



What is Advanced Placement?

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program that will allow you to develop your academic skills in a positive, focused learning environment that features a high level of engagement. If you really enjoy a particular subject and feel ready for an academic challenge, AP is for you!

WHY take AP? What are the benefits?

1. **POST-SECONDARY ENTRANCE:** Taking an AP exam is a risk-free opportunity to improve your mark for university entrance. Universities and colleges will look at your Alberta course mark and your AP exam mark in that subject, and then take the **higher of the two**. See the conversion chart on the back of this page for details.
2. **POST-SECONDARY CREDIT:** Students can receive university credit for first-year university courses if they achieve a **4 or 5** in an AP course. Please note that every post-secondary institution awards these credits in a slightly different way, so contacting them for specific information is recommended.
3. **SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS:** Statistically, AP students who score 3 or higher on their AP exams are more likely to score higher on university exams than non-AP students, and are more likely to complete a university degree. This data is based on a six-year research study recently completed by the College Board, the University of Alberta, and University of British Columbia. A follow up research study concluded that students who scored a 1 or 2 on an AP exam also had higher scores in university than non-AP students.
4. **CLASSROOM CULTURE:** AP classes are a safe place for like-minded students who are passionate about learning the subjects they love, and they have the support of their classmates and teachers to foster their learning in these areas of interest.
5. **EXTRA SUPPORT:** The new **AP Classroom** is an online resource developed by the College Board. It allows AP exam course students to access short videos and practice assessments to supplement the ongoing learning in the classroom, and to track their progress and improvement.
6. **AN ACADEMIC WIN-WIN:** There are many upsides to completing AP courses even if students don't use their exam scores for post-secondary entrance or course credit. The experience of preparing for and taking a high-level exam is beneficial regardless of your exam score. Students who have taken an AP course will generally find the comparable course in first-year university a bit easier. Students have more opportunities to get help in a high school AP course than they get in first-year university courses, which often have enormous class sizes.

Universities and Colleges generally treat AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses as equivalents and do not favour one over the other. When considering your school of choice, AP vs IB shouldn't be your distinguishing factor.

AP Grade Conversion Scale:

When completing AP exams in conjunction with the Alberta Education high school curriculum, Universities and Colleges consider your AP score in addition to your 30-level course grade and accept the higher of the two for admission. To calculate an admission average using AP results, you can convert your scores into percentages as outlined in the chart below.

Conversion Example: (AP Chemistry 5 > 84% in Chemistry 30)

If you finish with 84% in Chemistry 30 and score a 5 on your AP Chemistry exam (which converts to 96%), Universities and Colleges will use the higher AP grade of 96% in considering your admission.

While a higher AP exam score can raise your admissions average, **a lower score on an AP exam cannot be used to drop your admissions average.** AP exam marks can only cause your admission grades to go up. Taking an AP exam is therefore a risk-free opportunity to get a higher mark.

AP Result	AP Equivalent
5	96%
4	86%
3	76%
2	65%
1	Not accepted for admission

Accepting Credit and University Equivalent Courses:

Transfer credit can be granted for AP courses where an AP grade of 4 or 5 is received. Universities commonly attended by our students and their equivalent courses are listed below. Not all universities give credit in the same manner. Most universities not included in the chart below have their own advanced standing charts online you can cross reference if you're looking to apply somewhere else. When students receive course credit, they will not receive a GPA for that course. Rather, they accept the credit and move onto the next level university course or use the AP credited course as an elective.

Advanced Standing Chart for AP Courses Offered at Paul Kane:

AP Courses offered at Paul Kane	U of A Equivalent	Grant MacEwan Equivalent	UBC Equivalent
AP STUDIO: 2-D ART and DESIGN	ART 134 (3) / DES 135 (3)	ARTE 111 (3)	VISA 1ST YEAR LEVEL (3)
AP STUDIO: 3-D ART AND DESIGN	ART 134 (3) / DES 135 (3)	ARTE 107 (3)	VISA 180 (3)
AP STUDIO: DRAWING	ART 100 LEVEL (3)	ARTE 110 (3)	VISA 180 (3)
AP BIOLOGY	BIO 107 (3)	BIOL 1XX* (3)	BIOL 1 st year
AP CALCULUS AB	MATH 114 (3)	MATH 114 (3)	MATH 100
AP CALCULUS BC	MATH 114 or MATH 100* (3)	MATH 114 (3)	MATH 100 & 101
AP CHEMISTRY	CHEM 101 or 103* (3) CSA examination required	CHEM 101 & 102 (6)	CHEM 121 (3), but also CHEM 154 (3) for BASc
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE and COMPOSITION	ENGL 100 – level (3)	ENG 102 (3)	ENG 112 if one course is completed. Additional ENG 100 level if both courses are completed.
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE and COMPOSITION	ENGL 100 – level (3)	ENG 103 (3)	
AP EUROPEAN HISTORY	HIST 100 – level (6)	HIST 102 (3)	HIST 1 st year level
AP PHYSICS 1	Must complete AP PHYSICS 2 to get credit for PHYS 124	PHYS 124 (3)	Must complete AP PHYSICS 2 to get credit for PHYS 101 and 103.
AP PSYCHOLOGY	PSYCO 104 (3)	PSYCO 104 (3)	PSYCO 100 (3)
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES	CMPUT 101 (3)	CMPT 103 (3)	CPSC 100 (3)
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A	CMPUT 174 (3)	CMPT 103 (3)	CPSC 1ST-YEAR LEVEL (3)

* Engineering does not advise that students accept transfer credits. The first year of Engineering is specifically structured in terms of which courses and how many they accept. The only subject students may consider would be English, however if they did that the Faculty would require them to take a 200-level course in their first year to maintain course load requirements (not advised due to the difficulty of the program already). These students can still use their AP grades for admissions.