Whitewater High School
Advanced Placement Program
Course Offerings & Registration Process
2023-2024
Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2
Introduction to AP 3
AP Course Offerings 4
Requesting AP Courses 4
Steps to Registration 6
Career Technical Education 7
Computer Science Principles: 7
English/Language Arts 8
Fine Arts 10
Mathematics 11
Science 13
Social Studies 15
World Languages 17
Introduction to AP

Why choose Advanced Placement (AP)?

AP is a rigorous academic program built on the commitment, passion, and hard work of students and educators from high school and college. The college-level coursework can benefit students in a number of ways. AP coursework can:

- impact college admissions decisions;
- demonstrate you are a serious student;
- benefit you financially by reducing time spent seeking a college degree;
- increase likelihood of on-time college graduation;
- build academic skills and confidence;
- support time management and study skills prior to college;
- reinforce flexibility, adaptability, communication, and problem solving skills;
- provide the opportunity to explore subjects of interest in more depth.

Additionally, research shows that 85% of selective colleges report student’s AP experiences are a positive factor in the admissions process.

What are student and family commitments?

Advanced Placement courses are postsecondary-level classes which are provided at high school in the course of a regular school day. Many colleges and universities award either course credit or possibly exemption from certain required coursework. Not all postsecondary institutions honor AP exam credit, however; each college or university has its own standards by which it weights AP coursework taken in high school. Students are advised to check with the respective institution for details on its AP course and exam policies. AP examinations are conducted in May of each year, and students who take AP exams are responsible for paying AP examination fees unless the Georgia State legislature provides funding.

AP coursework is based on the national curriculum determined by the College Board with the goal of preparing students to demonstrate mastery through AP exams. AP courses are taught and evaluated at the college level and might require up to 10 hours weekly for each class to study or prepare. This time commitment begins on the first day of school and lasts until exams in May.

All AP courses require student investment in advanced coursework. Some courses might recommend summer preparation such as reading or skill practice. Before registering for multiple AP courses, weigh your other commitments including extracurriculars, clubs, sports, work, trips, family commitments, etc. against the time you are willing to dedicate to your coursework as well as your other pursuits. Additionally, some courses require students to meet prerequisites including classes completed as well as minimum grades earned.

Students who register for AP courses must take the AP exam as it is the goal of an AP course. The AP exam fee is $97 for most exams and $127 for Capstone (Seminar and Research). There is an exam fee reduction for students who meet federal guidelines for Free and Reduced Lunch. The reduced exam fee is $53.

What should families discuss when considering AP coursework?

- Am I able to balance my current course load? Do I need more or less challenging courses?
- How much time do I spend preparing for class outside of the regular school day?
- Will I have more or less time to devote to my studies next year?
- What am I most interested in studying while in high school?
- What are my plans after graduation?
**AP Course Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Right Column</th>
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| Capstone - 2 courses  
(Research & Seminar)  
Art History  
Studio Art  
English Language & Composition  
English Literature & Composition  
European History  
**Human Geography**  
Macroeconomics  
Psychology  
US Government and Politics  
US History  
Modern World History  |  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Precalculus  
Statistics  
Chemistry  
Computer Science A  
Computer Science Principles  
Biology  
**Environmental Science**  
Physics 1  
Physics 2  
Spanish Language and Culture |

*Rising 9th grade students might be eligible for courses in bold.*

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**Requesting AP Courses**

You are interested in taking an AP course. What should you do next?

1. Visit the [College Board](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page) website and learn more about the course and what you will be expected to do on the exam.
2. Attend the Advanced Placement Night in January to learn about the course offerings and the requirements.
3. Talk to your parents about the additional time that taking an AP course would mean. Do you plan to devote additional time to school? If not, don’t sign up for an AP course. Find another way to challenge yourself.
4. Talk to your teacher about the course and whether you have the skills needed to succeed in an AP course.
5. Talk to your counselor about the course. Be honest with yourself about the time and energy that you are willing to put into an AP course; this will help you decide whether the course is a good fit for you or not.
6. Make sure that you have the prerequisites and that you meet the requirements for taking the AP course.

If you have the prerequisites and you have done your research on the course, it is time to register. When you meet with your school counselor, register for the AP course that interests you.

**Very few students should take more than 2 or 3 AP courses in a year. Please keep this in mind when making your decision.**

Students are required to submit the online course request found on the school’s website, [www.fcboe.org/whs](http://www.fcboe.org/whs) to be considered for AP courses. Read through this course catalog for information to:

1. review course offerings and determine which courses you would like to request,
2. determine if you meet the prerequisites for the course, and
3. review and agree to the AP Policies and Agreement.
AP Potential
The College Board generates an AP Potential Report from PSAT Scores. Your counselor will use this report to advise you of courses in which you might be successful. You may have received an email in your FCBOE email account from Kelly Hoofnagle. Use this information to inform your selection process.

AP Coursework Protocols and Agreements:
Advanced Placement courses offer college-level coursework in the high school setting, affording students the opportunity to receive college and high school credit simultaneously. If accepted into an AP course, both students and parent understand and agree to the following:

✓ I will complete all summer reading and assignments (if applicable).
✓ I will be enrolled in the yearlong course for two semesters; class changes will NOT be permitted.
✓ I may not transfer from an AP class to a regular education class.
✓ I will take the first semester exam.
✓ I am required to take the AP exam for each AP course in which I am enrolled and I assume all responsibility for payment for all AP exams (currently $95 per exam or $125 for Capstone Seminar and Research).
✓ I understand that the grade I earn in an AP class will be averaged into my cumulative GPA and that a separate GPA will be calculated with an AP quality point added.
✓ I understand that once I accept an AP class qualification, I have signed a binding commitment.
✓ My acceptance into AP is based on successful completion of prerequisite courses. If I fail a prerequisite course second semester, my AP acceptance will be revoked.
✓ I understand that I may only take the following number of AP courses without administrative approval. To take more than the minimum, I must meet with and receive permission from the principal.

• 9th Grade- 1 course
• 10th Grade- 2 courses
• 11th Grade- 3 courses
• 12th Grade- 3 courses
Steps to Registration

1. **Orientation:** Discuss registration information during classroom advisement. Handouts with elective and core course information will be provided. Students should use this information to make their selections.

2. **Academic Advisement:** Students meet individually with their counselors and discuss selections based on academic performance, prerequisite courses, future goals, and graduation requirements.

   Once selections are made in Infinite Campus, courses will be built for the following year. Only those courses for which there is adequate enrollment and/or trained faculty will be offered in the upcoming school year. Courses, number of sections, and staff assignments are determined on the basis of each student’s selected course requests. It is imperative, therefore, that you thoughtfully consider which courses you would like to take next year. Courses are built based on your personal requests and will not be able to change.

3. **Schedule Changes:** Student-initiated schedule changes are not possible after the schedule has been created. Students are not able to change electives or Advanced Placement course selections after June 1, 2021. Schedule changes made at the start of the school year are allowed based on the following criteria:
   - A student has an empty period in his/her schedule.
   - A student has already received credit for a course listed in his/her schedule.
   - A student has not met the prerequisites for a course in his/her schedule.
   - The registrar must adjust class sizes.

   **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DROP AN AP COURSE FROM THEIR SCHEDULES AFTER JUNE 1.**
Career Technical Education

**Computer Science Principles:**

Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester introductory college course in computing. Learn the principles that underlie the science of computing and develop the thinking skills that computer scientists use. You’ll work on your own and as part of a team to creatively address real-world issues using the tools and processes of computation.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: HS Algebra, *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1) OR* Intro to Digital Technology, *Minimum Grade of 90% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:

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**Computer Science A:**

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester introductory science class in computer science. Students will get familiar with the concepts and tools of computer science as you learn a subset of the Java programming language. You’ll do hands-on work to design, write, and test computer programs that solve problems or accomplish tasks.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Accelerated Pre-Calculus, Accelerated Geo/Alg II, or Algebra II, *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1) OR* AP Computer Science Principles, *Minimum Grade of 90% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:
English/Language Arts

Language and Composition:
Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level English course. It primarily utilizes nonfiction texts to study language and rhetoric. You will be trained to be an excellent critical thinker, reader, and analyst of language; an effective writer; and a creative, cogent producer of argument. You will learn and master writing skills needed to be successful in the course and in later college work, and you will learn to write effectively for a wide range of audiences and a variety of purposes.

Skills for Success:
- Love of reading
- Adherence to deadlines
- Willingly and constructively discuss class-related topics
- Accept constructive criticism
- Productive, cooperative participant in group work activities
- Internally motivated

Prerequisites: 10th Grade Lit Minimum Grade of 85% (S1) or Gifted 10th Grade Lit Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)

Out of Class Commitments: approximately two hours per week

Recommended Summer Preparation: Read and annotate a nonfiction book. Review and study rhetorical strategies.

Contact:
- Chris Salas (salas.chris@fcboe.org)
- Christine Brand (brand.christine@fcboe.org)

Literature and Composition:
Description: This course is equivalent to a college-level literature course. Learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. You’ll read literary works and write essays to explain and support your analysis of them.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: American Lit or AP Language Minimum Grade of 80% (S1), or successful completion of College English Dual Enrollment Course.

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:
**Capstone - Seminar**
Description: The AP Capstone Diploma Program is a two-year program based on two AP courses, AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who fulfill the requirements can earn academic awards recognized by colleges around the world. Develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that you’ll need in any academic discipline. You’ll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: *Minimum Grade of 80% in current English course (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:

**Capstone: Research**
Description: Build on what you learned in AP Seminar to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, you will design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question. You will write an academic paper and, at the end of the year, give a presentation about your research.

Skills for Success:

- Time management
- Ability to accept constructive criticism
- Flexibility
- Curiosity
- Willingness to help others
- Strong writing and reading abilities

Prerequisites: AP Seminar

Out of Class Commitments: approximately 1 ½ hours per week

Recommended Summer Preparation: Begin developing your research focus by choosing two topics and three issues; find two sources for each of the topics (more details will be given to students at the end of spring semester).

Contact: Christine R. Brand ([brand.christine@fcboe.org](mailto:brand.christine@fcboe.org))
**Fine Arts**

**Art History:**

Description: This course is the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory art history course. Explore the history of art across the globe from prehistory to the present. You'll analyze works of art through observation, discussion, reading, and research.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Minimum Grade of 80% in current English course (S1)

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:

**Music Theory: Not offered for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Description: This course is the equivalent of a one- or two-semester college introductory music theory course. Learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music. You’ll develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: 1 year of band, chorus, guitar or orchestra

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:
Mathematics

Calculus:
Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus (AB) or a first-semester college calculus course and the subsequent single-variable calculus course (BC). Explore the concepts, methods, and applications of differential and integral calculus. You’ll work to understand the theoretical basis and solve problems by applying your knowledge and skills.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Acc Pre-Calculus (Math teacher recommends AB or BC)

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:

Precalculus:
Description: In AP Precalculus, students explore everyday situations and phenomena using mathematical tools and lenses. The framework focuses on four key units of study that colleges expect students to demonstrate to qualify for credit or placement. Precalculus can fulfill a math requirement at a diverse range of colleges and universities, including the majority of public institutions. The course also offers a valuable tool for guiding math and science placement for newly enrolling students. College Board is working with colleges and universities to expand credit policies and ensure that AP Precalculus sets a strong foundation for college success.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Accel GeoB/Algebra1 or H/G Algebra 2
OR
Algebra 2 with Minimum grade of 90%
OR
Accelerated student wishing to double in math (e.g. take AP Stats concurrently with Accel./AP PreCalculus or AP Calculus) Minimum grade of 90% in current course

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:

Statistics:
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. Learn about the major concepts and tools used for collecting,
analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. You’ll explore statistics through discussion and activities, and you'll design surveys and experiments.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Accelerated Geo/Algebra 2, Algebra 2, Accelerated PreCalculus, or PreCalculus (Minimum grade of 90 for Algebra 2 or PreCalculus or an Accelerated Student wishing to double in math)

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:
Science

**Biology:**
Description: This course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course for biology majors. Study the core scientific principles, theories, and processes that govern living organisms and biological systems. You’ll do hands-on laboratory work to investigate natural phenomena.

Skills for Success: Hard working student, effective time management

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry (*Minimum Grade of 80% in both and Developing Learner or higher on Biology EOC*)

Out of Class Commitments: Students are expected to complete textbook readings outside of class and to review lecture notes before class.

Recommended Summer Preparation: A short vocabulary assignment will be completed during the summer, as well as creating an introductory email.

Contact: Kathryn Dupree dupree.kathryn@fcboe.org

**Chemistry:**
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-year, introductory college general chemistry course. Learn about the fundamental concepts of chemistry including structure and states of matter, intermolecular forces, and reactions. You’ll do hands-on lab investigations and use chemical calculations to solve problems.

Skills for success: Hard work, willingness to face challenges, and time management

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry *minimum grade of 85% for both*

Out of Class Commitments: Students are expected to complete 30 minutes of homework/studying every night. On occasion, labs may need to be completed before or after-school.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Your teacher will prepare a summer activity to ensure you keep your Chemistry and Math skills fresh.

Contact: Shelley Kozlowski (kozlowski.shelley@fcboe.org)

**Environmental Science:**
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. Explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made. You’ll take part in laboratory investigations and field work.

Skills for Success:
Prerequisites: 9th Grade/STEM: Physical Science, 11th & 12th Grade: Biology and Chemistry (9th grade has the option to take without the biology & chemistry prerequisite but needs to be highly motivated) (Minimum Grade of 80% in all)

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact: Evan Todd (todd.evan@fcboe.org)

Physics 1:
Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester introductory college course in algebra-based physics. Learn about the foundational principles of physics as you explore Newtonian mechanics; work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. You’ll do hands-on laboratory work to investigate phenomena.

Skills for Success: Intrinsically motivated; basic mathematical skills including the solving of variables, trigonometric identities of right triangles, and finding the slope and area under a given curve; hard worker; and time management.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry (Minimum Grade of 80% in both)

Out of Class Commitments: Approx. 30 minutes a night spent on problem solving and watching AP Daily videos. It is also highly recommended that students read their textbook for each unit and do as many additional practice problems as possible.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Review over the basic mathematical concepts listed above in the Skills for Success section. Also, get as much rest as you can during the summer before taking AP Physics 1!

Contact: Marcus A. Bartlett PhD (bartlett.marcus@fcboe.org)

Physics 2:
Description: This course is equivalent to a second-semester introductory college course in algebra-based physics. Expand your understanding of physics as you explore topics such as fluids; thermodynamics; electric force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and electromagnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics. You’ll do hands-on and inquiry-based in-class activities and laboratory work to investigate phenomena.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: AP Physics 1 or Physics (Minimum Grade of 80%)

Out of Class Commitments:
Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact:
Social Studies

**European History:**
Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college survey of modern European history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Europe from c. 1450 to the present. You’ll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: AP World: minimum of 80 OR World History: minimum of 85 AND English (S1): minimum of 85

Out of Class Commitments: Nightly reading assignments, approximately 30 minutes

Recommended Summer Preparation: none

Contact: grossbohlin.jennifer@fcboe.org

**Human Geography:**
Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You’ll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

Skills for Success: Reading comprehension, problem solving, thinking outside the box

Prerequisites: Incoming 9th Grade: Overall academic GPA of 3.5 or higher for rising freshmen. Rising 10th Grade: 9th Lit or Gifted 9th Lit Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)

Out of Class Commitments: Roughly 15 minutes a night is recommended

Recommended Summer Preparation: 1 Summer assignment–approximately 1 hour in length

Contact: Ron Rineer rineer.ron@fcboe.org

**Macroeconomics:**
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in macroeconomics. Explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. You’ll use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

Skills for Success: Graphing and Graph analysis, problem solving

Prerequisites: AP US History or US History and Algebra II (Minimum Grade of 80% in both)

Out of Class Commitments: None
Psychology:
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in psychology. Explore the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. You’ll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion and you’ll analyze data from psychological research studies.

Skills for Success: high level reading comprehension and writing skills

Prerequisites: AP World History Minimum grade of 80% OR World History (minimum grade of 85%) 10th/11th English Literature Minimum Grade of 85% (S1)

Out of Class Commitments: Approximately 30 minutes a night spent on reading the texts and assignments. Students are required to take a pretest two weeks prior to the national examination.

Recommended Summer Preparation: None

Contact: Jan Daniel (daniel.jan@fcboe.org)

US Government and Politics:
Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in U.S. government. Study the key concepts and institutions of the political system and culture of the United States. You’ll read, analyze, and discuss the U.S. Constitution and other documents as well as complete a research or applied civics project.

Skills for Success: Higher levels of reading comprehension and writing skills; Interest in Public Policy and current government processes

Prerequisites: AP US History: minimum grade of 80% OR US History: minimum grade of 85%

Out of Class Commitments: 2-3 hours per week average

Recommended Summer Preparation: None

Contact: Sherry Stout (stout.sherry@fcboe.org)
**US History:**
Description: This course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course in U.S. history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the United States from c. 1491 to the present. You’ll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Skills for Success: high-level reading and writing skills, a willingness to learn from mistakes, self-motivation

Prerequisites: AP World History *(Minimum grade of 80%)* or World History *(Minimum grade of 85%)* and Minimum Grade of 85% in English (S1)

Out of Class Commitments: textbook readings during the week (sometimes over the weekend), periodic projects/papers

Recommended Summer Preparation: none

Contact: Kerry Moore ([moore.kerry@fcboe.org](mailto:moore.kerry@fcboe.org))

**World History:**
Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college course in modern world history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the world from c. 1200 CE to the present. You’ll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: 9th Lit *Minimum Grade of 85% (S1)* or Gifted 9th Lit *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments: Nightly reading assignments approximately 30 minutes

Recommended Summer Preparation: none

Contact: grossbohlin.jennifer@fcboe.org
**Spanish Language and Culture:**
Description: This course is equivalent to an intermediate level (typically third- or fourth-semester) college course in Spanish language. Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You’ll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Spanish IV or Spanish III Spanish teacher recommends level

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Contact: