



ADVANCED PLACEMENT - FAQ

What is Advanced Placement?

Advanced Placement (AP) is a high school enrichment program run through the *College Board* which offers students University-level material. The *College Board* is the same organization which manages the SAT exam.

Who should take AP courses?

Generally, a grade of 80% and/or teacher recommendation (in a prerequisite course) is suggested for students who wish to take Advanced Placement. More important, however, is the student's motivation and maturity.

What are the main benefits of AP?

1. University preparation - students are able to work with like-minded peers and progress at a pace suitable for academically-gifted and mature students.
2. University credit - students may receive **university credit** in high school if successful on their final AP exam. (<http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>)
3. University acceptance - Institutions (like the University of Alberta) like AP students. Many accept an AP exam grade as a replacement of a lower Alberta Education grade. (<http://admissions.ualberta.ca/en/AP-IB/AP-advanced-placement/course-equivalents.aspx>)
4. The last reason is financial. There are a number of scholarships for students who receive advanced standing on exams. Also, there is savings from tuition - students may receive credit for Math 113 in high school and will not need to pay post-secondary prices.

What is the difference between AP and IB?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) framework offers the same premise of enriched university-level programming in high school. It is considered a holistic program and works best when students complete its diploma program. This entails 6 courses in different fields, an extended essay, theory of knowledge course, and a certain number of hours of volunteer/community/non-academic work.

In Advanced Placement (AP), students enroll in as many or as few single-stream courses (ie. Calculus AB) as they like.

Regardless of the choice, many universities like the U of A accept each program equally: <http://admissions.ualberta.ca/AP-IB>

Won't my mark be lower if take "harder" material?

This is one of the greatest misconceptions with AP! **Class averages are often 15 to 20 percent HIGHER in AP classes.** Alberta Education outcomes and AP outcomes are assessed differently. This means a "standard" stream course and an AP course still write the same exams. Enriched AP assessments are recorded separately.

(Because the AP program is run out of Princeton, NJ, it fits very well with all Alberta High School diploma requirements. Typically, AP courses build upon the Alberta curriculum and provide additional enrichment.)

Is there an AP Exam in every grade level?

There is only 1 AP Exam for each sequence. Let's use Chemistry as the example:

In grade 10: a student would take Science 10AP. This course is more of an "honors" class intended to begin the streaming process and develop pre-requisite knowledge for the next level. There is no "true" AP exam from the College Board at the end of this level.

In grade 11: a student (if successful in 10AP) takes Chemistry 20AP. This is still considered an "honors" class (streaming students unable/unmotivated out of the AP stream).

In grade 12: Chemistry 30AP is the "true" AP course which has its exam in May. This exam is offset from Alberta diplomas to avoid conflicts.

Do I need to write the AP Exam?

The AP exam, while giving students an opportunity to receive university credit in high school, is optional. It is encouraged, though.

Is there a fee to write AP exams?

Alberta Education does not offer a program similar to AP. There is a large cost in running a large international organization that creates yearly assessments, grades the exams, facilitates school audits, etc. Even though there is a fee, success in the course results in less tuition costs, so money is saved in the end.

Can I write an AP exam without taking the course?

Attempting an AP exam independently is not recommended and highly unusual. Bev Facey's AP teachers know the content and teach the curriculum to a high standard.

Do I have to take all of the courses offered at Bev Facey?

AP has a student-centered philosophy. The flexibility of the Advanced Placement Program is one of its main pedagogical benefits. Each student may tailor the program of studies to meet and challenge his or her aptitudes and abilities.

Bev Facey offers:

Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, Computer Science, English Literature and Composition, Physics 1, and Physics 2.

Choice allows students to engage in other exciting courses offered at Bev Facey. Whether it is the Facey Leadership Initiative (FLI), athletics, or the impressive variety of options at www.bevfacey.ca, balancing academics during high school requires careful thought.

For more information, please visit www.bevfacey.ca or contact:

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