

AP Workload Information

Advanced Placement classes require a significant time commitment outside of school, as the workload for an AP class is intended to be comparable to a college course. Students who wish to take multiple AP classes should consider the time needed to do the work for each of the classes with respect to the time needed to pursue other after-school interests. The following information is intended to help students and their families make well-informed decisions and healthy choices with regard to the student's academic and extracurricular pursuits. Most of these classes require a summer assignment.

	Homework Expectations	Major Assessments	Other Notes
Biology	1 hr of homework per class. This includes 30 min of Mastering Biology homework (on line) and 30 min of re-copying notes that you took in class.	Assessments include: 8 labs that are either written up in the form of a formal one-page lab report or presented to the class, 9 comprehensive unit tests, 9 chapter quizzes	Students do not have to be strong in math to succeed in this course. In addition, AP students have reported back to me that of the three, this is the easiest AP Science course.
Calculus AB	1 hr of homework per class.	During the first three quarters there will be two unit tests per quarter. There will be quizzes between the tests. Fourth quarter will be focused on practice AP tests.	The class involves sequential learning, so frequent absences can be challenging.
Calculus BC	Approximately 1 hr of homework per class, 4-5 hrs per week total.	Generally we have 2 tests and 3-4 quizzes per quarter for the first 3 quarters. There is a major project assigned after the AP Exam has been taken.	The class involves sequential learning, so frequent absences can be challenging.
Chemistry	1 hr of homework per class (problem sets). This might become 1.5-2 hrs per class if student is absent and is making up work.	Daily quiz or lab with lab report, 2 tests per quarter for first 3 quarters, full practice test and lab practicum fourth quarter	The class involves sequential learning, so frequent absences can be challenging.
Computer Science Principles	There is an effort to assign a minimal homework load. Much of the work is done in class as a series of experiences.	Fall - 8 hour in-class research assignment, includes making a poster and writing 750 words on a new technology. Spring - 12 hour in-class programming assignment, includes writing a computer program, making a short video, and writing about your program. May - Multiple choice AP exam.	This course is intended to be realistic for people who have no previous programming experience. There are sample questions that map to the spring assessment throughout the year that are done as either an in-class or homework assignment.
English Language and Composition	1-3 hrs of homework per class. Each missed class dramatically reduces a student's chances of mastering the complex material contained in the English AP curriculum.	Midterm exam, vocabulary test every fifth week, one paper per week, scholar pack cards, book talks (requires reading two complete nonfiction books)	The course is designed for students who have mastered the conventions of Standard Written English in the areas of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The students for whom these courses are recommended are those who have spent a good deal of time reading widely and deeply in both fiction and non-fiction genres.

English Literature and Composition	Typically 1-2 hrs of homework per class, consisting of reading, writing or studying. Periodic writing conferences with teacher outside of class. Occasional project collaboration (in person or online) outside of class.	Two to four major writings/tests and/or projects each quarter, two or more quizzes each quarter, occasional short or informal writings, regular AP test practice (objective and essay)	This course is suited for students who have an interest in reading, discussing and writing about significant literary works. Previous experience with expository writing and challenging texts is strongly recommended. In class participation is essential to one's success in AP Literature and Composition. In addition, students are expected to manage complex assignments outside of class.
Modern European History	Weekly reading assignments, ranging from 50-75 textbook pages as well as primary source excerpts.	Each quarter involves at least one DBQ, bi-monthly concept assessments, and graded reading-based discussions every class	This course is content-heavy and requires strong analytical skills in the areas of reading and writing.
Music Theory	30 min of written and/or ear training homework per class.	Assessments include: 13 chapter tests, 4 aural tests, quarter tests (first and third), 2 full practice tests prior to AP exam	Students who are taking or have taken other AP classes considered this among the hardest due to the large listening component.
Physics 1: Algebra-Based	45-60 min of homework per class, assuming students are present for notes and example calculations. Homework time is doubled for missed classes.	Classes are comprised of homework review and notes, quizzes, lab work, and tests. There are usually 3 tests per quarter.	The class involves sequential learning, so frequent absences can be challenging.
Spanish Language and Culture	1 hr of homework per class. Occasionally (approx. 5 times per quarter) presentations will require up to 1.5 hrs. Style of tasks vary and depending on personal strengths and weaknesses. Students may spend less or significantly more time on specific tasks.	Daily AP style tasks, 1-2 essays per quarter, April vacation homework assignment is to complete 1 full practice exam, after April vacation students complete 1 practice exam in class	It is assumed that students have a high level of mastery of grammatical concepts before entering the course. Course resources (listening and reading selections) are all sources that are intended for native speakers. Much class work is done in pairs, so missing class can result in making up work without the benefit of a partner.
Statistics	30-45 min of homework per class.	Larger projects: week long project at the end of the year. Small projects: 2-3 per quarter (given 2-3 days to complete). Unit tests: 1-2 per quarter. Quizzes: 4-6 per quarter.	Students should have completed Honors Algebra 2 in order to take the course.
US History	5-6 hrs of homework per week.	Per quarter: 2 exams (covers multiple, 4-5, chapters), 2 journals (3-4 hrs each to complete thoroughly)	Most written work is completed in class.
World History	5-6 hrs of homework per week. Homework is reading and writing intensive.	Major assessments: projects; unit exams (6 units); writing (both long essays and short answer questions--much like AP US history)	This course is content-heavy and requires superb analytical skills, especially in the areas of reading and writing. It also mimics the skill-set of the professional historian while maintaining college-level expectations