THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

AP Courses available in Baldwin County

English Language and Composition (11th grade English)
English Literature and Composition (12th grade English)
U.S. History (11th grade only)
Government and Politics with Economics (12th grade only)
Calculus AB
Art Studio Drawing
Art Studio 2D
Art Studio 3D
European History
World History
Statistics
Biology
Environmental Science
Physics
Chemistry

The Courses

AP courses are college-level courses and are intellectually rigorous and challenging. It is highly recommended that all students who take Advanced Placement courses also take the appropriate Advanced Placement examination given in the Spring. College credit may be awarded by postsecondary institutions if students earn specific scores on AP examinations. AP courses are NOT the same as honors high school courses.

It is highly recommended that prior instruction in honors-level high school courses should precede enrollment Advanced Placement courses.

College-Level Instruction

College-level instruction is expected in AP classes. AP courses are intellectually challenging, requiring more independent study by the student.

College-Level Teaching

The teacher should be one whose knowledge of the subject matter would qualify that teacher to teach at the college level. Although a master’s degree is not required, the teacher should have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the college-level material. In order to prepare teachers for the AP courses, summer training institutes approved by the College Board are held each summer for beginning and experienced teachers of AP courses. These institutes cover such pertinent topics as course design, curriculum content, appropriate pedagogy, and testing procedures.
The Student

The student should be a high-achiever and must be self-motivated. Like a college student, the student should be willing to work on his/her own and study concepts not fully taught in class.

The Examination

The Advanced Placement examination for each subject is given in May of each year and costs about $86. Each exam lasts no more than three hours and consists of a multiple choice and a problem-solving or essay section. College Board has course description booklets available that a student may purchase. These booklets contain sample exam questions. Exams are graded on a 5 point scale (1-5). Most colleges and universities give college credit for scores of 3, 4, or 5.

Research

The success of Advanced Placement students in their subsequent work in college has been studied by a number of researchers. There seems to be substantial agreement in all studies: AP candidates are solidly successful in their academic work in college, no matter what criteria of success are used. Advanced Placement students as a group perform as well as, and often better, than other college students.