

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

- Students may earn college credit through the AP Program.
- Notre Dame does not offer AP courses, but a student who excels in a given area may wish to take an AP exam.
- The exams are given in May and cost between \$80-\$90.
- Tests are ordered in March. Announcements will be made in the bulletin and at school.
- Exams can be taken in any subject area and are not limited to seniors.
- Scores are given on a scale of 1-5, with college credit given for scores of 3 or above, depending on the college and subject.
- AP credit is more widely accepted at colleges than early college or dual credit classes.
- Go to www.collegeboard.com for more information.

Subjects for the AP Exams

(From www.collegeboard.com)

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- European History
- French Language
- French Literature
- German Language
- Comparative Government and Politics
- US Government and Politics
- Human Geography
- Latin Literature
- Latin: Vergil
- Music Theory
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Statistics
- Studio Art
- US History
- World History

Frequently Asked Questions

(From www.collegeboard.com)

- Can I take the AP Exam if I haven't taken an AP course?
 - The College Board urges students to study the kinds of skills and subjects outlined in the Course Description for each subject, because they represent the basis for the AP Examination. The best way to do so is in a year-long AP course in which the students and teachers focus on AP-level work. Some students, however, have taken strong courses and/or have studied in depth on their own. Such students may be able to perform quite well on the AP Exam.

- If I don't get a good grade on an AP Exam, will it hurt my chances for college admission?
 - If you take an examination as a senior, colleges will not receive your grade before July—probably well after you have been admitted. If you choose to report AP grades obtained before your senior year, you will primarily be telling the colleges that you undertook a difficult course and that you are serious about your studies. Overall, approximately two-thirds of all AP test-takers receive AP grades of at least 3. This grade is regarded as an indicator of an ability to do successful work at most colleges.

- How many times can I repeat an AP Exam?
 - You can take an AP Exam each time it is offered (AP Exams are offered once a year in May). Your grade report will include your grades for all the AP Exams you have taken, including yearly “repeats” of the same subject exam.

- How much time does it take to finish and exam?
 - Most of the exams take two to three hours to complete. For subjects that correspond to half-year college courses, the exam is closer to two hours in length. Your AP Coordinator should notify you of the exact exam starting time. You can also take a look at the current exam schedules for days and dates.

- Will I lose points if I answer a multiple-choice question wrong? Should I guess?
 - The answer to the first question is “yes,” but not as much as you might think. Your score on the multiple-choice section is based on the number of questions you answer correctly minus a fraction of the number of questions you answer incorrectly. (One-fourth of a point is subtracted for a wrong answer in questions with five answer choices, and one-third of a point in questions with four answer choices.)
 - The answer to the second question is a conditional “yes.” Random guessing is unlikely to raise or lower your grade if you are unsure about the answer to a question, because of the formula (described above) used to deduct points for wrong answers. However, if you have SOME knowledge of the question, and can eliminate one or more answer choices, informed guessing from among the remaining choices is usually to your advantage.