



# A Bridge to KAP

Katy Advanced Program





# Hello!

**Dr. Joan Otten**

Director of GT and Advanced Academics.

**Danielle Sanchez**

Secondary Instructional  
Officer GT/AAS

**Mona Clark**

College and Career Specialist



## Goals for this presentation are to...

- Provide information that will assist parents and students in making decisions about secondary course options
- Provide information on advanced course options for grade 6.
- Explain how GT students are served within the secondary setting




# **Katy Advanced Program (KAP) Grades 6-10**

is designed to prepare all students  
for the academic complexity of  
Advanced Placement courses.

# KAP Curriculum in Katy ISD

- Developed with a concentration on building the student's capacity to understand, process, and analyze rigorous content
- Built upon the core academic curriculum
- Academically advanced course of study
  - Curriculum objectives are more complex
  - Resources are more extensive
  - Performance expectations are higher and more rigorous



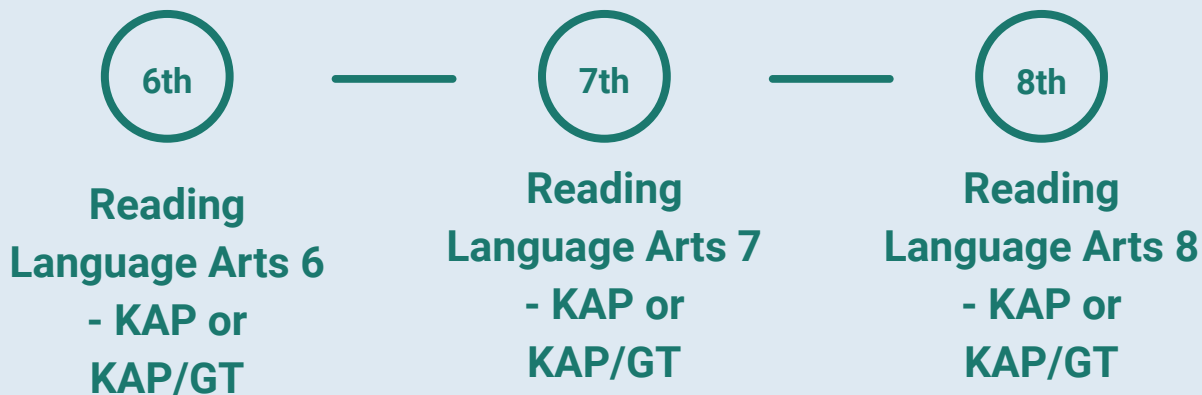
**KAP Course  
Pathways  
by Subject**



# Reading Language Arts



# Course Sequence



KAP/GT is a single block  
class in 7th grade

\*Note: Junior High courses do not count on GPA (unless otherwise noted)



# Academic VS KAP/AP



Academic	KAP/AP
Structured Writing/emphasis on comprehension and analysis	Emphasis on Depth of understanding/complex analysis/research process
Evidence-based writing focus	Timed Writings with evidence-based conclusions
Young Adult Literature	Authors of Merit



# ELA & SS Skill Development

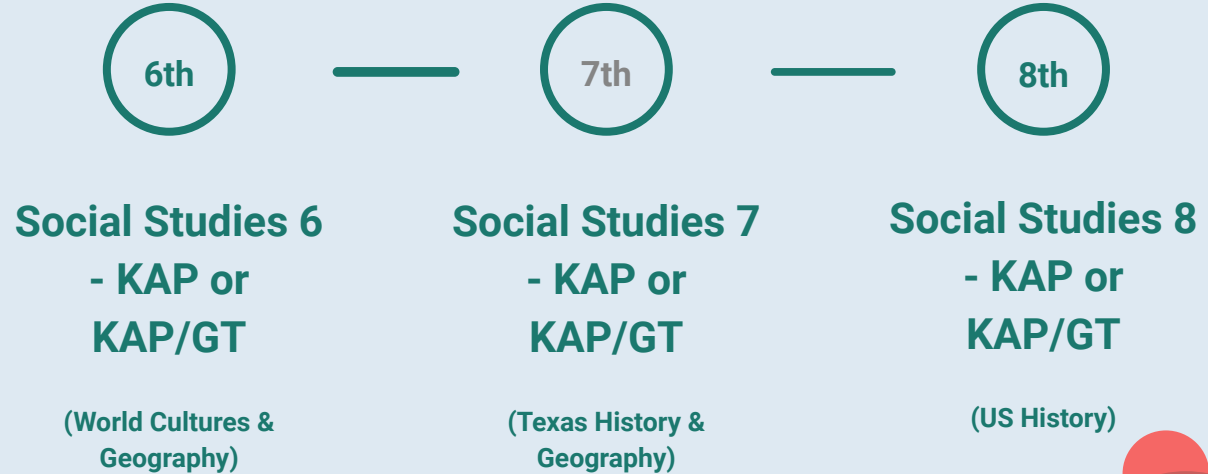
- Primary and secondary document analysis
- Outside reading in addition to textbook
- Accountability for independent reading
- Thesis and Essay Writing based on evidence from assigned readings
- Note-making
- The research process



# Social Studies



# Course Sequence

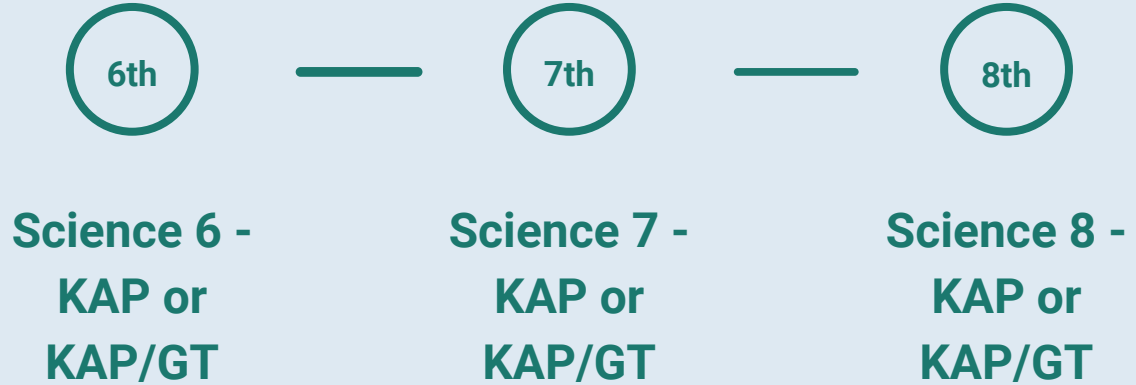


\*Note: Junior High courses do not count towards GPA (unless otherwise noted)

# The Sciences



# Course Sequence



\*Note: Junior High courses do not count towards GPA (unless otherwise noted)

# Mathematics



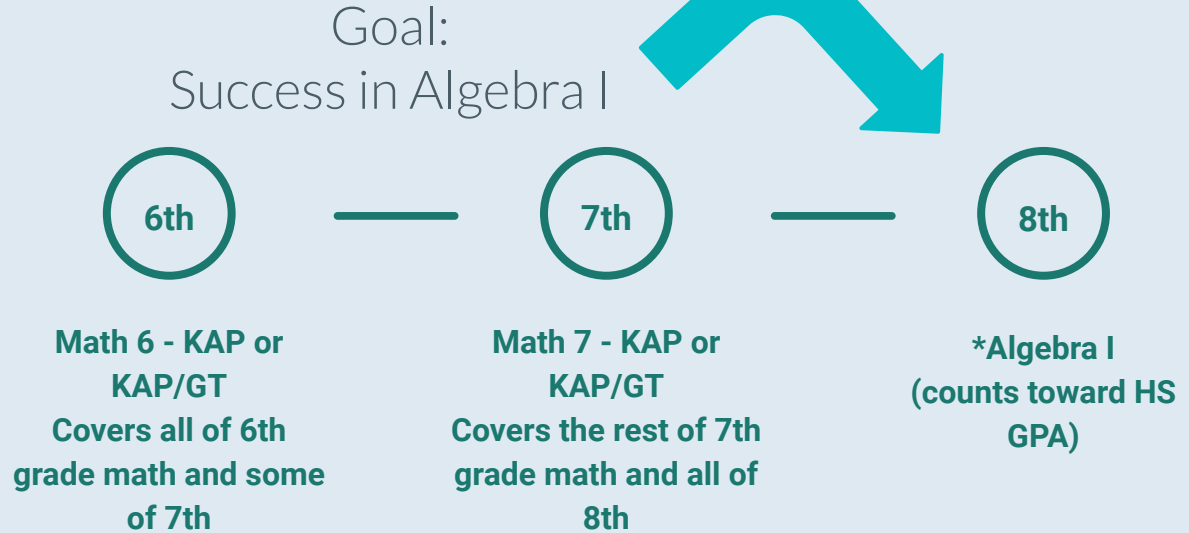


- **Criteria for entering 6th Grade KAP Math**
  - Meet any one of the following criteria
    - Student opts for advanced mathematics
    - Student performs at a level included in the top two quintiles on district data on 5th grade STAAR
    - Student performs at “Masters” level on 5th grade STAAR
    - [SB 2124](#) requires that the top 40% of 5th grade math STAAR students are placed in Adv Math in 6th grade.
    - Opt-out option is available - see campus counselor





# Course Sequence



\*Note: Junior High courses do not count on GPA (unless otherwise noted)  
Additional acceleration is available through Credit By Exam - see campus counselor

# KAP Math Pathway

Questions regarding Credit By Exam (CBE) should be directed to the Accountability and Assessment Department.

Visit this website for details and deadlines

[http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-\(CBE\).aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-(CBE).aspx)



# Making Course Decisions





## Advanced Academics in Katy ISD

- Katy ISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework and encourages students to enroll in advanced coursework in 6th grade.
- Students are encouraged to access the most rigorous curriculum in which they can be successful, generally defined as earning a C or better semester average.

\*\*\* Junior High - a safe place to learn productive struggle\*\*\*



# Katy ISD Advanced Academics

- KAP and AP courses are designed to challenge students **beyond** grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced level coursework.
- Student performance in previous STAAR test should be considered. A Masters level indicates the student's ability to perform well in above grade level coursework.
- Students may require additional encouragement and support to be successful in these courses.

# Access to Advanced Academics



## When making a decision about KAP, consider:

1. History of success in the subject?
  - a. STAAR-no remediation, meets or masters level
  - b. Class grades-seems to easily grasp concepts
2. Work Ethic
  - a. Student attitudes - generally likes to learn
  - b. Study habits - will study when needed
3. Personal Interests and Strengths - loves reading, solving problems, historical stories, or experimenting with ideas or science





# Demonstrating Persistence

To encourage students to remain in an advanced course, prior to exiting a course, students must complete a series of steps...



# Exiting Advanced Academic Courses



- Students experiencing success (C or better SEMESTER average) should remain in the course for the semester.
- Students petitioning to exit a KAP or AP course must: conference with the teacher, complete all course assignments, and/or attend recommended tutorials.
- Granting the petition is based on input from the teacher, student, performance in the course, availability of space in other courses, and the timing of the request.





- You can choose as few or as many KAP courses as you feel are appropriate for your child.
- Students successful in 5th grade mathematics should be in KAP math in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

“Some As are not as good  
as some Bs.”

What can students learn from productive struggle?



# Points to Remember

# FAQs



## Why try KAP in Junior high?

- Students who enroll in KAP in junior high benefit from early preparation and academic rigor to develop the academic skills to more easily transition to high school AP coursework and beyond.
- Grades earned in junior high KAP courses do not count toward the high school GPA (high school courses taken in junior high *do* count toward high school GPA, ex. Algebra I)



# FAQs



## Do KAP courses have more homework than academic courses?

Usually, yes. But...parents and students respond that the homework amount is generally appropriate

## Are students enrolled in KAP courses able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Many athletes, cheerleaders, music students, etc. take KAP and AP courses.



# FAQs



## Can a student who does not enroll in KAP course in 6th grade begin KAP in 7th?

Generally, yes. Math, however, requires special consideration. Students who are strong in math should begin KAP Math in 6th grade. However, we encourage all students to enroll in KAP 6th grade courses when possible.

## Can my child test out of a JH course to accelerate to the next level?

There is a process in place known as Credit By Exam (CBE). Contact your campus counselor for more information.

[http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-\(CBE\).aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-(CBE).aspx)





# KAP and Gifted Learners

- Students identified as Gifted are served within the KAP program in classes designated as KAP/GT (depending upon the campus, not all secondary campuses offer GT-only classes).
- Only students formally identified should enroll in courses designated KAP/GT. Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are identified for the secondary GT program should receive notifications in early January.



## Most GT secondary students are clustered in blended KAP classes. What is the advantage of GT identification in that situation?



- GT identification is designed to address the particular educational needs of the gifted learner.
  - The teacher will have 30 hours of GT training
  - The teacher is aware of the GT identification and can address unique needs of gifted learners in that class.
  - GT students are part of a learning community that can help meet their social/emotional and intellectual needs.
  - A cluster of GT students in a class creates a unique dynamic in the classroom that is evidenced by the dialogue and the depth of the conversation in the class.
- 
- 


A white line-art icon of a lit lightbulb is centered within a red circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in red, orange, and teal colors in the top-left corner of the slide.

## Is it advisable to take all KAP/GT classes?



- Yes. Students are encouraged to take as many KAP/GT classes as they feel are appropriate.

## What if my student is not identified in all areas?

- Students may take KAP/GT for areas of identification, and screen for additional areas if interested.
  - KAP courses are open to all students. GT students are encouraged to enroll in KAP courses
- 
- A white icon of four interlocking puzzle pieces is centered within a pink circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in pink, orange, and teal colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.
- 
- A white icon of a hand with the thumb pointing up (a thumbs up gesture) is centered within a teal circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in teal, orange, and red colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.

A white line-art icon of a lit lightbulb is centered within a red circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in red, orange, and teal colors in the top-left corner of the slide.

**My child is approved for a GT course for next year, but we decide not to enroll in that course that grade. Can my child enroll in that GT course in the next grade?**

- No. Your child will have to be screened for that content area during the spring screening window in the next school year for service in the following school year.
- 
- A white icon of three interlocking puzzle pieces is centered within a pink circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in pink, red, and teal colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.
- 
- A white icon of a hand with the thumb pointing up (a thumbs up gesture) is centered within a teal circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in teal, red, and orange colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.





## What if my child is not successful in the program?

After attending tutorials and discussions with teachers, parents and the GT Facilitator, exit policies can be considered. Parents must be notified if a student is wishing to exit a GT course.

## Can my child leave the program?

Yes; students can formally exit the program or be granted a temporary furlough from the program.

## What is a furlough?

A temporary exit from a GT course for specific reasons detailed in KISD board policy. Furloughs are limited to a specific timeframe.



A white line-art icon of a lit lightbulb is centered within a red circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in red, orange, and teal colors in the top-left corner of the slide.

## What if we move to a different school in Katy ISD or my child is affected by changes in attendance zones?

- Students identified for the KISD GT Program at one campus will join the GT Program at their new campus.
- 
- A white icon of three interlocking puzzle pieces is centered within a pink circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in pink, red, and teal colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.
- 
- A white icon of a hand with the thumb pointing up (a thumbs up gesture) is centered within a teal circular background. This circle is part of a decorative cluster of overlapping circles in teal, red, and orange colors in the bottom-right corner of the slide.



# Advanced Placement

## Preparing for High School



# What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

- College Level Courses
- Available for grades 10-12 (generally)
- Designed and administered by the College Board
- Katy ISD has AP courses in Math, Science, Social Studies, English, World Languages, Fine Arts and Computer Science

# AP Exams

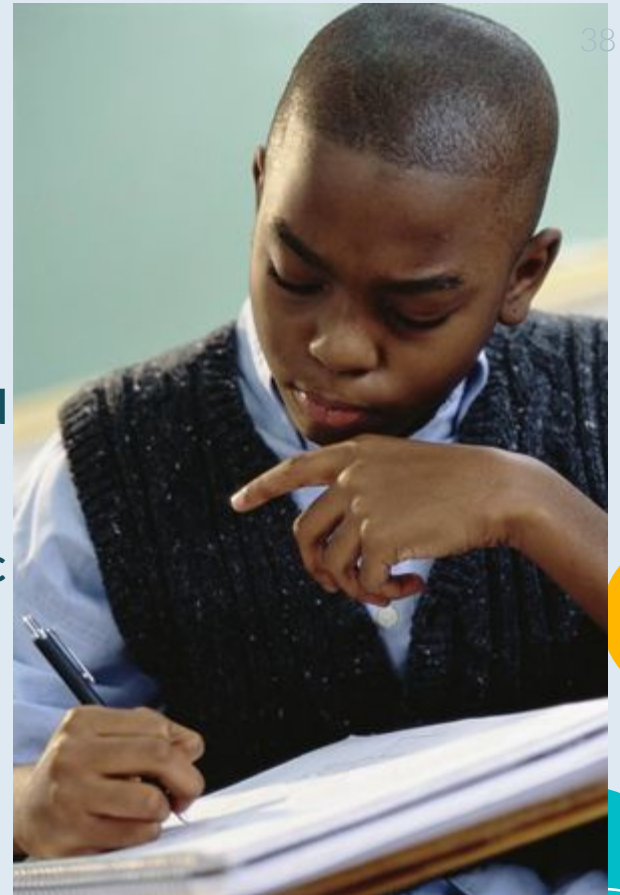
- Two or three hour exams
- Multiple choice questions
- Free response questions
- Administered in May
- Scored on 1-5 scale
- Scores of 3, 4, 5 are generally accepted for college credit.



**Advanced Placement is not just about college credit. It is also...**

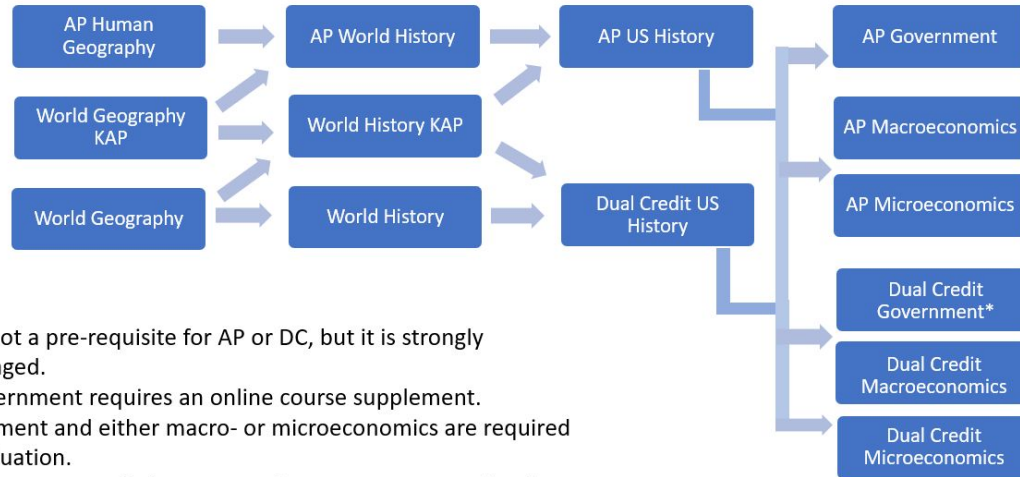


- **Students experiencing college level instruction while in the supportive home and school environment**
- **Students developing college level analytical and study skills**
- **Students gaining academic confidence**



# Course Sequence

## Advanced Academics Pathways – Social Studies



- KAP is not a pre-requisite for AP or DC, but it is strongly encouraged.
- DC Government requires an online course supplement.
- Government and either macro- or microeconomics are required for graduation.
- This is a recommended sequence. Courses are not restricted to a certain grade level. Refer to [SchoolLinks](#) for grade restrictions.



# Course Sequence

## Duplicate Courses - either/or, not both

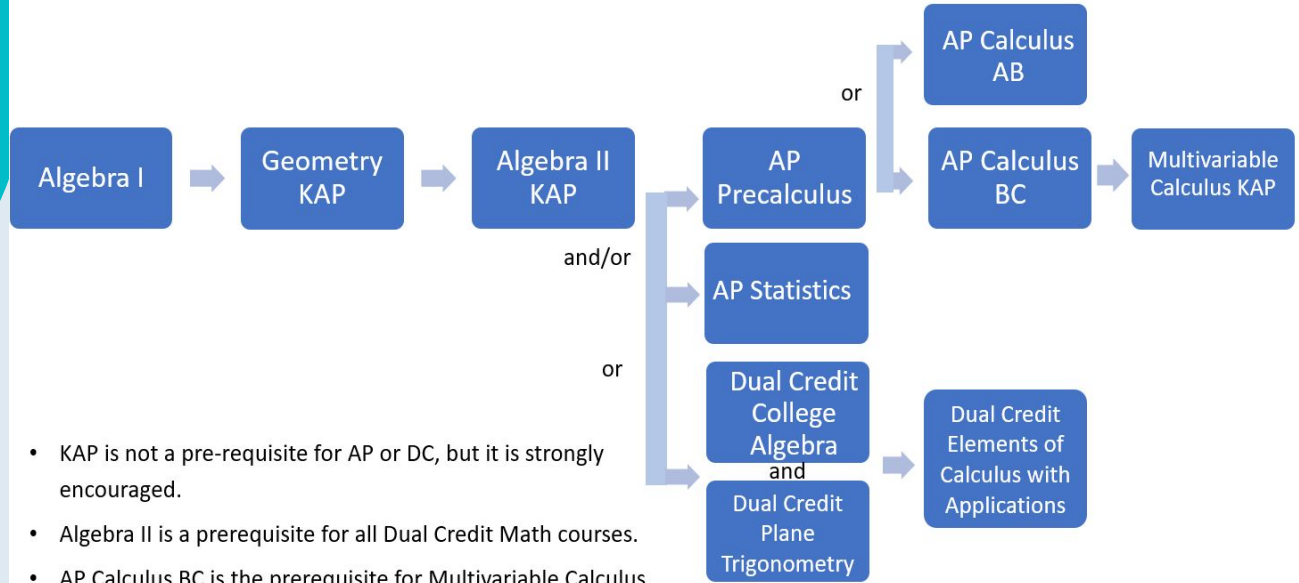
- KAP World Geography and AP Human Geography are the same TEKS - a student cannot take both courses.
- Academic World History, KAP World History and AP World History count as the same course. Only one of these courses may be taken.





# Advanced Academics Pathways - Math

## Course Sequence

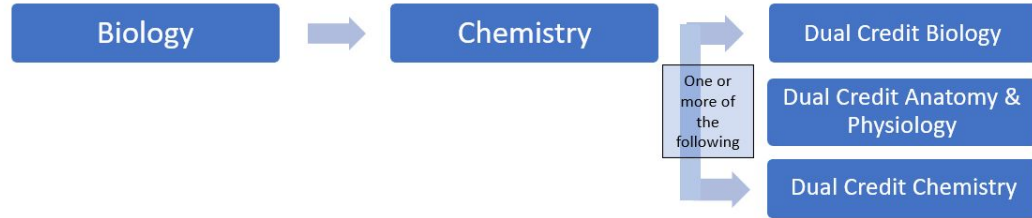


- KAP is not a pre-requisite for AP or DC, but it is strongly encouraged.
- Algebra II is a prerequisite for all Dual Credit Math courses.
- AP Calculus BC is the prerequisite for Multivariable Calculus.

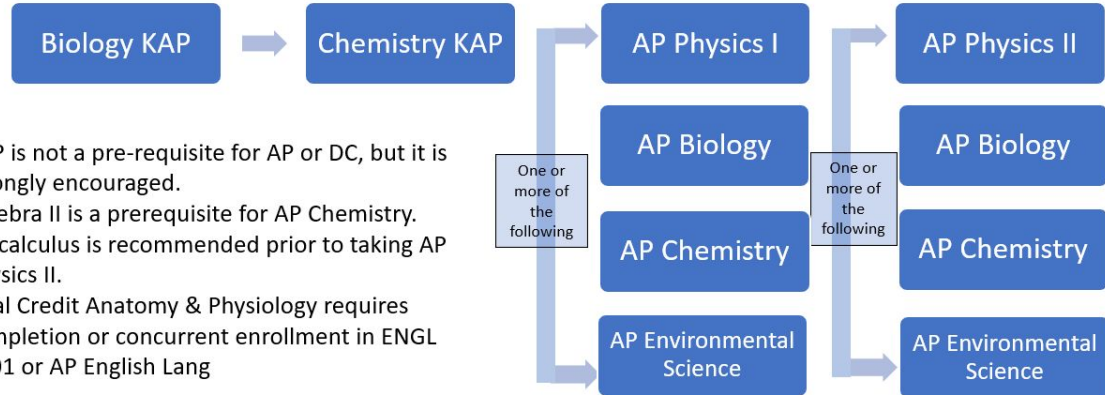


# Course Sequence

## Advanced Academics Pathways - Science



Dual Credit Biology & Chemistry are designed for non-science majors

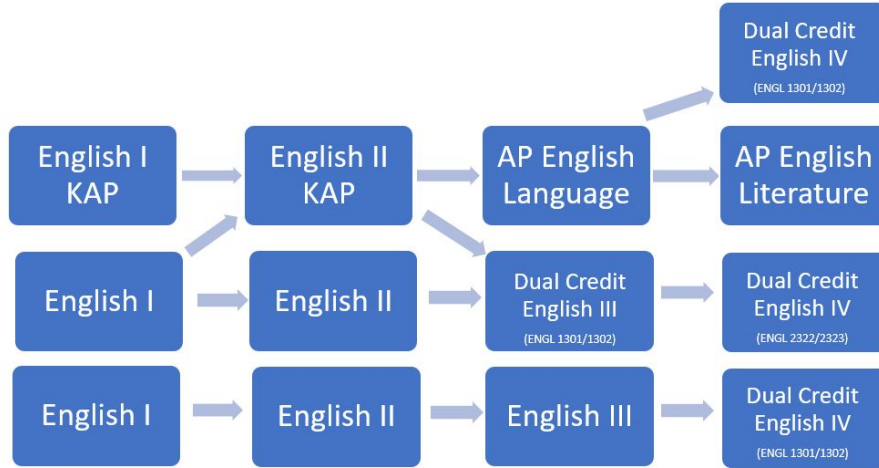


- KAP is not a pre-requisite for AP or DC, but it is strongly encouraged.
- Algebra II is a prerequisite for AP Chemistry.
- Precalculus is recommended prior to taking AP Physics II.
- Dual Credit Anatomy & Physiology requires completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 1301 or AP English Lang



# Course Sequence

## Advanced Academics Pathways - English



- KAP is not a pre-requisite for AP or DC, but it is strongly encouraged.
- Dual Credit English III is the equivalent of English 1301 and 1302 at HCC. The content includes American Literature & Composition.
- Dual Credit English IV is the equivalent of English 2322 and 2323 at HCC. The content includes British Literature.

## What Counts in College Admissions

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	11.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	29.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	32.1	27.9
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	28.9	15.6
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	29.7	15.9
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	32.7	29.1
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.4	18.3
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.0
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

Taking an AP class and doing well in the class is stressed more than the AP exam alone.

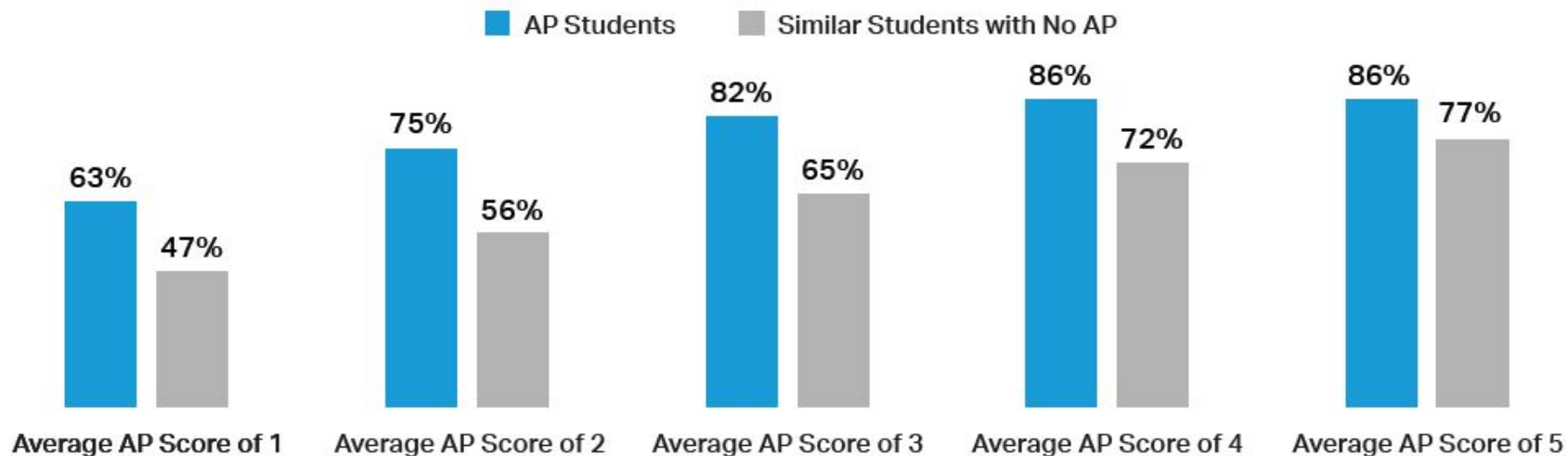
SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

# Benefits of Advanced Academics



AP students who earn a score of 1 or 2, or average a score of 1 or 2 across their AP Exams in high school, have better college outcomes than academically similar college students who did not take an AP course and exam.

## FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROBABILITIES, BY AVERAGE AP SCORE

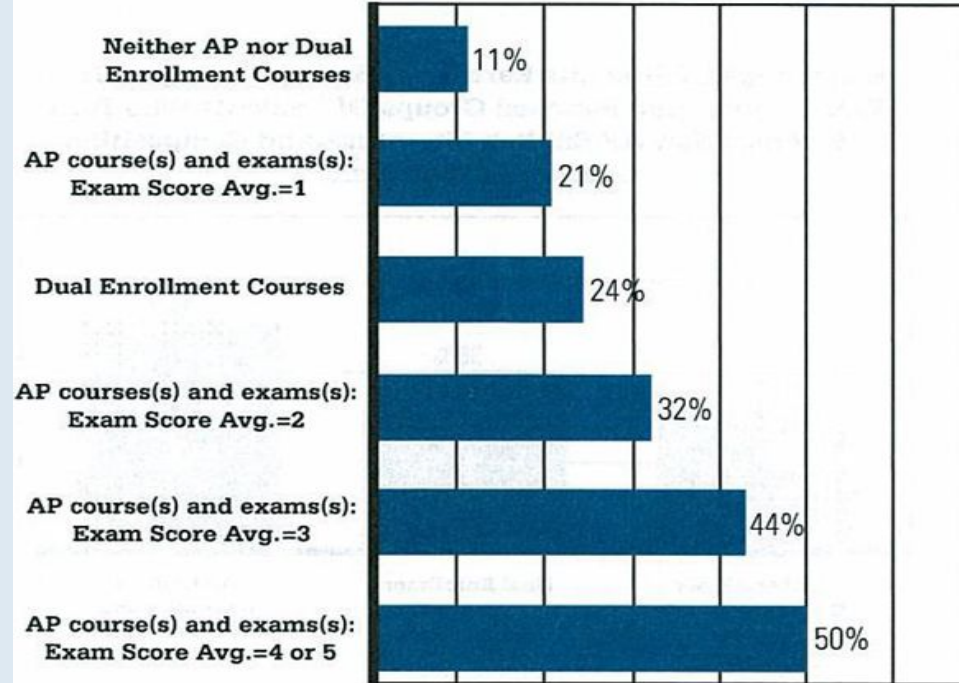


NOTES: Probability of enrollment immediately after high school graduation is calculated for 1,560,229 students who graduated high school in 2017. Probabilities are calculated separately for the average student in each AP score sample conditional on gender, ethnicity, first-generation status, SAT score, and HSGPA.



## Statistical Analysis of University Success Based on Student's Class Choices

**Percentage of Students with Varying AP and Non-AP Experiences Who Earn a Bachelor's Degree Within 4-Years**



# FAQs




## Is there a difference between the grade points awarded for KAP and KAP/GT



- No. Both KAP and KAP/GT courses carry a “weighted” grade point.
- Junior high courses do not contribute to the official high school Grade Point Average unless otherwise stated (ex, Alg I)

Course	90-100 A	80-89 B	70-79 C	69 and Below F
Advanced	5	4	3	0
Dual Credit	4.5	3.5	2.5	0
Academic	4	3	2	0





# For additional information...

- Attend Course Selection Nights as scheduled by the junior high/high school campuses
    - Course Selection Fair at the Merrell Center Jan 11th, 5:30-8:30
  - Consult the [Course Catalog](#) (available on Schoolinks)
  - Contact your campus junior high counselor
- 
- 



A white line-art icon of a lit lightbulb is centered within a red circular background. This circle is part of a cluster of overlapping circles in red, orange, and teal in the top-left corner of the slide.

# Thank You!

This presentation will be posted on the *Advanced Academics* website.

Course Selection Fair at the Merrell Center Jan 11th,  
5:30-8:30

A white line-art icon of three interlocking puzzle pieces is centered within a pink circular background. This circle is part of a cluster of overlapping circles in pink, red, and teal in the bottom-right corner of the slide.A white line-art icon of a hand with the thumb pointing up (a thumbs up gesture) is centered within a teal circular background. This circle is part of a cluster of overlapping circles in teal, red, and orange in the bottom-right corner of the slide.