



Guide to Choosing AP Classes

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So you have chosen to add an AP course to your current workload! Taking an AP course allows you to challenge yourself academically and to evaluate your interests or strengths. However, there is a variety of classes you can choose from. Following this guide can help you make the decision on which course is best for you.

What subjects are your strengths and what are your weaknesses?

Arguably the most significant factor when it comes to choosing a course is your expertise on the subject. Success Pathway wants you to consider what courses you have taken previously and have performed well in. For example, AP Language or AP Literature students tend to be top students in English courses. Conversely, a student who panics every time a math problem runs through their mind, probably wouldn't choose an AP Calculus class. Typically, your interest in a topic contributes to how well you perform in a class and your desire to maintain a good grade.

Each School is Different

It's important to consider which APs classes your school offers and what they focus on. You may want to consult with current students or speak to a current teacher of the class you plan on taking. This will help aid you in your decision.

Additionally, you should remember that each school offers different AP course plans. For instance, a class such as AP Calculus, offers AP Calculus AB or/and AP Calculus BC (Pre-Calculus are the prerequisite for both AB and BC Calculus). Which one do you take? At Success Pathway, our experts will help you decide which AP Calculus class to take, based on your prerequisite classes, college plans and career goals.



Possible Pre-requisite

Certain APs will cover more in depth topics of a particular subject and will require a prerequisite course before being able to take the AP. Make sure to ask your guidance counselor about this.

Although taking an AP class in a topic in which you have no knowledge is not ideal, you can still take it but, you should be aware that the grading will be more difficult than in a lower level class. For example, if you want to take AP Computer Science, you may not do as well as a student who has coded for several years. Always remember that as a student, you can reach out to faculty, your friends/classrooms and other adults to seek assistance if you are struggling in a class.

Consider Your Workload

When given the AP course list, don't forget to consider other classes you signed up for as well as your extracurricular activities. This may include jobs, volunteering, sports and other personal commitments. It's important to ask yourself if you can balance your time without being overwhelmed. Also remember that your schedule may change throughout the year: if you play soccer in the fall, then consider taking AP courses in the spring or winter when you have more time.



Your College and Career Goals



You should consider your career goals when choosing an AP course. Some colleges only accept the credit if you score a "5" on the AP exam.

If your intention is to be in the health science field and/or study pharmacy, then AP Chemistry is presumably a great course for you – and shows future admission officers you are dedicated in pursuing your interests!

Summing It Up

Course selection can be a difficult process. There are many things to consider when making your choice: timing of the courses, courses available, course prerequisites, your interests, strengths, and future major. Success Pathway is here to help make this process easier for you!