



**An Introduction to the
Advanced Placement Program®
Dual Enrollment and Pre-Advanced Placement**

Somerset High School

Welcome

Somerset is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®), Pre-AP, and Dual Enrollment play an important role in that success.



What We'll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement® Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP® Exams
- Dual Enrollment Courses
- Next Steps: The Process
- Course Presentations by Teachers
- Q & A



What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

Our AP[®] Courses

- **Arts:** Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History, Human Geography, Economics
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Physics 1
- **World languages:** Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Language

Pre-AP Courses at SHS

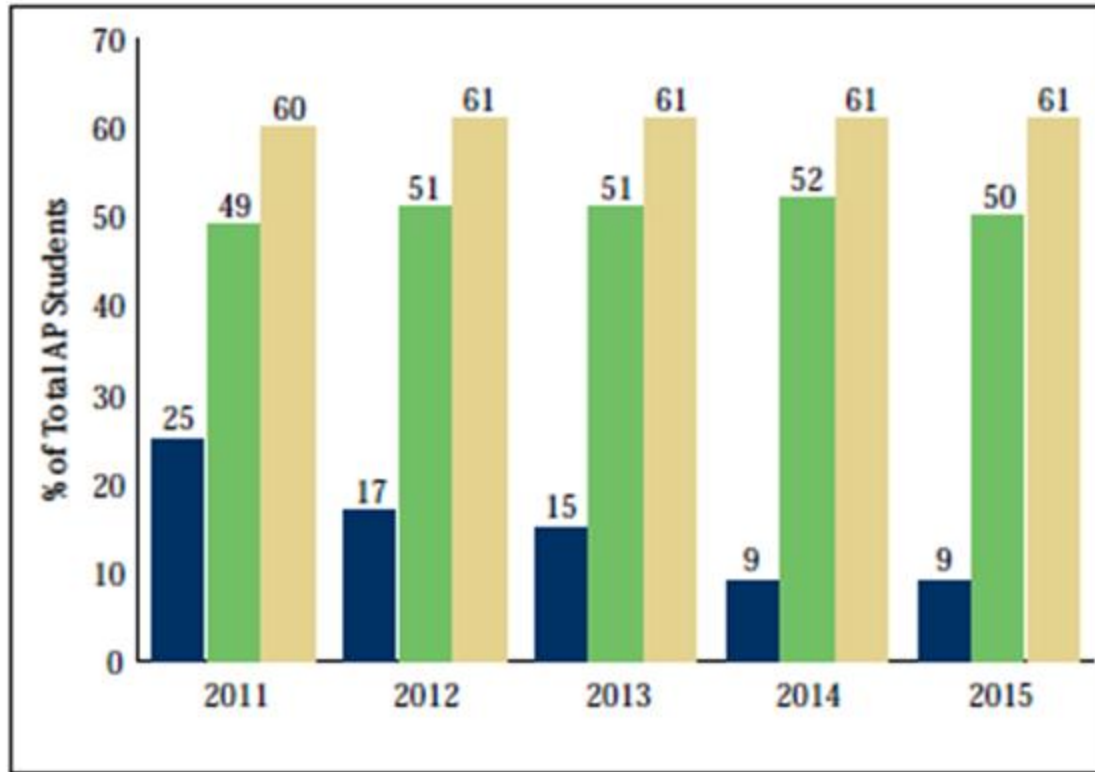
- English I and II
- World Geography
- Biology, Chemistry
- Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Cal

AP[®] Myths & Realities

| Myth | Reality |
|--|---|
| AP courses are for students who always get good grades. | AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses. |
| AP courses are too stressful. | It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load. |
| I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit. | You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam. |
| Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA. | Students who take AP courses and earn a C- or higher will receive an additional GPA point. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically. |
| I can't take AP because no one has recommended me. | If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor. |

AP at Somerset High School

% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+



■ Somerset High School (446625) ■ Texas ■ Global

■ % of Total AP Students with Scores 3+

Total AP Students
Number of Exams
AP Students with Scores 3+

■ % of Total AP Students with Scores 3+

Total AP Students
Number of Exams
AP Students with Scores 3+

■ % of Total AP Students with Scores 3+

AP at Somerset High School

| 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Somerset High School (446625) | | | | |
| 52 | 41 | 47 | 173 | 326 |
| 68 | 45 | 55 | 251 | 512 |
| 13 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 29 |
| 25.0 | 17.1 | 14.9 | 9.2 | 8.9 |
| Texas | | | | |
| 199,997 | 208,671 | 219,517 | 239,705 | 270,637 |
| 363,545 | 376,589 | 400,391 | 437,148 | 510,628 |
| 97,320 | 107,126 | 110,927 | 125,200 | 135,199 |
| 48.7 | 51.3 | 50.5 | 52.2 | 50.0 |
| Global | | | | |
| 1,982,133 | 2,106,843 | 2,225,625 | 2,352,026 | 2,497,195 |
| 3,475,395 | 3,714,079 | 3,955,410 | 4,199,454 | 4,516,135 |
| 1,193,662 | 1,295,051 | 1,354,800 | 1,442,136 | 1,515,276 |
| 60.2 | 61.5 | 60.9 | 61.3 | 60.7 |

AP at Somerset High School

- From 2011 to 2014, there was a 333% increase in the number of students at SHS taking AP exams.
- From 2011 to 2015, there was a 627% increase.
- In 2014, 78 students took more than one exam.
- In 2015, 186 students took more than one exam.
- The percentage of scoring a 3+ has decreased, but the number of students scoring a 3+ has increased by 223% since 2011.
- From 2014 to 2015 the number of students scoring a 3+ has increased by 181%.
- Only 9% of students scored a 3+ in 2015.



AP[®] & Pre-AP: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



AP[®] from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers

**Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$21,500** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



AP[®] Exam Fees

- The exam fee for 2015 was \$91 per exam.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need as determined by “Free & Reduced Lunch” status.
- Students who participate in tutorials, Saturday academies, and preparation tasks will have opportunities for cost reduction.
- Students who do not take the exam may not be eligible to receive weighted credit.

AP[®]

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment are courses that are offered through the Alamo Colleges to afford students an opportunity to earn college and high school credit at the same time.

There is no cost to the student for these courses. The campus provides textbooks and instruction happens on campus with the exception of the Alamo Academies. Students enrolled in the academies are transported to their school sites.

Students must apply to the college and qualify to take the course.

Dual Enrollment Entry Criteria

1. Complete application online at Apply Texas
2. Complete Dual Credit GOFAAR Module
3. Complete a pre-assessment activity
4. Take the TSI and earn a qualifying score
5. Complete and return the consent form

Dual Enrollment Course Offerings at SHS

Through Alamo Colleges:

- English 1301 & 1302-Freshman Composition (6 Hours) SHS Teacher
- English 2322 & 2223-British Literature (6 Hours) SHS Teacher
- US History 1301 & 1302 (6 Hours) Online
- Government 2305 (3 Hours) Online
- MacroEconomics 2301 (3 Hours) Online
- Spanish 1414 & 1415 (8 Hours) SHS Teacher
- Alamo Academies- Depends on the program, students can earn up to an Associate's Degree.

Through UT Austin:

- Chembridge- SHS Teacher under the direction of UT Professor
- Mathbridge- SHS Teacher under the direction of UT Professor



Next Steps: The Process

AP, Pre-AP, & Dual Enrollment Commitment

- Requires that you acknowledge that an AP course is a year-long class, and that both the student and parent sign, indicating that both understand the commitment the student is making.
- Requires that you talk to the teacher who currently teaches the course in order to understand what will be expected of you.
- Due to Counselors no later than May 30.
 - Any student who does not make the May 30th deadline will be removed from any AP class(es) they have signed up for.

If you are planning to take Dual Enrollment, you must have completed all requirements for entry by May 30th and be admitted by the college.

AP[®]: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT[®] results: My College QuickStart™
www.collegeboard.org/quickstart
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:
www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy

Wrapping Up

Teacher presentations at the tables around the cafeteria. Visit with teachers of various courses and ask questions.

Sign and return the AP Commitment Form.