



Avondale High School Honors & AP Classes

Why Take Advanced Placement Classes?

Confidence – Develop better study habits, improve your writing skills, and sharpen your problem-solving abilities – this will give you the confidence to tackle the academic challenges you can expect in college.

Credit – Entering college with AP credits gives you time to move into upper-level courses in your field of interests, pursue a double major, or study/travel abroad.

College Success – Research consistently shows that students who are successful in AP typically experience greater academic success in college than similar students who do not participate in AP classes.



For information about The College Board, visit their website at <https://www.collegeboard.org/>.

The Importance of Academic Rigor

Studies have shown that the rigor of a students' high school curriculum is the single best predictor of success in college. In his seminal study, *The Tool Box Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College* (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Department of Education, 2006), Clifford Adelman demonstrated that the academic intensity of a high school curriculum is essential to student success in college.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling's (NACAC) annual State of College Admissions survey consistently finds that student performance in college preparatory classes is the most important factor in the admission decision. With this in mind, parents and educators should encourage enrollment in Honors and AP courses even if students have the impression that only "top" students should take these courses or the fear that taking a challenging course might result in a lower GPA. Advanced-level courses are worth the extra effort.

Implications for Admission

Students don't understand how much weight college admission officers give to advanced-level courses on an applicant's transcript. Admission officers are not impressed by straight A's when they are all earned in easier courses. Many colleges recalculate applicants' GPAs, giving extra points for honors or AP courses.

Students should take a balanced load, one that allows them to devote the necessary time to each course. Colleges look for quality, not quantity. According to Dan Saracino, former assistant provost for enrollment at the University of Notre Dame, "Nothing is more important than the quality of the course load."

Honors Courses

Honors classes often offer the same curriculum as regular classes but are tailored for high-achieving students - covering additional topics or some topics in greater depth.



AP Courses

- Cover the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in corresponding college courses
- Align with the standards and expectations of leading liberal arts and research institutions
- Provide motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to study and learn at the college level

Most U.S. Colleges and many international ones have an AP Credit Policy that allows students who have taken AP courses or exams to earn college credit, placement or both.