AP Qualifying Guidelines

2017-2018

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Advanced Placement United States History, Advanced Placement European History, Advanced Placement Psychology, AP Human Geography, and Advanced Placement US Government and Politics

Advanced Placement United States and European Histories, Advanced Placement Psychology, Advanced Placement Human Geography, and Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics are offered to provide junior and senior history students who have the appropriate interest, ability, and motivation, the opportunity to participate in a college-level course taught in high school. This participation equips the student with reading, writing, and interpretive skills necessary for advanced courses in college as well as providing the experiences needed to score well on the AP exam. The pedagogical approach enhances the student's analytical thought processes and places the responsibility for learning on the student.

Given the descriptive information above, students considering AP History, AP Psychology , AP Human Geography, or AP Government and Politics course should:

1. be highly motivated or have a desire to learn history and historical method (there may be summer work that students have to complete prior to the course);
2. understand that the course is challenging and requires consistent and thorough daily preparation outside of the scheduled class period (students should consider their academic and extra-curricular schedules, job obligation, reading rate);
3. possess above average thinking, reading, and writing skills (PSAT and /or SAT reading/writing score above 500; consistently receive English and history grades of *87 or higher*).
4. Recommended by current history or psychology teacher or other department members *(teachers will be asked to comment on the student's critical reading, writing and thinking skills and work ethic).*

Application for AP European History
Application for AP US History
Application for AP Psychology
Application for AP Human Geography
Application for AP Government

Advanced Placement World History

Advanced Placement World History is offered to provide sophomore history students who have the appropriate interest, ability, and motivation, the opportunity to participate

in a college-level course taught in high school. This participation equips the student with reading, writing, and interpretive skills necessary for advanced courses in college as well as providing the experiences needed to score well on the AP exam. The pedagogical approach enhances the student's analytical thought processes and places the responsibility for learning on the student.

Given the descriptive information above, students considering taking AP World History should:

1. be highly motivated or have a desire to learn history and historical method. Students may be expected to complete a summer reading assignment.
2. understand that the course is challenging and requires thorough daily preparation outside of the scheduled daily class period (students should consider their academic and extra-curricular schedules, job obligation, reading rate, etc.).
3. should be willing to adapt their approach to history and be comfortable with taking a Big Picture History approach to the content covered.
4. possess above average thinking, reading, and writing skills. English and History course averages should be an 87 or higher. Students should have an Pre-ACT reading score of 19 or higher, and they MUST be recommended by present history teacher and English teachers, if necessary *(teachers will be asked to comment on the student's critical reading, writing and thinking skills and work ethic).*
5. complete an application for the course.

Application for AP World History

Advanced Placement Economics

Advanced Placement Microeconomics and Macroeconomics are offered to provide junior and senior students who have the appropriate interest, ability, and motivation, the opportunity to participate in college-level courses taught in high school. This participation equips the student with economic knowledge and interpretive skills necessary for advanced courses in college, as well as providing the experiences needed to score well on the AP exam. The pedagogical approach enhances the student's analytical thought processes and places the responsibility for learning on the student.

Given the descriptive information above, students considering AP Economics should:

1. be highly motivated and have a desire to learn economics and do college-level work;
2. understand that the course is challenging and requires consistent and thorough daily preparation outside of the scheduled daily class period (students should consider their academic and extracurricular schedules, job obligations, etc.);
3. possess above average thinking and reading skills (consistently receive math and history grades of *87 or higher* and have a combined PSAT reading/writing and math score of at least 110);
4. have completed Algebra II, earning at least a B-;
5. be recommended by current history teacher *(teachers will be asked to comment on the student's critical reading, writing and thinking skills and work ethic)*;
6. complete AP Microeconomics (offered in the fall) before taking AP Macroeconomics (offered in the spring).

Application for AP Micro/Macro Economics

Advanced Placement Biology

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a year-long (two semesters) college introductory biology course. AP Biology differs significantly from the usual introductory high school biology course with respect to the textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required of students. The **double class period** each day provides time for lecture, demonstration, problem-solving, and laboratory experiences. Please note that most tests will be double period (1.5 hours, consisting of one period of multiple choice and one period of free response) and there are **NO** retests or extra credit in AP Biology.

In order to take AP Biology, the following criteria should be met:

1. Students should have successfully completed Chemistry I Accelerated with 87 average, or Chemistry I and Biology with 93 averages.
2. Students should be willing to devote six hours of outside study and preparation time each week.
3. Students should have minimum PSAT/SAT scores of 530 on the reading/writing and math sections.
4. Department approval required.

Application for AP Biology

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

The AP Environmental Science course includes a strong laboratory and field investigation component. Students in this class will have numerous chances to conduct laboratory investigations-approximately 30 hours worth.

In order to take AP Environmental Science, the following prerequisites are required:

1. Successful completion of Chemistry I Accelerated, and AP Biology with 87 averages, or Chemistry I, and Biology with 93 averages.
2. Be highly motivated to learn science and willing to devote six hours of outside study and preparation time each week.
3. Successful completion of Algebra I (see note below).
4. Should have minimum PSAT/SAT scores of 530 on the reading/writing and math sections.

*** Note: While the math requirement seems low, a student should be able to confidently:**

- do basic algebra <u>without</u> a calculator (No calculator allowed on exam)
- understand percents, scientific notation and significant figures
- understand statistical validity
- use dimensional analysis (i.e., convert units, plot data and interpret graphs)

Application for AP Environmental Science

Advanced Placement Chemistry

The AP Chemistry course is designed to give science-oriented students an opportunity to study in depth some of the important concepts of chemistry and to study topics beyond the scope of the regular high school chemistry class. This course provides the equivalent of a year-long college level general Chemistry course and lab. The curriculum follows the suggested outline of topics of the College Board Advanced Placement program. The **double class period** each day provides time for lecture, demonstration, problem-solving, and ample opportunity for laboratory exercises. Please

note that most tests will be double period and there are **NO** retests or extra credit in AP Chemistry. In order to take AP Chemistry, the following criteria should be met:

1. Students must have successfully completed Chemistry I Accelerated with at least an 87 average. Since AP Chemistry does not allow retesting, you should have maintained this average without the extensive (routine, regular) use of retesting.
2. Students must be studying Analysis or higher concurrently.
3. The student should have minimum PSAT/SAT reading/writing score of 530 and math score of 600.

Students are also expected to devote at least six (6) hours per week, beyond class time, to chemistry assignments, study, and outside reading. Laboratory assignments are an integral part of the course and are time consuming and challenging. Students should recognize this and be willing to spend the time necessary to satisfactorily complete each procedure.

Application for AP Chemistry

Advanced Placement Physics C

The Advanced Placement Physics C course is the equivalent of a college-level introductory course. Using the methods of calculus wherever appropriate, this course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of problem-solving ability. In addition, the laboratory experience offers the students the opportunity to observe and measure real phenomena and apply their problem-solving abilities to real situations. The double class period each day allows time for laboratory investigations, discussions, lectures, demonstration, working problems, and performing practical applications. In order to take AP Physics C, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student has completed or will be concurrently taking Calculus (AP or non-AP), Pre-calculus is not acceptable;
2. The student is willing to devote at least six (6) hours per week of work outside the classroom;
3. The student has a PSAT/SAT mathematics score of at least 600.
4. Department approval required.

Application for AP Physics C

Advanced Placement Calculus AB and Advanced Placement Calculus BC

Advanced Placement Calculus at Providence Day School is a college level course that is fundamentally concerned with developing the student's comprehension of the concepts of Calculus and the integration of concepts taught in previous courses. Emphasis is placed on the student's confidence in mastering different methods of problem solving which include numerical, graphical, algebraic and analytical methods. Students will be asked to work through challenging problems, to justify their results computationally, and to write about their results. Appropriate use of technology will be used throughout the course to strengthen the relationships of functions, and investigate new concepts, as well as for computational purposes. Students finish calculus with a much better perspective of mathematics in general.

Calculus AB is the equivalent of one semester of college calculus. Calculus BC is the equivalent of two semesters of college calculus. The BC syllabus covers all concepts taught in the AB syllabus, expecting an equal understanding at a slightly faster pace. Students in BC Calculus cover additional concepts and have less formal class time for review for the AP exam. In both courses, motivation to work diligently and independently is as important as ability.

In order to take AP Calculus AB or BC, the student must meet the following criteria:

1) The student has completed the prerequisite course of Analysis or equivalent with at least an 80 average for AB and at least a 90 average for BC
2) The student is willing to devote at least six (6) hours per week of work outside the classroom for AB and eight (8) hours for BC
3) The student has a PSAT/SAT mathematics score of at least 600
4) Department approval required

Note: when enrollment is sufficient, both Calculus AB and Calculus BC are offered.

Application for AP Calculus AB
Application for AP Calculus BC

Advanced Placement Statistics

The rationale for offering an Advanced Placement Statistics course at Providence Day is to prepare students for college by offering an applications-oriented mathematics course for students who will most likely need some experience in statistics for their college major and life ambition. In colleges and universities, the number of students who take a statistics course is almost as large as the number of students who take a

calculus course. Having this course in high school gives the students an opportunity to learn good analytical skills rooted in mathematical and statistical theory as well as to see the application of this kind of analysis to many different fields and problems. At the end of such a statistics course, students have a better perspective of the statistics that are presented to the public everyday and the importance of, as well as the actual methods used in, analysis of research.

This course is open to any students who have satisfied the prerequisite course (Precalculus or higher) and shows the interest, ability, and motivation to do college-level work. Final decision is made by the department based on performance in all areas.

The following are guidelines for AP Statistics:

1. AP Statistics is made available to strong students who are well-rounded and have shown promise in other analytical arenas (i.e. History, Science, or English).
2. This course is not intended to be exclusively for the mathematically astute, but rather a solid math student who has performed well in Precalculus as well as other liberal arts courses.
3. A student in this course should have good reading comprehension skills and the ability to read and interpret lengthy problem situations.
4. A student in this course should have the motivation to work diligently. A student must also be able to work collaboratively and independently, be willing to spend a minimum of six (6) hours per week beyond class time and have the discipline to study the material even though there are no specific problems assigned.

Application for AP Statistics

Advanced Placement Computer Science

Advanced Placement Computer Science allows participating students to earn college credit for computer science and allows those interested in computers to continue study beyond beginning programming. This course is designed to study in depth data structures and algorithms covered in first and second year computer classes in college.

This course is available to all interested students who have completed Algebra II. Scheduling for AP Computer Science requires one class period.

Application for AP Computer Science - Java

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles introduces students to the central ideas of computer science, instilling the ideas and practices of computational thinking and inviting students to understand how computing changes the world. The rigorous course promotes deep learning of computational content, develops computational thinking skills, and engages students in the creative aspects of the field.

This course is available to students who have a B average or higher in Geometry. While programming experience is recommended for this course, it is not required.

Application for AP Computer Science Principles

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

AP English Lit is an intense, senior-year investigation of literature, concerned with imparting a mature appreciation through analysis. Frequent timed analyses of poetry and literary prose train students enrolled in the course to interpret and analyze quickly and persuasively. Full-length essays demand that students take analysis to more sophisticated, rigorously argued conclusions. Most of class time proceeds in discussion-seminar format.. The teacher assumes a basic facility with recognizing meaning in modes other than the literal.

Students considering this course must possess the following:

1. an affinity for reading and a desire to discover how reading can clarify one's sense of self, one's relationships, and one's place in the world;
2. strong verbal analytical skills and comfort with ambiguity and non-literal meaning;
3. a recognition of the likelihood that AP English Lit will be more of a challenge than any prior, non-AP English class (grading standards are unusually high);
4. a high-B average (over 87) in all previous English courses;
5. a relatively high score on the verbal and writing-skills portions of the PSAT/SAT (550 or better).

Application for AP English Literature

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

AP Language and Comp is a college-level, "Freshman Comp" course that focuses on reading and—especially—writing expository prose. Students enrolled in the course, typically juniors, write more frequently than in any prior class, and they work intensely with peers and the teacher on gaining efficient, analytical proficiency with language. They learn to read critically, with an eye for rhetorical devices and strategies. They learn

to read as writers, sensitive to how they can learn from published essayists, journalists, and scholars.

Students considering this course should possess the following:

1. an affinity for writing and reading and a willingness to set high standards for themselves as writers;
2. a recognition that grading standards for this course are unusually high;
3. a “90 ” (A-) or higher in English II;
4. a high score on the verbal and writing-skills portions of the PSAT/SAT (600 or better).

Rising juniors who register for this course may not register for Writing Seminar.

Application for AP English Language & Composition

Advanced Placement World Language Courses

Advanced Placement World Language courses are designed to offer a college-level language experience to students who have demonstrated the high interest and ability to meet the challenges of the AP curriculum. In order to be considered for these courses, students must have performed at a level of excellence in previous advanced language courses and have achieved a facility with the language that enables them to complete assignments within established homework guidelines. Students requesting enrollment in French, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish AP language classes must complete year 6 before enrollment in the AP level course. Students requesting enrollment in Latin AP and German AP must complete year 5 before enrollment in the AP level course. For the 2017-2018 school year, only Juniors currently enrolled in French 5 and Spanish 5 who obtain a minimum grade of 87% may enroll in the corresponding French or Spanish AP course. Teacher recommendation, a minimum grade of 87, and departmental approval is required for all.

Objectives for **AP French, Spanish, German, and Chinese Language and Culture**:

1. develop the student’s ability to understand the spoken language in a variety of conversational settings.
2. develop a vocabulary compatible with the reading of newspapers or magazine articles, excerpts from literature or whole works, and other materials without reliance on a dictionary.
3. review grammatical structures thoroughly.
4. develop the student’s ability to express him/herself orally and in writing with proficiency.
5. success on the AP exam.

Objectives for **AP Latin**:

The AP Latin program consists of both prose and epic poetry. The objectives are to prepare students for the following proficiencies:

1. to translate accurately from Latin to English.
2. to demonstrate a mastery of grammatical structures and vocabulary.
3. to analyze an author's style and use of literary devices.
4. to scan dactylic hexameter meter.
5. to display an awareness of the cultural, social, and political context of the literature selected.
6. success on the AP exam.

Application for AP World Languages

Advanced Placement History of Art

The Advanced Placement offering in the History of Art provides the same benefits to secondary school students as those provided by an introductory college course in art history: an understanding and enjoyment of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within historical and cultural contexts. In the course, students examine the major forms of artistic expression of the past as well as those of our time and of a variety of cultures. They learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience. Successful AP Art History students can relate artifacts from particular cultures to other cultures and understand their chronological sequence. Students who achieve the goals of this course may receive advanced placement and/or credit at many colleges and universities.

1. No prior experience in the history of art is assumed for those students who take the course, but Upper School Art I and/or department approval is a prerequisite.
2. Students who have experienced success in other courses in history and literature are encouraged to enroll.
3. Students should have had at least two art courses while in Upper School.
4. Students are expected to have a high degree of commitment to academic work and to the purposes of a program designed to meet college standards.

Application for AP Art History

Advanced Placement Studio Art

The AP Studio Art course requires a more significant commitment of time and effort

than most high school courses.

The instructional goals for the AP Studio Art program are:

- to encourage creative and systematic investigation of formal, technical, and conceptual issues.
- to emphasize a process of art-making that involves critical decision-making.
- to develop technical skills and critical thinking in both conventional and unconventional visual arts media.

Also, this course will address three major constants in the teaching of art:

- a sense of quality and originality in the student's work.
- creation of a series of works that concentrate on a particular visual interest or problem.
- the need for breadth of experience in the formal, technical, and expressive means of the artist.

The required portfolio that is submitted in May directly pertains to these three constraints of quality, concentration and breadth. Motivated students who have previously experienced success in art courses are encouraged to enroll. Interested students must seek departmental approval and arrange their schedule so requirements for this course can be satisfied.

Application for AP Studio Art

Advanced Placement Music Theory

The Advanced Placement Music Theory course is designed to be the equivalent of what a first year college music major experiences. The equivalent coursework in college is offered as two yearlong classes in ear-training, sight-singing and written music theory. In this course, students build on their knowledge of Western-European music by studying musical form and analysis, developing melodic and harmonic dictation skills, composing in styles characteristic to the Common Practice, and integrating relevant historical information.

The instructional goals of the AP Music Theory course are:

- to provide students with the tools to create and analyze music;
- to enhance performance skills;
- to provide experience in regarding digital resources relevant to the course;
- to prepare for the AP Music Theory exam.

Students interested in AP Music Theory should:

- have the desire to learn concepts and skills thoroughly;
- possess strong music reading skills;
- play an instrument or possess strong vocal skills;
- possess sound analytical and critical thinking skills.

Interested students must seek departmental approval.

Prerequisite: ***Music Theory: Fundamental Training and Pre-Assessment***, available in hard copy format from Mrs. Russell. This document can also be found on her website beginning March 1. 2016.

Application for AP Music Theory