

# Advanced Placement Program @ Cascade High School

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Frosh Orientation

## What is Advanced Placement?

AP enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced placement. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.

Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course. Talented and dedicated AP teachers help AP students in classrooms around the world develop and apply the content knowledge and skills they will need later in college. Each AP course concludes with a college-level assessment developed and scored by college and university faculty as well as experienced AP teachers.

AP Exams are an essential part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level course work. More than 90 percent of four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant students credit, placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. Universities in more than 60 countries recognize AP Exam scores in the admission process and/or award credit and placement for qualifying scores. Visit [www.collegeboard.org/ap/creditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/ap/creditpolicy) to view AP credit and placement policies at more than 1,000 colleges and universities.

## How does Advanced Placement benefit my child?

Research shows that high school students who take AP classes do better in college than comparable students who do not take AP classes. Students perform even better in college when they take the class and the exam in May; they do even better when they take the class and the exam and pass the exam!

AP teaches and reinforces the essential skills for success in college- reading, writing, critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, logic, listening, studying, time-management, note-taking, discussing, debating and test-taking, to name just a few.

## How does my child qualify for AP classes?

It depends. Calculus is part of the natural math progression from Algebra I to Geometry to Algebra II to Pre-Calculus to Calculus. Students of Calculus have to start Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Usually advanced English students have been in advanced classes since at least Junior High. AP Biology students need to complete both biology and chemistry. Usually, but not always, AP US History students are also enrolled in advanced English classes and most AP Gov't kids take AP US History.

AP classes are not for every student. They are challenging course that require above-grade-level ability in reading, writing and math. The College Board (which runs the AP program) 'believes that all students should have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes'. Parents and/or students can get advice from their teachers and counselors.

## What Advanced Placement courses are provided at Cascade High School?

### **AP English Language & Composition: Sophomores Jessica Dodge A102**

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

### **AP Calculus: mostly Juniors/Seniors Chris Elbert room 21**

Calculus AB can be offered as an AP course by any school that can organize a curriculum for students with mathematical ability. Calculus AB is designed to be taught over a full high school academic year. It is possible to spend some time on elementary functions and still teach the Calculus AB curriculum within a year. However, if students are to be adequately prepared for the Calculus AB Exam, most of the year must be devoted to the topics in differential and integral calculus. These topics are the focus of the AP Exam questions.

### **AP Biology: Juniors/Seniors Scott Sumpter room 18**

Given the speed with which scientific discoveries and research continuously expand scientific knowledge, many educators are faced with the challenge of balancing breadth of content coverage with depth of understanding. The revised AP Biology course addresses this challenge by shifting from a traditional "content coverage" model of instruction to one that focuses on enduring, conceptual understandings and the content that supports them. This approach will enable students to spend less time on factual recall and more time on inquiry-based learning of essential concepts, and will help them develop the reasoning skills necessary to engage in the science practices used throughout their study of AP Biology.

### **AP United States History: Juniors Matt McBeth room 5**

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

### **AP U.S. Government & Politics: Seniors Matt McBeth room 5**

A well-designed AP course in United States Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. While there is no single approach that an AP United States Government and Politics course must follow, students should become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. Certain topics are usually covered in all college courses.

### **AP English Literature & Composition: Juniors & Seniors Carol Fleenor A103**

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone.

# College Credit Options

## **College Credit Now - Credit awarded through Chemeketa**

The students sign-up for the college credit with the high school teacher in the appropriate class. The \$25 fee is paid to the high school at the time they are enrolled in the high school class. They will then receive the college credit by passing the high school class with a C or better.

**WR 115, 121, 122**  
**SPN 101103**  
**HPE 295**

Carol Fleenor (AP English and English IV)  
Vanda Baughman (Credit is earned & awarded in Spn III)  
Stephanie Cox (Health II)

## **Willamette Promise - Credit awarded through Western Oregon University**

The students enrolled in the appropriate high school class, will have the opportunity to take a proficiency based test on the specific subject. If the test is passed, the student will sign-up for the college credit through the WESD website. The \$30 fee will be paid to the high school after successful completion of the proficiency based test.

**MATH 111**  
**BIO 101, 102**  
**CHEM 104, 150**  
**SPN 101, 102, 103**  
**PSY 201**

Chris Elbert and Vicky Remy (Pre-Calculus)  
Scott Sumpter (Biology and AP Biology)  
Alicia Ryan (Chemistry)  
Vanda Baughman (Spanish II, III)  
David Medlock (Advanced Psychology)

## **AP Classes - Credit awarded varies from College to College**

Students can earn college credit by earning passing scores (3,4,or 5) on AP exams given in the spring. The \$92 exam fee must be paid before the exam is given. Each college awards the credit differently based on the passing score.

**AP Biology**  
**AP Calculus AB**  
**AP English Language**  
**AP English Literature**  
**AP US Government**  
**AP US History**

Scott Sumpter (AP Biology)  
Chris Elbert (AP Calculus)  
Jessica Dodge (AP English Language 10th grade)  
Carol Fleenor (AP English Literature 12th grade)  
Matt McBeth (AP Govt 12th grade)  
Matt McBeth (AP US History 11th grade)