

Atlantic Coast High School



The Advanced Placement (AP) Honors Academy

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Atlantic Coast High School's Advanced Placement (AP) Honors program is a rigorous academic program where students take at least nine AP courses from grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The AP Honors Program challenges students to display exceptional achievement on AP Exams across several disciplines. AP courses are taught at a college level and each course is concluded by a comprehensive exam created by the College Board. Students who enroll in an Advanced Placement course are required to take the AP exam. In general, postsecondary credit for an AP course may be awarded to students who score a minimum of a 3 on a 5-point scale on the corresponding AP exam; however, qualifying scores may vary by university and by college within a university.

Students in the Atlantic Coast AP Honors Academy must complete a minimum of the following AP courses: World History, US History, Macro or Micro Economics, US Government and Politics, English Literature, English Language, one AP science, one AP mathematics course, and one elective AP course.

CRITERIA AND CONTINUATION INFORMATION

Minimum Admission Criteria	Continuation Criteria
Unweighted GPA of 2.0 or above	Unweighted GPA of 2.0 or above
Successful completion of Algebra I	Complete the required courses each year and take the required AP exam
Signature of parent and student on the contract of understanding	Pass all courses each year
	*District probation procedure applies

AP HONORS ACADEMY COURSE SEQUENCE

Curriculum Area	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English*	English 1 Hon	English 2 Hon	AP English Language ***DE English	AP English Literature ***DE English
History	AP Human Geography	AP World History	AP U.S. History ***DE History	AP U.S. Government and AP Macroeconomics
Science*	Biology 1 Hon	Chemistry 1 Hon	Physics 1 Hon	AP Biology / Genetics or AP Chemistry / Chemistry 2 or AP Environmental Science
Mathematics*	Geometry Hon	Algebra 2 Hon	***DE Math Class Pre-Calculus AP Statistics	***DE Math Class AP Statistics AP Calculus AB
	Algebra 2 Hon	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC AP Statistics ***DE Math Class
Other Requirements	Great Books	HOPE (PE/Health)	**Strategies for Success in College, Career, and Life	
World Language	Students must complete 2 courses of the same world language before graduation.			
Electives*	1 credit of Performing Fine Art during high school is required for graduation.			

*Honors courses recommended but not required for entering AP courses

**Strategies for Success in College, Career, and Life is an FSCJ Dual Enrollment Course offered at ACHS

*** DE (Dual Enrollment) courses are offered with FSCJ. Please see counselor for specific course requests

Promotion Requirements:

- To grade 10: 5 credits including 1 English or 1 mathematics
- To grade 11: 12 credits including 2 English and any combination of 2 mathematics and/or science
- To grade 12: 18 credits including 3 English and any combination of 4 math and/or science, 1.5 GPA or above, Level 2 or higher on FCAT Science SSS
- To graduate: 24 required credits, 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, pass 10th grade FSA, pass Algebra I EOC and take 1 online course

Requirements for Continuation in the AP/Honors Academy:

- Unweighted Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above
- Pass all classes each year*
- Complete the required AP course(s) each year and take the required AP exam(s)
high school probation procedure applies**

*AP Honors students must follow the course sequence as seen above. Students are eligible to take classes through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS); however, the expectation for AP Honors students is that FLVS will be used as a tool for acceleration. The AP and Honors courses that are part of the prescribed course sequence should be taken at ACHS. Any FLVS courses to be taken must be approved by the counselor, who will discuss the impact on the AP Honors program of study. College Board charges a \$40 fee to all AP exams ordered for each AP class. Any student enrolled in an AP class that decides to drop the class will be charged the \$40 processing fee before being allowed to drop the course.

**High School Probation Policy: Participation in a Progress Monitoring Plan, to include a period of probation for no less than one semester, shall be required for students at risk of not meeting the performance standards. The Progress Monitoring Plan shall include, but not be limited to, peer tutoring, after-school help sessions, weekly progress reports, and other strategies and safety nets designed to assist the student. A conference will be held with each student at risk of not meeting the standards to determine continuation in the AP Honors Program.

The AP Honors Academy at Atlantic Coast High School: Taking the Challenge

The AP Honors Academy at Atlantic Coast High School includes a comprehensive curriculum designed to equip students with the skills and attitude necessary for success in higher education and beyond. The program requires a high level of motivation, focus, enthusiasm and determination for success. Those who meet the requirements of this program are awarded a special seal on their high school diploma. Through participation in the AP Honors Academy at Atlantic Coast, students learn to become knowledgeable citizens who can write well, think critically, articulate their thoughts, and manage their time and responsibilities. These are skills that will remain with them long after the AP experience is over.

Parents and Guardians

AP provides students an opportunity for learning that goes beyond just facts and figures. The rich course material, classroom discussions and demanding assignments typical of AP courses will help your child develop the content mastery and critical thinking skills expected of college students, and feel confident in his or her abilities. What's more, by participating in AP, your child has the opportunity to earn college credit and to stand out in the college admission process.

Here's what AP can do for your child:

- Confidence - AP will help your child develop better study habits, improve writing skills and sharpen problem-solving abilities - giving your child the confidence to tackle the academic challenges that they can expect in college.
- Achievement — AP will provide your child the opportunity to earn credit, advanced placement or both for college and to stand out in the admission process. Eighty five percent of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.
- College Success — AP is challenging, but the rewards you will experience when you get to college are worth the hard work. A 2008 study found that AP students had better four-year graduation rates than those who did not take AP. For example, graduation rates for AP English Literature students were 62 percent higher than graduation rates for those who took other English courses in high school. Because more than 3,200 colleges and universities in the United States offer credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying AP scores, AP students have the flexibility to double major or study abroad without putting at risk graduation in four years.

Students: Why should you consider AP Honors?

- Earn college credit and advanced placement
 - Receive recognition from more than 3,600 colleges and universities that annually receive AP Exam scores. Over 90% of 4-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying scores.
 - Have more time to move into upper-level courses in your field of interest, pursue a double major, or study abroad.
 - Design a college experience that suits you and gives you the flexibility to get the most out of your college years.
- Stand out in the college admissions process
 - Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
 - Show your willingness to take the most rigorous courses available to you.
 - Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.
- Gain skills that will help you succeed in college
 - Get a head start on college-level work.
 - Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques.
 - Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.
- Broaden your intellectual horizons
 - Be part of a community of students and educators who are passionate, curious, and committed to academic excellence
 - Engage in intense discussions, solve problems collaboratively, and learn to write clearly and persuasively
 - Take courses that are developed by leading professors to reflect the level of learning happening at colleges throughout the country

AP Exams: Put Your Knowledge to the Test

In addition to each AP course there is an AP examination that must be taken. AP exams are administered to students in May, near the completion of each AP course.

- **Earn college credit and advanced placement** — Strong performance on AP Exams is rewarded by colleges and universities worldwide (more than 90 percent in the US and Canada).
- **Know you're ready for college** — AP Exams provide you with confirmation of the college-level knowledge and skills you've gained in the AP classroom.
- **Earn AP Scholar Awards** — Each September, the College Board recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college-level achievement with AP Scholar Awards. Although there is no monetary award in addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any grade report that is sent to colleges the following fall which further strengthens your resume.

The following are the recognition levels of academic distinction offered by College Board:

- AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
- AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
- State AP Scholar: Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken
- National AP Scholar: Granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams

Understanding the advantages

Studies have shown that the rigor of a student's high school curriculum is the single best predictor of success in college. In his seminal study, *The Tool Box Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, 2006), Clifford Adelman demonstrated that the academic intensity of a high school curriculum is essential to student success in college.

The National Association for College Admission Counseling's (NACAC) annual *State of College Admissions* survey consistently finds that student performance in college preparatory classes is the most important factor in the admissions decision. With this in mind, encourage enrollment in honors and AP courses even if your students have the impression that only "top" students should take these courses or the fear that taking a challenging course might result in a lower GPA. Advanced-level courses are worth the extra effort.

Implications for admissions

Students often don't understand how much weight college admissions officers give to advanced-level courses on an applicant's transcript. Explain to your students (and their parents) that admissions officers are not impressed by straight A's when they are all earned in easy courses. Gretchen Rigol, the author of *Admissions Decision-Making Models: How U.S. Institutions of Higher Education Select Undergraduate Students* (College Board, 2003), writes, "GPAs are 'weighted,' with extra points being given for honors or AP courses."

Colleges look for quality, not quantity. They look for students that challenge themselves with a curriculum. According to Dan Saracino, Assistant Provost for enrollment at the University of Notre Dame: "Nothing is more important than the quality of the course load."

AP and the Cost of College

Research shows how taking AP can be useful in reducing the cost of college. AP courses and exams help students complete their bachelor's degrees on time. Most students at public colleges and universities take five or six years, and even longer, to earn their bachelor's degrees. Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to graduate in four years, allowing them and their families to reduce the likelihood of paying for tuition for a fifth or sixth year. AP has also emerged as an important factor in college scholarship decisions. Taking AP increases eligibility for scholarships and makes candidates more attractive to colleges.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Honors Academy

Application for 2019 – 2020 @ Atlantic Coast High School

PART 1: Please print in blue or black ink.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Last First Middle

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

Sex:(circle one) M F Ethnicity:(circle one) W B H A OTHER DCPS Student ID Number: _____

School during the 18-19 school year _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Note: If the student is NOT currently attending a Duval County Public School, you must attach a proof of address, copy of the student's birth certificate, report card showing their grades for the first half of eighth grade, final report card for seventh grade, and seventh grade achievement test scores. If you ARE currently attending a Duval County Public School, we will obtain this information from your present school.

Father / Guardian's Name: _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Mother / Guardian's Name: _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

PART 2: Please circle the appropriate answer to the questions below.

- Yes No - I have already taken and passed Algebra 1. When/Where? _____
- Yes No - I am currently taking Algebra 1 at my middle school.

PART 3: Contract of Understanding for Students and Parents

Parent statement of understanding and commitment: My signature below affirms my review of the ACHS AP Honors Academy's course sequence, continuation criteria, and probation information. I understand that if my student falls below the required academic standards, s/he will be placed on probation with a progress monitoring plan. At the end of the probationary period, progress will be reviewed to determine program continuity.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

PART 4: Check each line below to insure that your application is complete.

- ___ All parts of the application have been completed.
- ___ I have attached any additional paperwork that is required for students not currently enrolled in DCPS.
- ___ I have signed the student statement of understanding.
- ___ My parents/guardians have signed their statement of understanding.

Please return completed application and all supporting documents to:

Atlantic Coast High School
Dr. Michael Smith – Assistant Principal/AP Honors Coordinator
9735 R.G. Skinner Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Note: All applications are reviewed by a selection committee of school personnel. A notification letter will be issued once the review process is complete.