



Advanced Placement & Dual Enrollment Course Guide

This information is meant to assist you in deciding what AP and/or DE courses to take next year. While we want you to challenge yourself academically, we want you to take on the challenges that are right for you. At the same time, we want to encourage you to participate in school activities and have a healthy, balanced schedule. Answer the following questions truthfully, talk to teachers, counselors, peers and do some research about what your prospective colleges want to see. Get all the information that you can and then make the best-informed decision for you.

Why am I considering an AP/DE Course?

The right reasons

- Love the subject
- Want to learn more about the subject
- I want to go into more depth in this area
- I feel ready to challenge myself in this content

The wrong reasons

- Looks good on my resume
- All my friends are taking it
- I am feeling pressured to take it
- I think it will raise my GPA due to the bump

How much time do I have to devote to these courses?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Do I have a job? | Hours per day |
| • Do I participate in a sport or activity? | Hours per day |
| • Do I do volunteer work? | Hours per day |
| • Do I have responsibilities at home? | Hours per day |
| • Time required to do well in <i>each</i> AP course | Hours per day |
| | Total hours per day..... |

Other questions to consider before you register

Before you register with your counselor, be sure that you have seriously considered the following questions and discussed them with your parents. While no one expects that they will be overwhelmed by too many commitments, it does tend to happen, even to the best of us.

- Am I taking the course(s) for the right reasons?**
- Do I have enough time in the day for all these commitments?**
- How committed am I to doing well in this course if it proves a challenge for me?**
- What will happen if this course load is too difficult and I cannot change my schedule?**
- Would I be willing to adjust hours or give up a job?**
- Would I be willing to drop a sport or activity?**
- Would I be satisfied with a grade less than a B?**

From the National Association for College Admission Counseling

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

Note: “College Prep Courses” are not necessarily honors or AP courses. NACAC refers to “College Prep Courses” as core courses in English, Science, Math, and Social Studies (versus the fine and practical arts). AP and Honors come into play when they mention “Strength of Curriculum.”

Source:

https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/2019_soca/soca2019_ch3.pdf

List of Advanced Academics Courses at McLean High School

Electives are italicized, AP and DE Courses are bolded

9th grade

English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English 9 Honors 	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honors Biology
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honors Algebra 2 ● Honors Geometry 	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World History 1 Honors

10th grade

CTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i> 	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honors Chemistry
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English 10 Honors 	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World History 2 Honors ● AP World History ● <i>AP Human Geography</i>
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honors Algebra 2 ● Honors Geometry ● DE Precalculus ● Pre-Calculus Honors ● AP Computer Science A ● AP Computer Science Principles 	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● *AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)

11th grade (continued on reverse)

CTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i> ● <i>Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics</i> ● Honors STEM Advanced Engineering ● DE Entrepreneurship ● DE Early Childhood Careers 	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Honors Geosystems ● Honors Physics ● DE Chemistry ● AP Biology ● AP Chemistry ● AP Physics 1 ● AP Physics 2 ● AP Physics C&M (uncommon for juniors) ● AP Environmental Science
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English 11 Honors ● DE English ● AP English Language and Composition 	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US/VA History Honors ● AP US History ● AP Psychology ● AP Micro/Macroeconomics ● AP Human Geography

11th grade (continued from reverse)

Math <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Honors Algebra 2● Pre-Calculus Honors● AP Calculus AB● AP Calculus BC● AP Computer Science A● AP Computer Science Principles● <i>Computer Science AB (post APCS A)</i>● AP Statistics● DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AP French● AP Spanish● ASL 4 Honors● Chinese 4 Honors● French 4 Honors● German 4 Honors● Latin 4 Honors● Spanish 4 Honors
Performing Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AP Music Theory	General <ul style="list-style-type: none">● *AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)

12th grade

CTE <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Honors STEM Engineering (prerequisite for all other Honors STEM courses)</i>● <i>Honors STEM Advanced Electronics and Robotics</i>● Honors STEM Advanced Engineering● DE Entrepreneurship● DE Early Childhood Careers	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Honors Geosystems● Honors Physics● AP Biology● DE Chemistry● AP Chemistry● AP Physics 1● AP Physics 2● AP Physics C&M● AP Environmental Science
English <ul style="list-style-type: none">● DE English● English 12 Honors● AP English Literature and Composition	Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">● US Government Honors● AP US Government● AP Comparative Government● AP Psychology● AP Micro/Macroeconomics● AP Human Geography
Fine Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AP Studio Art 2-D Design● AP Studio Art 3-D Design● AP Studio Art Drawing	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AP Chinese● AP French● AP German● AP Latin● AP Spanish● French 5 (post-AP)● Spanish 5 (post-AP)● ASL 4 Honors● Chinese 4 Honors● French 4 Honors● German 4 Honors● Latin 4 Honors● Spanish 4 Honors

<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-Calculus Honors ● AP Calculus AB ● AP Calculus BC ● <i>AP Statistics</i> ● <i>AP Computer Science A</i> ● <i>DE Computer Science AB (post APCS A)</i> ● <i>AP Computer Science Principles</i> ● <i>DE Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra</i> 	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>*AP Seminar (AP Capstone course 1)</i> ● <i>*AP Research (AP Capstone course 2, if AP Seminar has been taken)</i>
<p>Performing Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>AP Music Theory</i> 	

AP Course Expectations McLean High School

The following chart is meant to convey an **approximation** of how much time is needed to prepare for each class period of the AP Courses. Different teachers for the same course may have slightly different expectations but the time commitment should be about the same. Some students will need less time, and some will need more to do the assignments depending on their skill levels.

To be successful in the AP program, students will need to budget their time taking in account the following:

- These are **COLLEGE LEVEL** courses
- These courses may require more time than non-AP classes
- Students need to factor in time needed for after school activities

AP Course	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects	Summer Assignments
ENGLISH					
DE English (English 111 & 112 at NVCC)	Varies depending on unit. Most readings are short essays, not full length books.	Varies by student. 2-4 hours per week.	One process essay per quarter, two of which are document-based research. There are no timed writings or major tests.	One process essay per quarter, two of which are document-based research.	Read a student-selected book. Recommendations for English 11 and AP Lang will be provided.
AP Language and Composition (11th grade)	Varies depending on unit of study – 30-50 pages per week est.	Varies by student. Average of 1 hour per class	2-3 timed writings and/or process writings per quarter	Research paper, discussion seminars, and various projects throughout the year	Read a student-selected book. Recommendations for English 11 and AP Lang will be provided.
AP Literature and Composition (12 th grade)	Varies depending on unit and difficulty of the text.	Varies by student. Average of 1-2 hours per class	3 essays per quarter -- mix of in and out of class. In class timed writing assignments	Reading group / major research project.	1-2 short works of literature.
FINE ARTS					
AP Studio Art 2-D AP Studio Art 3-D AP Studio Art Drawing (12 th grade)	Varies by student	2 hours per class	Students are submitting a portfolio in May consisting of 15-20 artworks.		Students will be given a link to a supplemental online resource to begin work on their sustained investigations. Students are encouraged to take art classes or workshops, go to museums and galleries.

AP Course	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects	Summer Assignments
MATH					
AP Computer Science A (10 th , 11 th or 12 th grade)	10-20	1 hour per class	2-3 Unit Tests in each of the 1st 3 quarters.	4th Quarter project	Summer Packet: 2-3 hours
AP Computer Science Principles (10 th - 12 th grade)	Little outside reading – most done in class	Varies based on in-class progress	Course is made up of 6 big Ideas which include Unit work and assignments. Each Unit has a major project and test.	Class is set up with Project Based learning experiences that take place during class time.	No summer assignment.
DE Precalculus	0	1 hour per class	2 tests per quarter, study 2-3 hours per test	None.	No summer assignment.
AP Statistics (11 th or 12 th grade)	20-30	2 hours per class, includes reading, note taking and homework problems	2-3 unit tests per quarter. Quiz or writing assessment almost every 2 class periods. Timed practice Free Responses	Unit 1 Project End of the year major project after the AP exam.	Includes a packet of problems to complete and a short novel with questions. 10-12 hrs.
AP Calculus AB (11 th or 12 th grade)	10	2 hours per class	~ 2 tests per quarter, study 3-4 hours per test	End of the year major project after the AP exam.	No summer assignment.
AP Calculus BC (11 th or 12 th grade)	0	1.5 hours per class	2-3 per quarter; expect to study 6-8 hours per test	4th quarter portfolio.	No summer assignment.
DE Multivariable Calculus and Linear Algebra	0	1.5 hours per class	2-3 per quarter; expect to study 3-4 hours per test	Problem Sets due at the end of each unit (5 units per semester).	No summer assignment.
SCIENCE					
AP Biology (11 th or 12 th grade)	1 to 2 chapters per week (about 25 pages each)	1-2 hours per class	2 tests/qtr 2 in class essays per quarter 3 quizzes per qtr	2-3 labs with reports per qtr 2 Socratic Seminars per year	No summer assignment.
AP Chemistry (11 th or 12 th grade)	Approximately 20 pages. Reading textbook is recommended not required.	1-2 hours per class; varies widely by student	2-3 tests/qtr Frequent quizzes	3-6 lab reports per quarter	Optional: Review problems (concepts from 1st year course) from ch 1-3 of AP book; 2-6 hours
AP Environmental	One textbook	1-2 hours per class	1 free response per unit	1-2 labs per unit	No summer assignment.

AP Course	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects	Summer Assignments
Science (11th or 12 th grade)	chapter per week		2-3 chapters per unit		
AP Physics 1 (11 th or 12 th grade)	Varies by student (nothing assigned)	Roughly 1 -2 hrs per class of Flipped Video Lectures and notes; additional work varies by student	2-3 Multiple Choice/Free Response tests/quarter 2-3 quizzes/quarter	1-2 labs per unit HS Physics Photo Contest	No summer assignment.
AP Physics 2 (12 th grade)	1 chapter, 1 or more outside readings per unit	1-2 hours per class	1 multiple choice reasoning test and 1 to 3 essay questions per unit + 3 formal labs/quarter	One culminating end of term project demonstrating multiple standards from AP Physics 1 or 2.	No summer assignment
AP Physics C (12th grade)	varies by student (nothing assigned)	roughly ½ to 1 hour per class, however this varies largely from student to student	2 tests/qtr 3-5 quizzes/qtr	none	No summer assignment
SOCIAL STUDIES					
AP Comparative Gov't and Politics (12 th grade)	40-60 pages per week	1-2 hours per class	3-4 Tests (MC and Short Answer) 1 Paper assigned with project Quarter Vocab Quizzes	1 Project and Essay	No summer assignment
AP Human Geography (10 th , 11 th or 12 th grade)	30-40 pages per week	0.5-1 hour per class	7 major unit tests with MC and FRQ, geography current events assignments, and map tests by region	Group projects based on religion, culture, and agriculture	No summer assignment
AP Micro/Macro Economics (11 th or 12 th grade)	20-40 pages per week in a college-level text	1-2 hours per class	Reading quizzes each unit and at least 3 timed MC/FRQ tests per qtr. 2 cumulative finals 1 micro and 1 macro.	One writing assignment (Economics Literacy Project) per quarter One EOY online project for personal finance as dictated by FCPS	No summer assignment
AP Psychology (11 th or 12 th grade)	30-50 pages per week in a college-level text	1-2 hours per class	Daily reading quizzes and/or note checks 3-5 timed cumulative tests with timed essays per quarter	Unit application activities, often completed in class	No summer assignment
AP US Government and Politics	15 pages/week	30 minutes per class	One unit test per quarter (MC and FRQ)	One major project per quarter	No summer assignment

AP Course	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects	Summer Assignments
(12 th grade)			One additional timed writing per quarter		
AP US History (11 th grade)	30-40 pages per week	1-2 hours per class	At least 3 tests per quarter, at least 3 essays per quarter	None	No summer assignment
AP World History (10 th grade)	25-30 pages per week	1-2 hours per class	Regular Reading Quizzes, 2-3 timed MC and Essays per quarter	1-2 Projects/Essays (per quarter)	No summer assignment
PERFORMING ARTS					
AP Music Theory (Audition or Permission of Instructor)	10 pages Extensive Listening	30 mins per class	Quarterly tests/quizzes Composition projects during class time Weekly aural/singing quizzes	Composition projects Analysis Projects Performances	3 fundamental modules to complete
WORLD LANGUAGES					
AP Chinese Language and Culture (5 th year)	1-5 pages	1 hour per class	2-3 essays and 1-2 tests per quarter	TBD	No summer assignment
AP French Language and Culture (5 th year)	1-7 pages	30-60 minutes per class	2 written tests and 2 speaking tests per quarter	TBD	No summer assignment
AP German Language and Culture (4 th or 5 th year)	1-10 pages	30-60 minutes per class	2-3 essays per quarter 1-2 tests per quarter	TBD	No summer assignment
AP Latin (4 th year)	75-100 lines of the Aeneid; 2-3 chapters of De Bello Gallico (depending on the unit)	30-60 minutes per class	3-4 quizzes per quarter; 1-2 tests per quarter; 2 essays per quarter	TBD	Selected portions of the <i>Aeneid</i> in English

AP Course	Reading per week	Prep hours per class	Tests/Essays/Papers, etc.	Major Projects	Summer Assignments
AP Spanish Language and Culture (5th year)	1-7 pages	1 hour per class	2-3 essays per quarter 1-2 tests per quarter	TBD	No summer assignment
GENERAL					
AP Seminar – AP Capstone course 1 (11 th grade)*	Varies – 6-plus scholarly articles per week	1-3 hours in addition to class time to work on major projects.	College Board requires one group project and presentation and one individual paper and presentation in addition to a written exam in May as part of the AP Exam score		TBD
AP Research – AP Capstone course 2 (12 th grade)*	TBD – This is a new course for 2018-2019	TBD	Students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. An academic paper of 4000–5000 words (with a performance or exhibition of product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.		TBD. In addition, students must have successfully completed AP Seminar

Comparison of the differences among the various levels of placement

Adapted from New Trier High School's Levels description

	General Education/College Prep	Honors/Pre-AP	AP/DE
Concepts	Abstraction from concrete examples	Analysis, inference, and abstraction	Analysis, inference, abstraction, interpretation and synthesis leading to complex concept development
Pace	Moderate	Accelerated	Rapid
Scope	Focused	Expanded	In-depth
Instructional Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential and guided • Concrete, lineal emphasized • Emphasis on building and reinforcing skills leading to independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of guided instruction and independent inquiry • Connection established between concrete, literal and abstract, theoretical • Emphasis on building skills leading to independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less guided instruction and more independent inquiry • Abstract, theoretical emphasized • Emphasis on independent learning • Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged
Communication Skills (e.g., writing, speaking, listening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Conventions of correct spoken and written expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctness of standard convention plus introduction to rhetorical approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong degree of proficiency in standard conventions and deliberate rhetorical techniques
Class Activities (e.g., discussions, problem solving, group work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicitly structured and ordered • Teachers directed, some open-ended activities • Frequent content/skill review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately structured and ordered • Some student initiative expected • Some content/skill review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimally structured and open-ended activities • Student initiative expected • Infrequent skill review, content review done independently
Assignments (e.g., homework, projects, papers, research)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicitly structured and directed • Some amount of reading/writing required • Independent work reinforces new material introduced in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicitly structured and moderately directed • Moderate amount of reading/writing required • Independent work requires some new material to be learned outside of class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicitly structured and open-ended • Extensive amount of reading/writing required • Independent work requires significant amount of new material to be learned outside of class

High School Student Schedule Aid Total Hours in a Day	SUNDAY 24	MONDAY 24	TUESDAY 24	WEDNESDAY 24	THURSDAY 24	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 24
<u>Sleeping (sleep experts recommend 9 hours a night for proper teen development)</u>	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
<u>School including commuting to and from</u>	0	8	8	8	8	8	0
<u>Total hours for school and sleep</u>	9	17	17	17	17	17	9
<u>Hours left for all other activities</u>	15	7	7	7	7	7	15
<u>Academic Homework*:</u>							
<u>Extracurricular Activities (sports, music, drama, job, etc.)</u>							
<u>Community Service</u>							
<u>Miscellaneous (eating, socializing, etc.)</u>							
<u>TOTAL Hours for Other Activities</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Hours left over or deficit</u>	15	7	7	7	7	7	15

* According to McLean High School teachers: AP classes= 1 hour homework nightly, Honors=30 mins-1 hour, College Prep/Gen Ed=30 mins. Times will vary depending on student's study habits.