

Advanced Placement Program

The advanced placement program at CHS enables students to complete college-level studies during high school. This serves as an "academic bridge" to smooth the transition from secondary to post-secondary education. Completion of an AP course provides experience with advanced-level expectations, academic challenge, opportunity to earn college credit, exemption from introductory college courses, and/or placement in advanced level college courses. These opportunities provide both a financial and academic advantage. The goal of the program is to enrich the high school experience of students who have demonstrated excellent classroom performance, have superior test scores, and receive teacher recommendations. The AP program fosters self-motivation, confidence, responsibility, and self-reliance. Students will be challenged to become more analytical, selective, focused and organized as they learn to work quickly and efficiently. AP courses at CHS include:

- Studio Art
- Music Theory
- Biology
- Language/Composition
- Literature/Composition
- Calculus
- Statistics
- United States History
- American Government and Politics
- Macroeconomics
- World History
- Psychology

AP courses are calculated on a 5-point scale for GPA. (A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1). At the conclusion of the course, students may elect to take the 3-hour national AP exam. Earning a 3 or better often allows colleges to award college credit for the content area. Tests are administered in early May. All exams contain an essay or problem-solving section plus a battery of multiple-choice items. Students opting not to take the exam will still receive high school credit and college level experience for their efforts but will not be eligible for college credit. Also, instead of transcripts reading AP for the particular course it will read Honors instead. Students in all advanced placement classes are required to take finals.

Students considering Advanced Placement programming should take into consideration the following:

- Grades in all prerequisite courses
- GPA
- Scores on the Iowa Assessments
- Level of commitment

