skip introductory courses and move directly into higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.

# AP Credit Expands Students' Options

College credit earned through AP Exams allows students to move into upper-level college courses sooner, pursue a double major, and gain time to study and travel abroad.

“As a freshman, I was able to skip general education requirements and head straight into the higher-level classes I wanted to take. Taking AP Exams literally saved me semesters of time.”—Brent Wiese, University of Iowa



# AP Credit Policy Information

Information about AP credit and placement policies at many colleges and universities is available at [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy).

1. Search by college or university name or by letter of the alphabet
2. You will see two things for each school:
  - A link to the college's own Web page that details its AP credit and placement policies.
  - A statement by the college or university about its AP policy.

The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard website interface for AP Credit Policy Information. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FOR STUDENTS | FOR PARENTS | FOR PROFESSIONALS', 'About Us | Store | Help | En Español', and a search box. Below this is the CollegeBoard logo and a 'for Students' button. A horizontal menu contains five categories: 'College Board Tests', 'Plan for College', 'Find a College', 'Apply to College', and 'Pay for College'. The main content area is titled 'AP®' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > College Board Tests > AP Credit Policy Info'. On the left, there is a vertical list of links: 'About AP', 'Registering', 'Preparing', 'Calendar & Fees', 'Exam Day', 'Exam Grades', 'Exam Security', 'Contact Us', and 'Subjects'. The 'Subjects' link is highlighted with a dropdown menu showing 'Select a Subject'. The main content area features the heading 'AP Credit Policy Info' and 'Advanced Placement Program', followed by the text 'Find colleges and universities with AP credit policy information:'. Below this is a list of letters: 'A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - I - J - K - L - M - N - O - P - Q - R - S - T - U - V - W - X - Y - Z'. A search form labeled 'School Name:' includes an input field and a 'Go' button. To the right, there is a box for 'AP International Recognition' with the text 'For information on the recognition of AP at universities outside the United States.' and a link 'Go to AP International Recognition'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a paragraph: 'To begin your search, enter the name of the college or university or select a letter of the alphabet to find institutions that begin with that letter.'

# AP Helps Students Graduate on Time...

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time.

- Only **one in four** students who enter college complete a bachelor's degree in four years.\*
- A recent study\*\* showed that students taking AP courses and exams were **much more likely** to earn a college degree in four years.

For example, AP English Literature students had four-year college graduation rates that were **62% higher** than students that had not taken AP English Literature.

\* IPEDS database, 2008

\*\* Linda Hargrove, Donn Godin, and Barbara Dodd, "College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences." The College Board, 2008.

## ... and Save Money

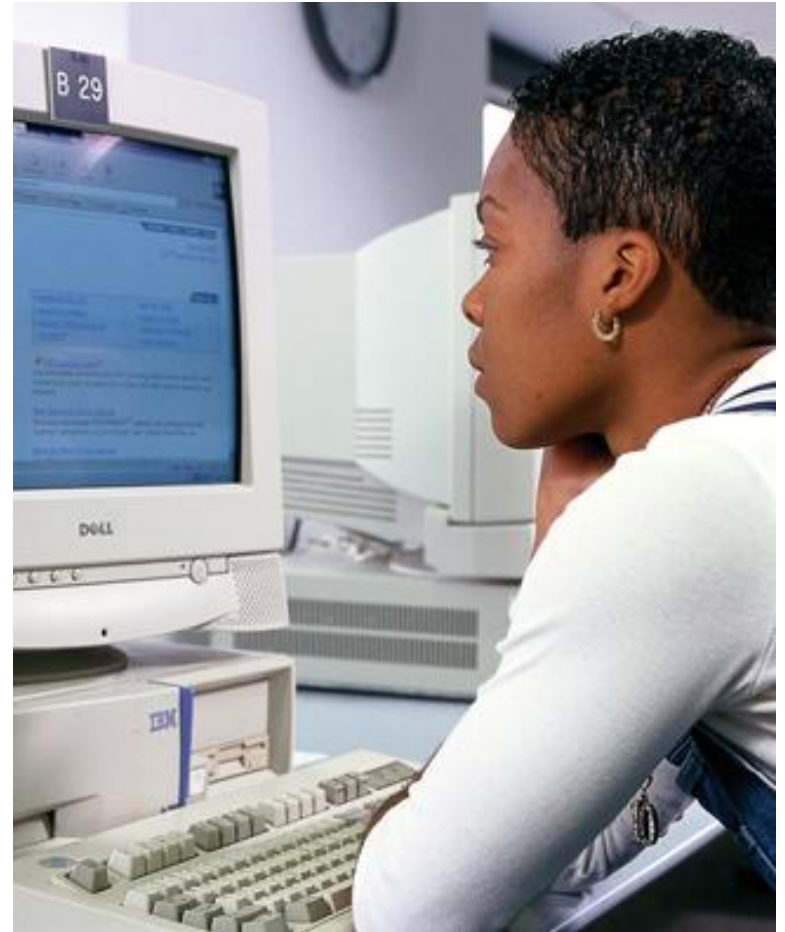
- Students who take five years or more to graduate can spend **\$8,000-\$27,000 for each additional year in college.**
  - The typical college cost per year for a four-year public institution is \$8,142 for in-state students and \$19,670 for out-of-state students.\*
  - Students attending private institutions might expect to incur \$27,389 for each additional year it takes to earn a bachelor's degree.\*



# AP Boosts Eligibility for Scholarships

31% of colleges and universities consider a student's AP experience when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.\*

“Having the AP Exam score can make the difference when it comes down to awarding precious scholarship dollars.”  
—Edwina Harris Hamby, former Dean of Admission, Fisk University



# AP and College Success

A recent study\* showed that students who earned a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Exam had **higher first-year college grade point averages** and were **more likely to return for the second year of college** than non-AP students of similar ability.

“One of the best standard predictors of academic success at Harvard is performance on Advanced Placement Examinations.”

—William Fitzsimmons,  
Dean of Admissions &  
Financial Aid, Harvard  
University

# Learn More

- See Jake Duce for more information about the AP program at Lone Star High School.
- For more information about AP courses and exams visit [www.collegeboard.org/apstudents](http://www.collegeboard.org/apstudents).