



# Expanding Access to AP<sup>®</sup>

May 11, 2022



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# Key Takeaways

**1**  
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## Participation matters

New evidence shows there are benefits to taking AP courses and exams no matter the exam score.

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## Access and Opportunities for All

Closing the equity gap in AP participation is essential to giving all students the chance to experience the benefits of college-level coursework.

**3**  
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## Expanding AP

Schools with robust AP course offerings give students choice and flexibility to experience college-level coursework aligned with their interests and motivation.

**4**  
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## Consider score distributions

Ensuring AP teachers and students have what they need to succeed in AP is top priority. AP Classroom makes it easy to find and assign AP resources.

**5**  
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## Next Steps

Actions schools/districts can take to strengthen their AP programs.

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# Participation Matters

# Impact of AP

## College Completion

AP students are more likely to finish their degrees promptly and save the costs of a fifth year of college.

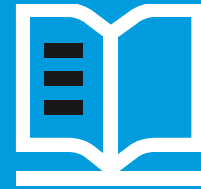


## College Savings

In 2020, students across the U.S. earned 2,932,042 AP scores of 3 or higher, translating into potential cost savings of \$3.1 billion.

## Admissions Benefit

85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions.



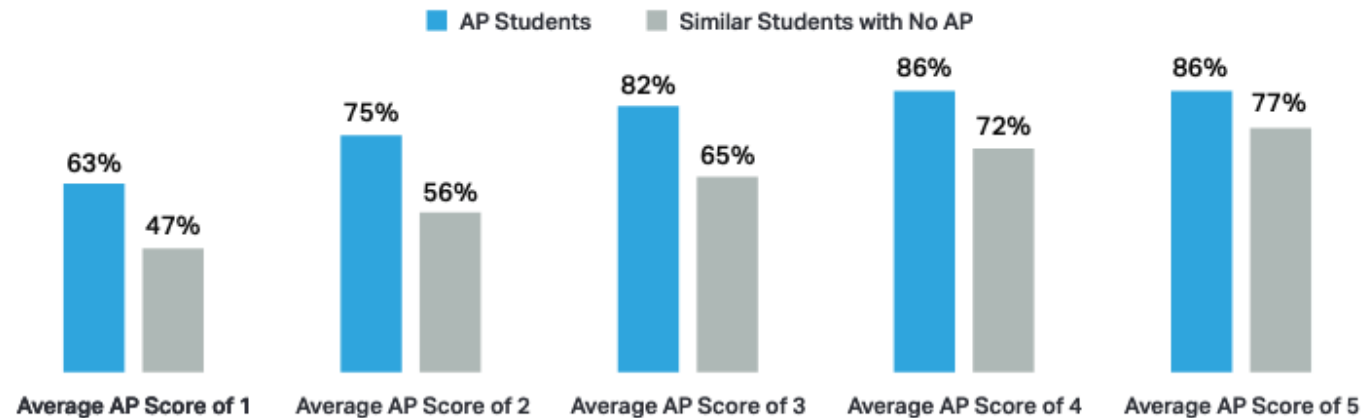
## College GPA

Students who take five college-level courses have the best first year college GPA.

# Participation Matters

New findings on the AP experience show that regardless of the score, completing an AP Exam has benefits.

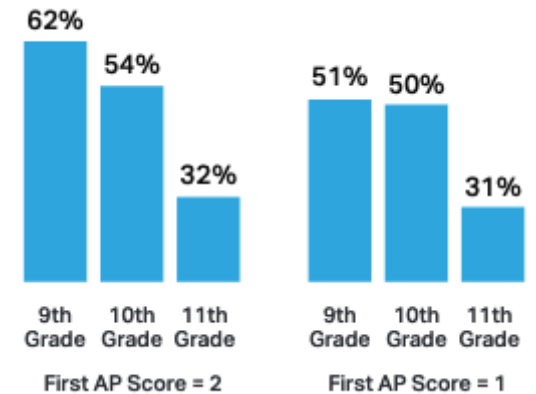
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROBABILITIES, BY AVERAGE AP SCORE



NOTES: Probability of enrollment immediately after high school graduation is calculated for 1,560,229 students who graduated high school in 2017. Probabilities are calculated separately for the average student in each AP score sample conditional on gender, ethnicity, first-generation status, SAT score, and HSGPA.

AP students, including those with average scores of 1 or 2, are more likely to enroll in a four-year college compared to academically similar students who did not take AP in high school.

PERCENTAGE EARNING A HIGHER SCORE ON A SUBSEQUENT AP EXAM



Many students who first earn an AP Exam score of 1 or 2 will then earn a higher score on the subsequent AP Exams they take.

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# Access and Opportunities for All

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# Equity

- Equity means giving students what they need to ensure they have the **academic preparation and social capital** necessary to remove the racial/ethnic or other predictability in K-12 and postsecondary educational outcomes.
- Equity recognizes and acknowledges that the playing field is not level for all students.
- Equity seeks to level the playing field for all students.
- Equity is based in a belief that when the playing field is level **all students can meet high expectations.**

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# College Board's Equity and Access Policy

- College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving **all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP.**
- We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented.
- Schools should make every effort to ensure their **AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population.**
- College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging coursework before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a **commitment to equitable preparation and access** that true equity and excellence can be achieved.



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# Continued Commitment to Equity and Access

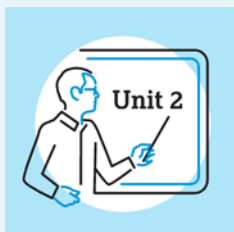
- **Launching New AP Courses** AP is discussing with colleges, universities, and secondary schools the possibility of developing and offering two new AP courses and exams for college credit in the fields of African American studies and mathematics.
  - IN DEVELOPMENT* **AP African American Studies** will explore the cultural, legal, political, historical, and social developments that have shaped the experiences of African Americans, providing students with rich knowledge that isn't widely known today.
  - IN DEVELOPMENT* **AP Precalculus** will prepare a wider diversity of students for success in college calculus, invite more students to persist through four years of mathematics in high school, and cultivate student readiness to pursue STEM majors in college.
- **Expanding AP with Impact** Research shows that the skills taught in AP Seminar enhance a student's other AP experiences, giving schools data to use when making decisions about which AP courses to offer to their students and when.
  - Add AP Seminar in Grade 10** Students earn higher scores in subsequent AP courses after they've taken AP Seminar—and they also have better outcomes when they're in college: a higher first-year GPA and a higher likelihood of persisting to the second year of higher education than their non-AP peers.

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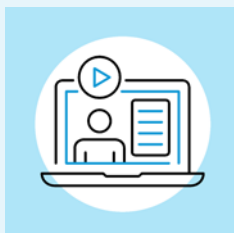
# Expanding AP

# AP Classroom: Supports for Teachers and Students

Free and flexible instructional resources for AP teachers and students.



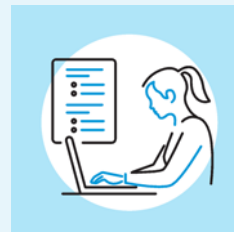
**Unit Guides** provide an outline of the exact content and skills covered on the exam and include Topic Pages, which describe the content for each topic.



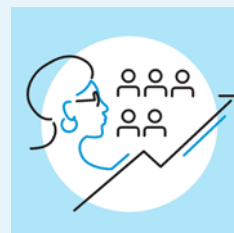
**AP Daily** is a series of on-demand, short videos that teachers can assign to students\*, saving direct class time to focus on areas where students need help.



**Topic Questions** are formative questions that teachers can use to check student understanding of content and skills as each topic is taught.



**Personal Progress Checks (PPCs)** assess student understanding of topics and skill within a unit through multiple-choice and free-response questions.



The **Progress Dashboard** can help teachers recognize student achievement and prioritize areas for extra support by pinpointing strengths and weaknesses.



The **Question Bank** is a searchable database of real AP questions that teachers can use to create customized practice, online or on paper.

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# Next Steps

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# Characteristics of Successful AP Programs

1. Foster a college-going culture by raising expectations and standards early
2. Ensure all students have access to a challenging curriculum and develop an AP Pipeline through vertical teaming, professional development, and/or Pre-AP
3. Promote student autonomy and academic self-management
4. Recognize academic achievement through activities
5. Conduct family and community engagement and outreach

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# What can teachers do to help build a successful AP program?

## **AP Teachers**

- Ensure they know what's assessed on the AP Exam
- Know how to find resources on AP Central
- Use Instructional Planning Reports (IPRs) to inform instruction and improve their course delivery
- Participate in professional development to diversify their knowledge of best practices

## **Teachers of Prerequisite/Feeder Courses**

- Ensure they know what's assessed on the AP Exam
- Call out AP content and skills explicitly as they prepare students for success in AP

## **All Teachers**

- Feel ownership for the results of AP
- Know and understand their school's AP expectations

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# What can students do to help build a successful AP program?

## **AP Students**

- Ensure they know what's assessed on the AP Exam
- Know how to access and take advantage of academic supports for AP
- Attend summer boot camps to ramp up their skills and review sessions to hone their skills
- Are proud of their AP experiences and share those experiences with others in the school community

## **All Students**

- Are aware of the AP courses that are available at their school
- Know the process for registering and enrolling in AP courses
- Feel comfortable with approaching any school staff member about AP
- Know what's assessed on the AP Exam
- Know how to access academic supports to help them prepare for success in AP

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# What can counselors do to help build a successful AP program?

## School Counselors

- Know the complete list of AP course offerings at their schools and be able to suggest implementation of additional AP courses
- Are able to talk to all students about the benefits of taking AP courses
- Know how to access College Board resources online to promote AP, including “Launch and Grow an AP Program” on AP Central
- Ensure that parents are part of conversations about AP
- Are well-versed in how to identify students who may be successful in AP
- Work with the AP Coordinator to ensure that AP Exams are ordered for students



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# What can school leadership do to help build a successful AP program?

## School Leadership

- Strive to build and maintain a strong culture of AP aligned to the school's mission and vision
- Encourage all students to take AP who are ready and willing
- Use an AP teacher's approved syllabus to guide instructional conversations and coaching
- Use the AP Course and Exam Description to inform classroom observations
- Ensure that a member of the school leadership team is assigned to collect and analyze AP data accessed through AP Online School Reports for Educators
- Establish and cultivate academic support systems to help students be successful in AP
- Celebrate student successes in AP

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# What can parents and the school community do to help build a successful AP program?

## **Parents/Community**

- Are able to explain the benefits of taking AP courses
- Know what's assessed on the AP Exam
- Know the school's menu of options for academic supports and interventions
- Know how to connect their children to the right academic supports
- Attend AP parent nights for families and AP awards ceremonies each year
- Are aware of AP news, updates, and deadlines that are shared in communications from the school and from the College Board

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# Additional Resources

- **AP Central** - <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org>
- **AP Course Audit** - <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-course-audit>
- **AP Student** - <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org>
- **AP Teacher Community** - <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/professional-learning/ap-community>
- **AP Online Score Reports for Educators** - <https://scores.collegeboard.org>