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# Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) Program<sup>®</sup>

**Rigorous coursework connecting  
students to university success  
worldwide**

Canada, January 2019

AP<sup>®</sup>

CollegeBoard

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# What is AP?

The Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) Program<sup>®</sup> **helps students connect with university opportunities globally.**

- University-level courses taken in secondary school.
- End-of-course assessment externally developed and scored by university faculty and experienced AP teachers.
- Recognized by universities in more than 60 countries for admission.
- Advanced standing granted by universities in the U.S. and Canada.

# About AP<sup>®</sup>

Internationally recognized curricular program with 38 university-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous, standardized exam across 7 disciplines.

<b>Arts</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary</b>		
Art History Music Theory Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio	English Language and Composition English Literature and Composition	Capstone: Seminar Capstone: Research		
<b>History and Social Sciences</b>	<b>Sciences</b>	<b>Mathematics and Computer Science</b>	<b>World Languages</b>	
Comparative Government and Politics European History Human Geography Macroeconomics Microeconomics Psychology United States Government and Politics United States History World History	Biology Chemistry Environmental Science Physics 1 Physics 2 Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism Physics C: Mechanics	Calculus AB Calculus BC Computer Science A Computer Science Principles Statistics	Chinese Language and Culture French Language and Culture German Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture Japanese Language and Culture Latin Spanish Language and Culture Spanish Literature and Culture	

# How AP Courses and Exams Are Developed

University faculty and expert AP<sup>®</sup> teachers design AP courses and exams to ensure their alignment with university expectations.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL



University  
of Manitoba



Tufts  
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY  
of WISCONSIN  
MADISON

PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY



STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY

Duke  
UNIVERSITY

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

Yale  
UNIVERSITY

Washington  
University in St. Louis

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Colorado  
University of Colorado at Boulder



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

McGill

# AP<sup>®</sup> Exam Structure

## Multiple Choice

Wide coverage of content  
RELIABLE  
EFFICIENT

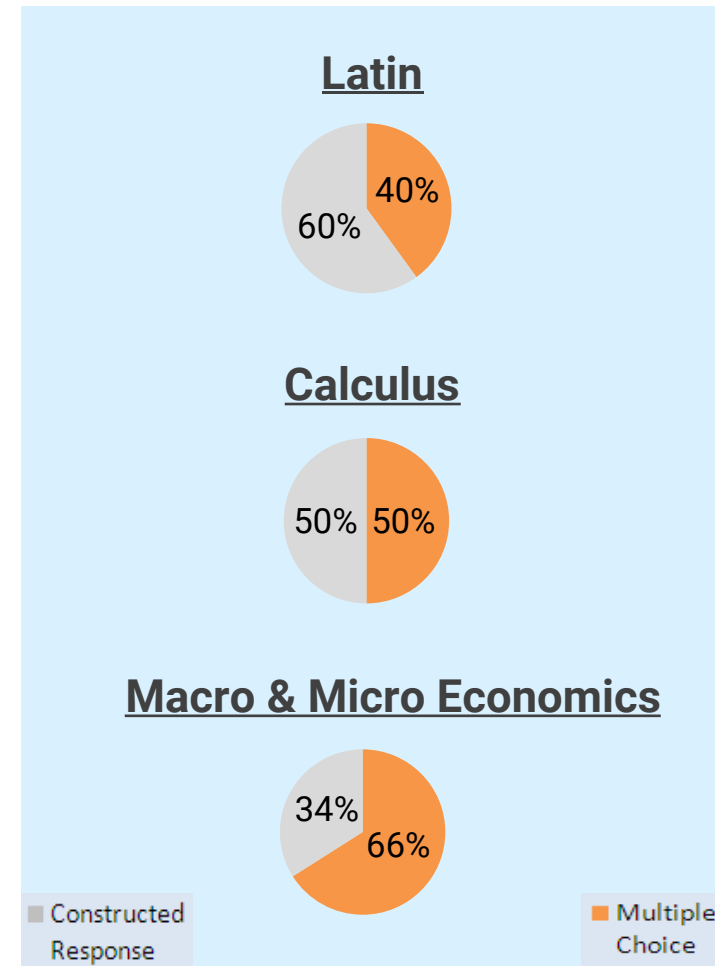
## + Constructed Response

Measures skills not captured in MC  
Reasoning, Organization, Communication, and Synthesis

## Result

Reliable  
Valid  
Practical

Weights of each section can vary across areas



# AP Administration & Scores

AP Scores are standardized measure of mastery.

Final score	Description
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation

- AP<sup>®</sup> Exams are administered over **two weeks in May** every year.
- An **AP score** is a weighted combination of a student's scores on the free-response and multiple-choice sections of the exam.
- Most colleges and universities in the U.S. and many in Canada grant credit and placement for scores of 3, 4, or 5; allowing students to skip the equivalent course once they get to college.

“**Qualified**” means that students have proven themselves capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at university.

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# Why take AP<sup>®</sup>?

Discover the benefits.

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# Why International Schools Embrace AP<sup>®</sup>


 It's recognized globally.

 It's rigorous.

 It's effective.

 It's adaptable.

 It's empowering.

 It's accessible.

 It's innovative.



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# It's recognized globally.

Over 4,000 universities in more than 60 countries use AP Exam scores for admission, course credits, and/or advanced placement.

- Demonstrates students challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available.
- Success on an AP<sup>®</sup> Exam shows readiness for university-level coursework.
- More students taking AP globally:  
In 2018, over 5 million AP Exams were taken by approximately 2.8 million students from over 22,000 secondary schools around the world.

“Taking the rigorous courses like Advanced Placement shows universities that you **can handle first-year coursework** and that you are well **prepared to succeed in postsecondary study.**”

— Andrew Arida, Director of Undergraduate Admissions Enrollment,  
The University of British Columbia, Canada

“Getting an **unconditional offer** (to Oxford, with AP Exams) made my life much easier than A-Level students ... who had to wait with conditional offers.”

— Ming, AP student from China

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# Sample Policies in the US, UK and Canada



- **University of California at Berkeley** AP<sup>®</sup> scores of 3 or higher add strength in admission and AP credit granted for scores 3 or higher.
- **New York University** If submitting AP Exam scores, students must provide from 3 subjects and AP credit granted for results of 4 or 5.
- **Duke University** AP accepted in admissions and AP credit granted for results of 4 or 5.



- **McGill University** AP accepted in admissions and AP credit granted for scores of 4 or 5.
- **The University of British Columbia** AP accepted in admissions and AP credit granted for scores of 4 or 5.
- **The University of Toronto** AP accepted in admissions and AP credit granted for scores of 4 or 5.



- **Cambridge University** Successful applicants normally achieve AP scores of 5 on at least 5 AP Exams in the appropriate subjects for their intended concentration.
- **Oxford University** Requires that international applicants applying with AP credentials submit 3 or more AP Exams with scores of 5 in appropriate subjects.
- **The University of East London** Recommends international applicants to submit 3 or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher as part of their admission policies. Some departments, such as the School of Health and Bioscience, may require applicants to have an AP Exam in a relevant subject area.

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# It's rigorous.

AP courses are designed as introductory-level university experiences, based on a learner-centric, rigorous methodology.

AP<sup>®</sup> courses and exams are conceived and developed in parallel processes.

- **AP Course** development uses the backward planning model of **Understanding by Design<sup>®</sup>**.
- **AP Exam** development uses **Evidence-Centered Design**.
- Courses typically undergo a **2- to 6-year development process** before they are implemented in classrooms. They are regularly reviewed thereafter.

"I've been doing customer research (students in the slums of the Greater Mumbai area) and looking through databases, news articles, and past studies, and I find myself collecting the research the same way I used for AP Research."

– Farhana, AP student from Singapore

"The AP courses I took prepared me for the SAT as well. AP English Language and Composition increased my vocabulary and improved my reading comprehension."

– He, AP student from China

# It's effective.

## Research shows AP students are more likely to succeed in university.

Research indicates AP® students develop the content knowledge, skills, and habits of mind that result in:

- Higher 1st- and 4th-year university grades.  
*(Dodd, Hargrove, and Godin, 2008)*
- Higher performance in intermediate-level university courses.  
*(Morgan and Klaric, 2007)*
- Higher likelihood of majoring in the particular subject in which they participated in AP, especially STEM subjects.  
*(Mattern, Shaw, and Ewing, 2011)*
- Higher 4-year bachelor's degree attainment rates.  
*(Dodd, Hargrove, and Godin, 2008)*

“Participation in AP courses has fostered the ability of students to succeed in college .... and it’s an important strategy to be more competitive in the global marketplace.”

– Stephen Greenfield, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics,  
Rutgers University

“I think the misconception is AP is just for acceleration and getting credits, but it’s deeper than that. ... In our institution, we see students who received a 3, 4, or 5 (on AP Exams) **do much better in persistence and graduation.**”

– Douglas Christiansen, Vice Provost for University Enrollment  
Affairs, Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid,  
Vanderbilt University

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# It's adaptable.

AP courses are designed to have the flexibility to adapt to existing curriculum and standards.

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses can be combined with an existing curriculum.
- AP courses can supplement national, local, or independently developed curricula and learning standards.
- Schools can choose which AP courses to offer.

“AP courses **help build a bridge between our local curriculum with international courses.** Our AP students continue to perform well academically after they get accepted into universities in the U.S.”

— Simon Huang, Vice Principal,  
Jining International Confucius School, China

“As an international student, it was just simpler to stick with a **system my parents and I could immediately grasp.** It also allowed me to take a wide range of courses that I couldn't through the IB program at ISZL.”

— Henry, AP student from Switzerland

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# It's empowering.

## AP allows students to choose their path.

- Students can choose AP® courses in their areas of passion, highlighting their strengths to universities.
- Students can either specialize in a given area or take a more generalist approach in selecting course combinations.

“Since AP is often conducted on a class-by-class basis, **students may be better able to balance their courses with life outside school.**”

– Shantal, AP student from Lebanon

“The greatest pro to the AP system is its modularity and accessibility. By letting students choose specifically which courses they want to do, an atmosphere of willingness is created where students are more happy to take risks.”

– Dato, AP student from Georgia

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# It's accessible.

## AP is cost-effective for students and schools.

- Students also have the flexibility to take AP® courses online.
- Schools can implement AP as soon as they have a trained teacher and selected a textbook. They don't have to wait years to get approved.
- There are no annual subscription fees or dues.
- The AP Exam fee is paid by the student, and the school retains a portion of that fee for administrative costs. Students pay a per-exam fee only.
- AP teachers are encouraged to take professional development workshops at an affordable cost.

“Teachers attended the College Board AP Workshops prior to teaching the courses to ensure themselves having the appropriate professional development in advance of teaching the courses. This is the fundamental aspect of the structure that promoted a high level of current success in the AP program at our school.

— Dr. Eric H. Habegger, School Director,  
Colegio Nueva Granada, Bogotá, Colombia

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# It's innovative.

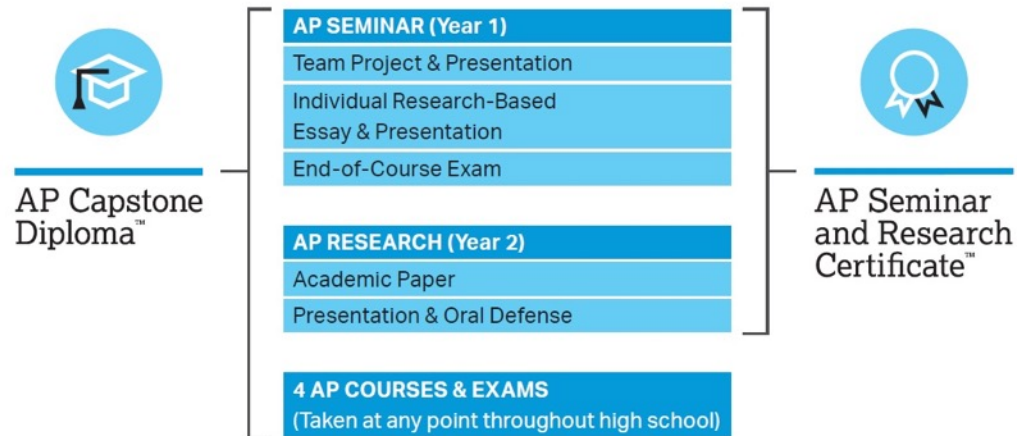
## AP continues to be at the forefront of educational innovation.

- **AP Course redesign**
  - All redesigned courses follow Understanding by Design® principles.
  - Greater emphasis on discipline-specific inquiry and reasoning.
- **New AP Teaching Resources** coming in 2019
  - Tools to allow teachers to support students throughout the academic year in developing an AP® course.
  - Includes an AP question bank, unit guides and tests, feedback to help teachers track progress, and more.
- **AP Computer Science Principles** launched in 2017
  - Stresses computational thinking in multidisciplinary contexts.
  - Features through-course and end-of-course assessments.
- **AP Capstone™**
  - Multidisciplinary diploma program rooted in skills students need in college and beyond.
  - **AP Seminar:** Students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives.
  - **AP Research:** Students further their skills acquired in AP Seminar and deeply explore an academic topic or issue through a year-long research project.



# It's innovative: AP Capstone.

Watch this video to see what students teachers and counselors are talking about AP Capstone™ in Colegio Nueva Granada in Bogotá, Colombia.



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# Testimonials

**AP Capstone™ promotes the skills critical for students to be successful in university and the global knowledge economy.**

“As a College Counselor, we hear universities are looking for **students who can collaborate, communicate, critically think, be creative, and do research**. AP Seminar and AP Research really give students a leg up when applying to universities.”

– Alex Becker,  
College Counselor, Colegio Nueva Granada, Bogotá,  
Colombia

“AP Capstone not only equips students with **critical thinking and communication skills** they will need in college but also immerses them in **independent research within a collaborative environment.**”

– Philip Ballinger,  
Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment  
and Undergraduate Admissions, University of  
Washington

“I’m currently working on a research project on habitability zones around M dwarf stars. I would say that AP Capstone was great practice for this. The classes gave me **experience in collaborating with group members** as well as **finding/analyzing sources** both of which are obviously very important in research.”

– Sam,  
AP student from Singapore

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# Appendix



# AP vs IB

AP and IB are both rigorous instructional programs, with very different structures.

AP focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, and communications—skills important for creativity and innovation.

AP	IB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Global recognition and offered worldwide.</li><li>▪ University-level courses taught in secondary school.</li><li>▪ Schools may offer any number of AP® courses, from 1–38.</li><li>▪ Augments existing curriculum.</li><li>▪ No annual fees or subscriptions.</li><li>▪ Students can choose to take one or combinations of courses.</li><li>▪ Students pay per-exam fee and can take exam without course.</li><li>▪ Students may use one or many AP Courses for admissions or credit/placement.</li><li>▪ AP course scores are listed on the student transcript; AP Exam scores are sent directly to the university.</li><li>▪ Based on a North American education framework.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Global recognition and offered worldwide.</li><li>▪ Rigorous secondary school courses.</li><li>▪ Schools offer IBDP as a 2-year experience.</li><li>▪ Students often need full diploma for university recognition.</li><li>▪ Annual school fee.</li><li>▪ Students pay core program fee, exam registration fee, and per-exam fee.</li><li>▪ Predicted/anticipated grades are listed on a student transcript for subjects and totals. These grades may need modification after the IB exam.</li><li>▪ Based on a European education framework.</li></ul>

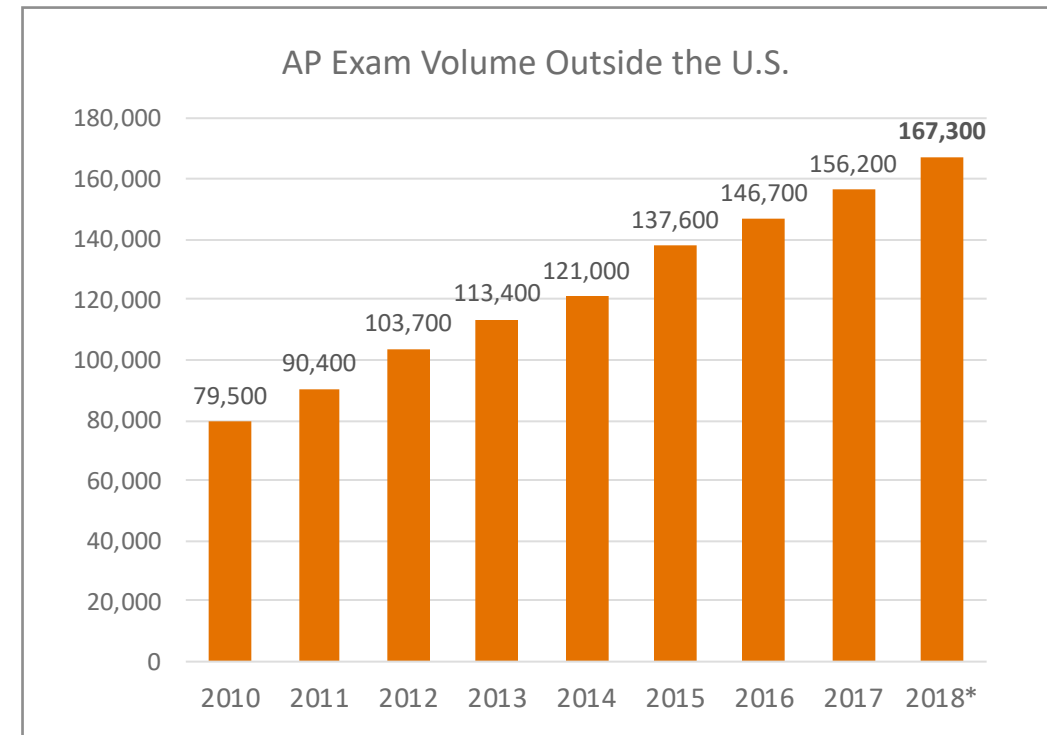
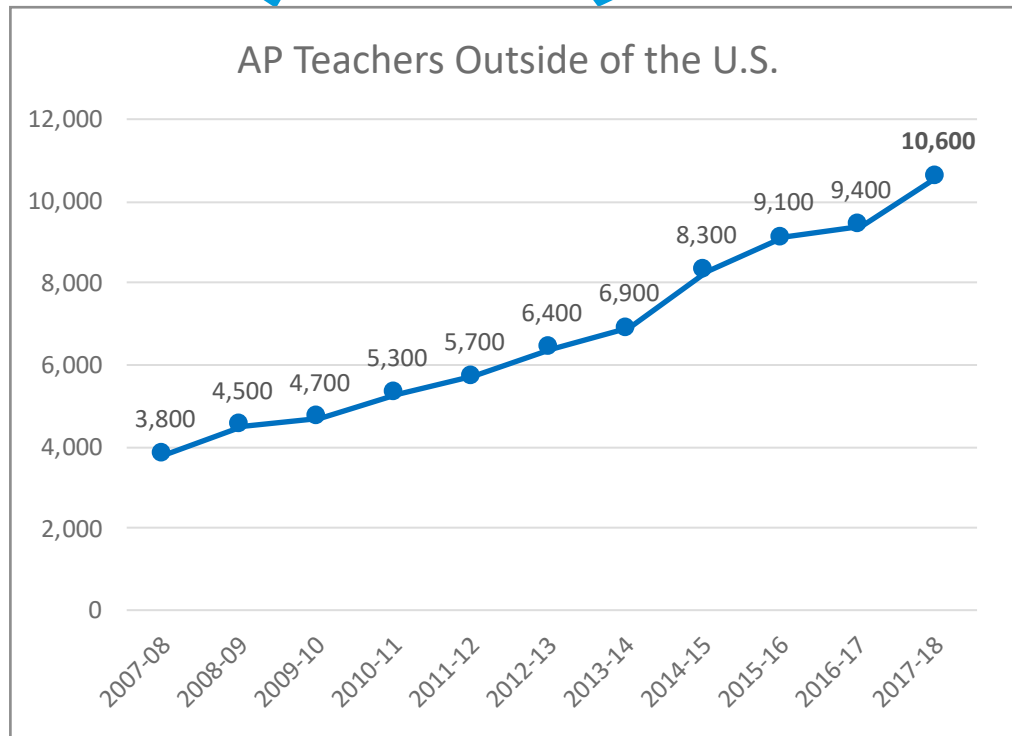
Based on a typical Cdn public school program, students receive up to 2x the university credit for AP vs IB Math/Sci courses.\*

# AP increasingly recognized as a global standard and attractive curricular framework

**+1,200 schools outside the U.S. participate in AP**

**All 37 AP courses in the Audit outside the U.S.**

**In 123 countries & territories**



NOTE: AP teacher volumes are not unique counts. If a teacher is authorized to teach 2 different subjects, s/he is counted twice.

\*2018 exam volume is based on the AP freeze file, and thus is not the final but near-final total of international exam volume.

SOURCE: College Board internal analysis | AP Teacher List from AP Program Retrieved in May 2018; AP Exam Volumes from 2018 AP Exams Freeze File.