

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING Advanced Placement (AP) Classes?



You can graduate sooner

Receiving college credit for classes will enable you to graduate sooner, possibly in three years, but definitely in less than the national average. This is a huge savings, not only on tuition, but also on

The classes impress

You save money on tuition

At most colleges, you receive some sort of class credit for AP Exam scores of three and higher (exams are scored from 1-5). This credit often goes towards introductory level college courses in the same subject as the AP class.

AP classes help develop college-level academic skills

Since AP classes are more difficult than standard classes, they help you develop college-level academic skills. The classes are made up of students and educators with a strong commitment to excellence in learning and problem solving. These are all qualities you will need in college.

These classes can increase your chances for college-specific merit aid

Approximately 31 percent of colleges and universities will consider a student's AP coursework when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships. Students who have AP classes on their transcript impress financial aid officers—this often translates into a student receiving more free money to pay for college.

You will have more flexibility in college

With several basic classes out of the way, you may want to add a second major or minor, take more electives, or study abroad and still graduate in four years. If you have multiple interests, AP credits can make it more feasible to add a minor or even a second major to your undergraduate academic plan. Part of the fun of college is exploring classes outside of your requirements. AP credits will also free you to take more elective courses, which can also help you zero in on a major sooner.

If you can, it makes sense to take advantage of AP classes in high school. If you want to save money, graduate in four years or less, impress college admissions officers, receive more merit aid, and have flexibility in college, AP classes will help you meet all of those goals.

