

AP and Dual Enrollment

Your Homeschooler's Secret
Weapons For College Success

Tanya Adkins

Princeton Says:

"We consider it a promising sign when students challenge themselves with advanced courses in high school. We understand that not all secondary schools offer the same range of advanced courses, but our strongest candidates have taken full advantage of the academic opportunities available to them in their high schools."

"Whenever you can, challenge yourself with the most rigorous courses possible, such as honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and dual-enrollment courses."

Today's Discussion

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AP courses, AP exams, and dual-enrollment



About Me

Tanya Adkins

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Veteran Homeschooler

Homeschooled for 12 years, graduated 2 sons

2

AP and Dual-Enrollment Experience

Enrolled sons in AP classes as well as dual-enrollment

3

Admissions Experience

Read admissions applications, performed alumni interviews, and read scholarship applications for a highly selective college



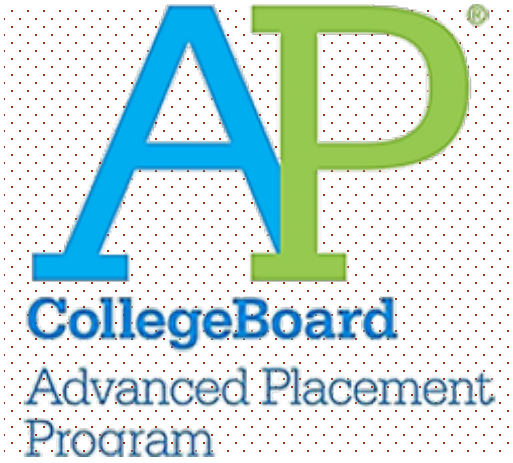
What Are AP Courses?

- Advanced Placement ® is a program offered by the College Board – yes, the same College Board that administers the SAT.
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level classes offered in high school.
- At the end of the course, students have the option to take an AP exam in that subject.
- AP courses can be taken at a school, online, or at home if you get your own courses approved by the College Board.
- The AP designation cannot be used on a transcript unless the course has been approved by the College Board.



Value of AP Courses?

- **Stand Out**– Students who have successfully passed AP courses can stand out in the admissions process.
- **Demonstrate Academic Rigor** – Colleges want to see that students have pushed themselves academically.
- **Shows a Passion For Learning**– Taking AP courses in subjects of interest can show a student's eagerness to go deeper in those subjects.
- **Weighted GPA** – AP courses are given 1 extra grade point (an “A” is worth 5.0 on a 4.0 grade scale).



How to Take AP Courses?

There are a few ways to take AP courses as a homeschooler.

- **Take Them at a School** – Some homeschoolers have access to take courses at a school – i.e. charters, private schools, etc.
- **Take Them Online** – There are online approved AP course providers.
 - Pennsylvania Homeschoolers AP Courses
<https://www.aphomeschoolers.com/>
 - Flex Point Virtual Schools (Florida Virtual School if you're a Florida resident)
<https://www.flexpointvirtualschool.com/academics/curriculum/advanced-placement>
- **Get Your Own Approved** – Go through the AP Course Audit process.



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account

1. Go to the site: <https://account.collegeboard.org/>
2. Click **Educator**
3. Click **Create Account**
4. Complete the form (see below)

A screenshot of the 'Create Your Professional Account' form. The form is titled 'Create Your Professional Account' in blue. Below the title is a progress bar with three steps: 1. Your Information (highlighted with a blue circle), 2. Review Information, and 3. Get Access. Below the progress bar is a paragraph of text: 'To get started, please tell us more about you, set up your username, and let us know about the work that you do. All fields are required unless marked optional.' Below this text is the 'Account Information' section, which contains five input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Sex' (with radio buttons for 'Female' and 'Male'), 'Email Address', and 'Confirm Email Address'.



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account (Cont.)

5. After creating your Educator account, enroll in AP Course Audit.
 - On the Additional Tools and Services menu, click Get Access next to AP Course Audit.

My College Board Professional Account

My Tools And Services

Tool or Service	My Role	Expires*	Manage Access
AP® Teacher Community	N/A	N/A	
Test Ordering	multiple roles	multiple dates	edit
AP PD Consultant Portal	N/A	N/A	
College Board Institutional Ordering	N/A	N/A	
Membership Community	N/A	N/A	
Test Administration Training for the SAT Suite of Assessments	N/A	N/A	

*Dates in red are close to expiring. Select Edit to update.

Manage Partner Applications

Manage College Board partner sites and applications that you share your data with.

Add Additional Tools And Services

[Recommended Tools and Services](#)

We've selected these tools and services based on your job function of AP Teacher. [Edit my profile](#)

- [AP/Pre-AP® Course Audit](#) [Get Access](#)
- [AP® Online Reports](#) [Get Access](#)
- [ReadiStep™ Summary of Answers and Skills \(SOAS\) Reports](#) [Get Access](#)



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account (Cont.)

6. On the next screen, select Job Function and Professional Organization.
- Job Function – Select ‘Teacher’.
 - Zip Code – LEAVE THIS BLANK.
 - Professional Organization – Type your state plus “Home School”, so for New York type “New York Home School” (see below).

A screenshot of the AP Course Audit signup form. The form is divided into two main sections: 'Provide your access information' and 'Your access'.
In the 'Provide your access information' section, there are three fields:
1. 'Job Function:' with a dropdown menu showing 'Teacher'.
2. 'U.S. ZIP code:' with a text input field and the note 'This is to narrow your choices'.
3. 'Professional Organization:' with a text input field containing 'New York Home School' and 'Sue Landers High School'. A red arrow points to this field.
At the bottom of this section are two buttons: 'Enroll Later' and 'Add ▶'.
The 'Your access' section is a table with three columns: 'Organization', 'Position', and 'Expiration Date'. Below the table is a 'Finished' button.



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account (Cont.)

- 7. Once you complete these steps, you will be enrolled in AP Course Audit. You have successfully enrolled when you get this screen:

Remove	Organization	My Role	Expiration Date	Access Code
	AP Course Audit High School	AP/Pre-AP Course Audit Teacher	11-Aug-2019	

- 8. You will need to submit documentation that you are legally homeschooling.

The screenshot shows the 'AP Course Audit' web interface. The page title is 'Homeschool Teacher - Course Status' with an 'Academic Year: 2018 - 2019' dropdown. Below the title, there is a section for contact information with fields for Address Line 1, Address Line 2 (Optional), City, State (dropdown), Zip, Phone, and Website (optional). A red arrow points to a 'Choose File' button, which is used to upload documentation. Below the button, a file path 'C:\fakepath\japanese.doc' is shown. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom right of the form.



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account (Cont.)

9. After your documentation is submitted and approved, you are ready to select the courses you want to get approved.
 - Select the correct school year
 - Click “+Add Course” to select the course you want to get approved (repeat these steps for all courses you are applying for)

A screenshot of the AP Course Audit interface. The title is 'Teacher - Course Status'. In the top right corner, there is a dropdown menu for 'Academic Year' with '2020 - 2021' selected, which is circled in red. Below this, the school information is displayed: 'Advanced Placement High School' and '1234 Curricular Road Reading, NY 90210'. Underneath, the 'Active Administrators' section lists 'Clara Admin, Cliff Admin'. The 'Courses' section states 'You do not have any courses at this school for the 2020-2021 school year.' At the bottom right, there is a yellow button with a plus sign and the text '+ Add Course'.



AP Course Audit Process

Steps to Signup For an AP Course Audit Account (Cont.)

10. Click one of your selected courses to start the process.
 - Select your textbook from the list. If you want to use a textbook not in the list, ensure it is a college level textbook (or an AP textbook).
 - After this, the only thing you will need to submit is the syllabus. Look at the samples provided, and search the internet to see other teachers' syllabi (i.e. search for AP World History Syllabus).
 - Ensure your syllabus covers all of the required information.
 - Submit your syllabus for review once you are ready. This review process can take a long time, so check periodically and be patient.



Sample Syllabus – U.S. History

How I Made AP U.S. History Culturally Relevant

- DBQ Essay – “Discuss the effects of the development of the Maafa (Transatlantic Slave Trade) and its impact on the participating civilizations from 1450-1750.” (*ID*), (*WOR*), (*CUL*), (*POL*), (*WXT*), (*MIG*) **[CR8]**
- DBQ Essay – “Was it inevitable and unavoidable that violence and dispossession were outcomes of the centuries-long confrontation of Native Americans with European settlers and their American descendants?” (*ID*), (*WOR*), (*POL*), (*MIG*), (*CUL*)

Discussion Questions:

- What were the principal colonial regions of North America? Discuss their similarities and their differences.
- How did the isolation of Africans from their homeland contribute to the development and perpetuation of slavery?
- How does the history of race-based slavery in the American colonies still impact society today?
- You are an investment advisor in Colonial America. Create a marketing flyer that explains why an investor should invest in one of the colonial regions and then choose a different region and explain why an investor should not invest in that region. (*GEO*)

Quizzes:

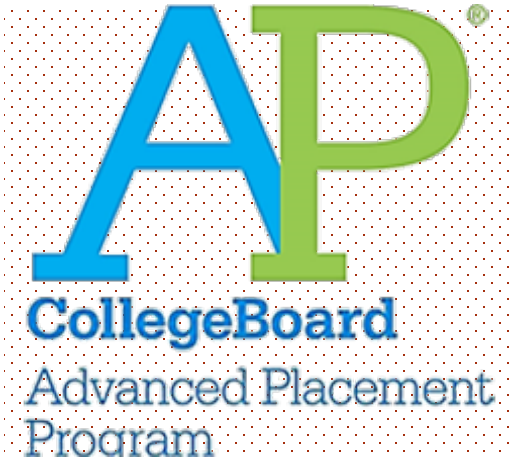
- Chapter 5 – End of chapter AP Prep Test



What Are AP Exams?

- AP exams are standardized exams that measure how well the content and skills of a specific AP course were mastered.
- A student does not need to take an AP course to take the AP exam.
- AP exams are given in May – start calling local schools at beginning of school year to make arrangements to take the exam.
- Exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 or higher considered passing.

AP Score	Qualification
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation



The Value of AP Exams

- **College Credit** – Scores of 3 or higher are considered passing and may earn college credit or allow students to place out of some courses. According to the College Board, nearly all colleges and universities in the U.S. offer credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying AP scores.

The College Board provides an online AP Credit Policy Search tool:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>

- **Student Search Service** – When students take an AP Exam, they can opt in to this program that connects them to colleges and scholarship programs.
- **Stand Out!** – Like AP courses, passing AP exams can make students more competitive in the admissions process.
- **Back Up Homeschool Grades** – Like the SAT and ACT exams, AP exams can also provide objective back-up of homeschool grades.



Structure of the AP Exam

The structure of an AP exam varies by subject but generally includes both multiple-choice and free-response sections.

- **Multiple-Choice Section:** This section typically tests students on factual knowledge, comprehension of the material, and application of concepts. The number of multiple-choice questions can vary based on the subject.
- **Free-Response Section:** This section might include essay writing, problem-solving, or other forms of open-ended responses that require deeper analysis and understanding of the material. In the case of language exams, this may also include speaking or listening components. For some exams, like Art and Computer Science, this includes a portfolio requirement. The AP Music Theory includes a performance requirement (sight singing) as part of the free-response section.

What Is Dual-Enrollment?

- Dual-enrollment is a program that allows high school students to enroll in college courses and earn high school and college credits.
- My youngest son was a dual-enrollment student.



The Value of Dual-Enrollment

- **Cost Savings** – By earning college credit while still in high school, students can potentially save on college tuition costs.
- **Weighted GPA** – Dual-enrollment courses are given 1 extra grade point (an “A” is worth 5.0 on a 4.0 grade scale).
- **Stand Out!** – Students who have successfully passed college courses can stand out in admissions process and show they can handle college-level work.
- **College Experience** – These programs allow students to experience college-level work and academic expectations, making the transition to college easier.
- **Career Exploration** – Dual-enrollment programs often offer a wider variety of courses than high schools, providing students the opportunity to explore potential college majors and career paths.

Navigating Dual-Enrollment

- Dual-enrollment requirements differ by college, not just by state.
 - Minimum age requirements
 - Classes can be free, but not always
 - Restrictions on number of credits/units taken
- A one-semester college course is equivalent to one year of high school credit.
- When researching classes, look carefully for prerequisite requirements.
- Make sure your student meets with their counselor – very important.
- Matriculated vs. non-matriculated student status:
 - Non-matriculated: Still a high school student in college records
 - Can still apply to colleges as a freshman
 - Matriculated: High school graduate in college records
 - Free of any unit restrictions, but considered a college student
 - Will be considered a transfer student when applying to colleges



Overcoming Challenges – AP Class

- **Heavy Workload** – The workload in AP courses is often much heavier, with more assignments, more writing, and extensive reading.
 - ✓ Tip: Develop time management skills. Break the workload into smaller, manageable tasks and schedule time for studying, breaks, and relaxation.
- **Higher Difficulty Level** – AP courses cover college-level material and can be significantly more challenging than regular high school courses.
 - ✓ Tip: Use effective study strategies. Try to understand the concepts at a deeper level, rather than just memorizing facts.
- **Stress and Pressure** – The difficulty and intensity of AP courses can lead to high stress and pressure to perform.
 - ✓ Tip: Practice stress management techniques like mindfulness, yoga, and exercise.



Overcoming Challenges – AP Exam

- **College Credit Isn't Guaranteed** – Not all colleges give credit for AP exams, and some only give credit for a score of 4 or 5. Some colleges will only award units towards graduation, but not credit for specific courses.
 - ✓ Tip: Do your research ahead of time and know the AP credit policies of the colleges your student is interested in. This can help inform your decisions about which AP exams to take.
- **Exam Preparation**: – AP exams can be challenging because they are comprehensive and cover all of the course material.
 - ✓ Tip: Start reviewing early and do not cram. Regular review of the course material throughout the year will make the exam preparation less stressful.

Overcoming Challenges – DE

- **College Credit Isn't Guaranteed** – Not all colleges award credit for dual-enrollment courses.
 - ✓ *Tip:* Research how the colleges of interest will handle dual-enrollment credit prior to taking dual-enrollment classes.
- **Social Adjustment** – DE students will be in classes with older students, which can be an adjustment socially.
 - ✓ *Tip:* Tell your student to be open to learning from and networking with a diverse group of students.
- **Navigating College Expectations** – High school students may not be prepared for the different academic and behavioral expectations of college.
 - ✓ *Tip:* Students should not be afraid to ask for clarification if unsure about something, and they should take advantage of available resources.

Thank You!

Any Questions?