

# The AP<sup>®</sup> Program

The Chicago High School for the  
Arts 2014 – 2015

# The Basics

Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) **courses** are college-level courses offered in high school. AP courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses

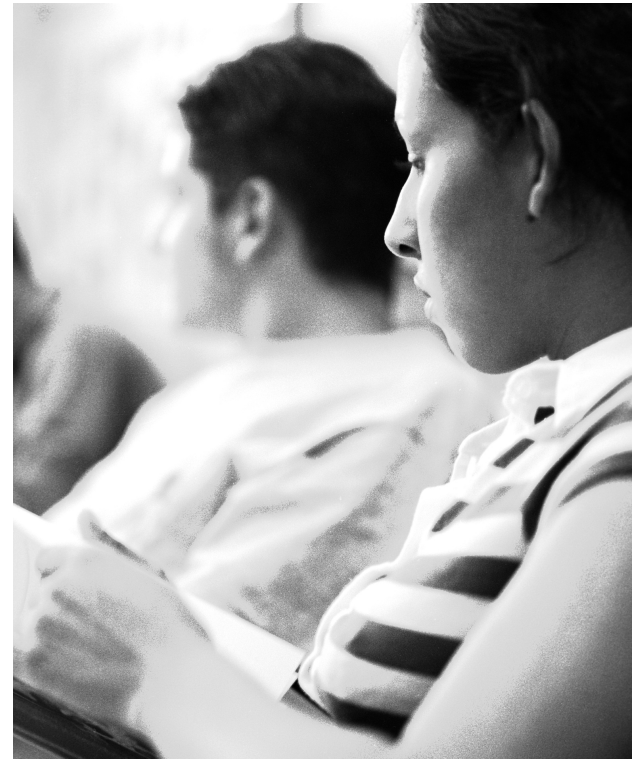
At the end of course, students take **AP Exams**—standardized exams that measure how well students have mastered college-level course work.

Students who do well on AP Exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

# The Benefits of AP Courses

AP courses can be challenging, but it's work that pays off.

- AP courses are often the most interesting and fulfilling courses a student takes in high school.
- Colleges rank “Grades in college prep courses” and “Strength of curriculum” as the **top two factors** in the admission decision.\*
- Students develop confidence, and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college.



# The Benefits of AP Courses

- A recent study\* showed that students who earned a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Exam had **higher first-year college grade point averages** and were **more likely to return for the second year of college** than non-AP students of similar ability.
- **31%** of colleges and universities consider a student's AP experience when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.\*
- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time (four years).

# What Are AP Courses Like?

- AP courses typically demand more of students than regular or honors courses.
- Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typical high school classes.
- More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments and homework.



# AP Exams

- AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates each May.
- Exams usually last around three to four hours.
- Each AP Exam contains:
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Free-response questions (essay, problem-solving, oral response)
- The AP Exam fee for 2015 is \$89 per exam. For each AP Exam taken by students from low-income families, the College Board will provide a \$26 fee reduction.

# QUESTIONS?

Information about AP:

[apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap)

Information about college:

[www.collegeboard.com/parents](http://www.collegeboard.com/parents)

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