

[< Back to All Articles](#)

5 Benefits of Taking AP Classes in High School

Why take an Advanced Placement class? After all, high school is a pressure cooker. You already have to take the SAT, [apply to college](#), and keep up with your extracurriculars. The last thing you may want to do is take a very demanding course, especially one that's not mandatory. But we recommend you consider it. Here are five ways AP classes can be a smart choice.

1. Prep for college

AP classes can be as challenging as introductory college courses. They are fast-paced, cover more material than regular classes, and require independent work like research and analysis. Getting a dose of a college-level curriculum early on could ease your transition from high school senior to first-year college student.



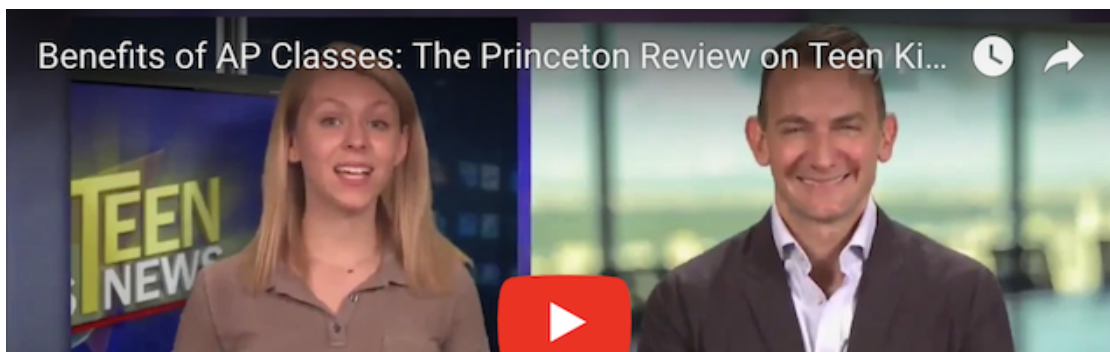
2. Rise to the top of the pile

Advanced Placement classes show admissions officers that you're ready for college-level work. Admissions counselors consistently tell us that [good grades](#) and academic rigor are the most important factors when schools evaluate applications. Even over standardized test scores!

3. Strengthen your transcript

Many high schools give extra weight to AP grades when [calculating your GPA](#). Taking an AP class and getting a B is often a better choice than getting an A in a regular course.

[WATCH: Why Take AP Classes?](#)





4. Study what you love

There are 38 AP subjects from computer science to Japanese language and culture, although your high school may only offer some of these. If you're a science whiz, [AP Biology](#) or [AP Chemistry](#) may give you the extra challenge you crave. If you're the next Ernest Hemingway, head to [AP English](#). Choosing a subject you're interested in, or have had previous success in, will help you commit to the workload.

Read More: [What AP Courses Should I Take?](#)

5. Get a head start on college reqs (and save some tuition dollars)

Taking an AP class is great prep for the acing the corresponding [AP test](#). Held every May, AP tests are scored on a scale from 1-5. If your college offers [AP credit](#), a score of a 4 or higher could allow you to earn college credits without paying college tuition. Some students are able to skip the entire first year of college this way, thus cutting the entire cost of their college education by one quarter.

AP Classes: The Bottom Line

AP classes can boost your GPA and strengthen your college application. But the number of advanced courses you choose to take should depend on your academic interests and your schedule. Concerned you won't be able to handle the tough concepts of an advanced course? We can help. Our [AP tutors](#) can give you a hand with your class work and get you ready for the test.

Prep for the SAT

Our expert instructors will help you reach your target score with effective strategy and practice.

[Learn More](#)

Read More

[AP Exams](#) +



ABOUT ROB FRANEK

Rob Franek, Editor-in-Chief at The Princeton Review, is the company's primary authority on higher education. Over his 24-year career, he has served as a college admissions administrator, test prep teacher, author, publisher, and lecturer. [Read more](#) and follow Rob on Twitter: [@RobFranek](#)

Find Prep Courses Near You

Select Test Type

AP

Select Course Type

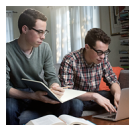
In-Person & Online

Enter Zip/Postal Code

91761

SEE OPTIONS

Raise Your Scores



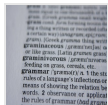
Flexible, interactive ACT and SAT prep. Only \$299.

Learn More

Related Articles



[How To Pay for College](#)



[6 Handy Grammar Rules for Your College Application](#)



[5 Ways College Application Essays and High School Essays Are Different](#)



[Popular College Application Essay Topics \(and How to Answer Them\)](#)



Explore Colleges For You

Connect with our featured colleges to find schools that both match your interests and are looking for students like you.



Career Quiz

Take our short quiz to learn which is the right career for you.



Get Started Scholarship

Join athletes who are recruited & offered after connecting with a strong network.



AP and Advanced Placement Program are trademarks registered and owned by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, this product.

Talk to an Advisor

1-800-2REVIEW
FAQ

Hours

Phone: Mon-Fri 9AM-10PM ET
Sat-Sun 9AM-8PM ET

Local Offices: Mon-Fri
9AM-6PM

Partnerships

International
Advertising
Affiliate/Other