



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

MAST@FIU
Biscayne Bay Campus

Welcome

The faculty and staff at MAST@FIU Biscayne Bay Campus are committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



Advance Placement (AP)

Topics:

- What are Advanced Placement® Courses?
- The Benefits of AP
- AP® Exams
- AP Myths and Realities
- AP Course Enrollment Requirements
- What Can You Expect As An AP Student?
- What Assistance Is Available?



What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses.
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of college-level work.
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn college credit and/or placement in advanced courses in college.



The Benefits of AP[®]

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP courses is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Possibility to earn valuable course credit and placement in college (college specific and discretionary)



AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$23,410** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1*

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year. Miami-Dade County Public Schools pays for all AP Exams for students enrolled in the requisite AP course.

AP Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include multiple-choice questions, free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral responses.



AP[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit and placement as well based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	Students earn an additional bonus points that are added to the final grade for taking an AP course. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't graduate from high school unless I take an AP course.	Although AP courses are important in preparing for college, they are not required for high school graduation.



AP Course Enrollment

AP Course Enrollment

- AP Course Enrollment Requirements for MAST@FIU BBC
 - Incoming grade 9 students must obtain a qualifying score on the AP Qualifying Test to enroll in AP World History.
 - Students in grade 10 must obtain a qualifying score on the Post-Secondary Educational Readiness Test (PERT) and obtain a grade of “A” or “B” on the prerequisite course to enroll in a specific AP course.
 - Students in grades 11 and 12 must obtain a qualifying score on the PSAT, SAT or ACT and possess a minimum unweighted Grade Point Average of 3.0 to enroll in a specific AP course.

The College Board uses AP Potential, which is calculated using PSAT scores, as a basis for predicting student success in a specific AP courses.



What Can You Expect As An AP Student?

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- Advanced Placement courses:
 - are college-level courses so they require greater understanding of the target subject matter.
 - are rigorous, time consuming and fast-paced.
 - require additional reading and subject matter comprehension beyond what is expected in a honors-level course.
 - require significantly more time outside class to manage the content and the assignments.
 - require students to be effective time and task managers.
 - require students to be independent learners.





What Assistance Is Available?

What Assistance Is Available?

- AP Teacher or Subject Matter Teacher
- College Board Website (<http://collegeboard.com>)
- Internet Resources
- Peer Tutoring
- AP Course Review Books
- Content Review Sessions
- School Counselor
- Parent or Guardian





**Success in the AP Program is within
your reach at
MAST@FIU Biscayne Bay Campus**