



The Advanced Placement
Program®

Ironwood Ridge High School

Why Take AP Classes?

- Start preparing now for the academic rigor of college. Research shows that students who participate in AP classes are more successful in future academic endeavors.
- Smaller student/teacher ratio than most college courses. This allows students to learn this material with greater teacher support.
- Students who challenge themselves by taking Honors classes stand out when college admissions counselors are making their decision as to who they should or should not accept.
- Students may be eligible to earn academic scholarships or awards. Honors courses can separate students eligible for these valuable academic scholarships.
- Save money and time by earning college credit before you start college. Starting in 2015, 25% of the MCAT will cover Social Sciences. Classes like AP Psychology can be taken now to get ahead on future goals and dreams.

Advanced Placement Program

- Advanced Placement (AP) at IRHS includes two types of classes:
 1. **Pre-AP courses:** Classes provide a rigorous curriculum with skill development focused on success in future AP courses.
 2. **AP courses:** Curriculum designed to be college level content that is equivalent to either 0.5 to 1 year of that course in college (depends on the course). In May, a comprehensive test is offered for each class that students may take in order to receive college credit.

- Students who take Pre-AP and AP courses receive weighted grades for those courses.
 - A = 5
 - B = 4
 - C = 3
 - D = 2
 - F = 1

AP Classes: What's Different?

- Hands on approach to learning in class.
 - In Studio Art, students create studio quality portfolios to be submitted and evaluated.
 - In Chemistry, students engage in hands-on lab investigations to learn chemical concepts through direct experience and observations.
- Students tackle concepts and do things that will stick long after the class is over.
 - In French and Spanish, students build communication skills through one-on-one communication and collaboration that will transfer into lifelong skills when traveling or working abroad.
- Students don't just read about things, they learn how things really work.
 - In Physics, students use Excel to model a rocket's trip from Earth to the moon and explore Newton's laws.

AP Classes: What's Different?

- Not only learn by doing but by sharing and speaking out.
 - In Government and Politics, students will debate the merits of “judicial activism” vs. “judicial restraint” using recent Supreme Court cases as evidence.
- Start moving towards your future today.
 - Students interested in business and finance can begin by taking Statistics.
 - Students that want to make a difference in improving the environment can start by taking Environmental Science.
- Classes create a bridge between high school and college.
 - AP teachers will help students manage college-level work alongside their other priorities while still in high school, so they will be ready when they are on their own.

IRHS AP *Fast Facts*

- IRHS currently offers 57 sections of Pre-AP and AP courses.
- 81.4% of IRHS students taking an AP test in 2013 earned a 3 or better. The Arizona state average was 58.1% and the global average was 60.9%
- In 2013, 258 students took at least one AP exam. 464 total AP exams were taken by IRHS students. Over the past 5 years, 2,249 AP exams were administered.
- 89 IRHS students earned **AP Scholar** designation in 2013
 - 29 AP Scholars (scored a 3 or higher on 3 or more exams)
 - 28 AP Scholars with Honors (Ave. score of 3.25+ and a 3 or higher on 4+ exams)
 - 27 AP Scholars with Distinction (Ave. score 3.5+ and 3 or higher on 5+ exams)
 - 5 National AP Scholars (Ave. score of 4+ and 4 or higher on 8+ exams)
- All IRHS AP teachers have a curriculum that is approved by the College Board.

Equity and Excellence

- Ironwood Ridge High School is committed to allowing **ALL** students to successfully prepare for college through our Advanced Placement Program.
- Pre-AP and AP students are able to experience the rigors of college-level studies while still being in a **supportive, nurturing** high school **environment**.
- Ironwood Ridge AP teachers **help** their students **develop** and **apply** the skills, abilities and content knowledge they will need when they get to college.

AP Exam Details

- In May, a comprehensive test is offered in each AP subject where students, if they score well, may earn college credit.
- The AP exam costs \$91.00 for each individual test. Students sign up and pay for the test in the IRHS bookstore starting the second week of January.
- Students on the *Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program* may qualify for a reduction or waiver of AP exam fees. Inquire in the bookstore for more information.
- After the testing is over, scores are usually available online in early July. Scores can be send directly to the college(s) indicated by the student at test time.

College Credit Opportunities

- IRHS does NOT grant college credit. The credit is granted by the specific college or university that the student attends.
- At the end of every AP course, students can earn college credit by taking the AP exam offered in May. A score of a 3, 4, or 5 (based on a 5-point scale) on the exam *may* qualify for college credit.
- Students should contact the college or university that they are interested in attending for the most current AP credit policies.
- More information about an institutions' credit policy can be found at www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy

AP Courses Offered at IRHS

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Environmental Science
- French Language and Culture
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Physics C: Mechanics
- Psychology
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Statistics
- Studio Art: 2-D Design
- United States Government and Politics
- United States History
- World History

AP Self-Assessment

- Pre-AP and AP courses offer tremendous rewards including the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school.
- Many students wonder whether or not they should take these courses. The following self-assessment is designed to guide students in making those decisions.
- Read each statement. Check the box if the statement accurately describes you. Leave the box blank if it does not reflect where you are currently at academically.

- Learning and excelling in school is a top priority for me.
- I have taken a class that requires at least 30 minutes of homework per night.
- I generally understand a new topic the first time.
- If I don't understand a new topic, I seek assistance (conference period, tutoring, teacher office hours).
- I get together with friends or classmates to study (in and outside of school).
- I ask questions about class material because I am genuinely interested in the answer.
- I consistently work hard and put forth my best effort in class.
- I want to do all that I can to academically prepare for college.
- I don't give up. I work hard to figure out material in class.
- If necessary, I am willing to sacrifice extra curricular or job time in order to excel in my class.
- I have great time management skills.
- I have done well in classes that offer little or no extra credit.
- I like classes that stress the ability to think about the subject and make my own conclusions rather than just memorizing a bunch of facts.
- I do well in classes that emphasize thinking and problem solving.
- I am a good reader.
- When I haven't done well on a test or assignment, I seek prompt clarification in order to find out how to do better the next time.
- I want to be in a position to be competitive for college academic scholarships.

Evaluate Your Self-Assessment

- If you checked **most** or **all** of the statements, you will likely experience success in the Pre-AP and AP course(s) you are considering. You may want to consider taking multiple courses.
- If you checked **some** of the statements, you may still experience success in the course(s) you are considering. You may have to improve some of your academic strategies (use of tutoring, study time, conference periods) to be successful. Be prepared to put in more academic time than you did in regular courses.
- If you checked a **few** or **none** of the statements, you may want to reconsider these courses at this time. Pre-AP and AP classes are rigorous and challenging. If you intend to enroll, you will have to adjust independent study time, improve study skills, and use time outside of class (tutoring, conference, study groups) in order to succeed academically.

Take the Challenge...

- Explore the future and embrace the opportunities available by taking Advanced Placement courses at Ironwood Ridge High School.
- Visit the College Board website for more information on Pre-AP and AP classes.

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap>

- Roll up your sleeves and find out what AP can do for you. Enroll in Pre-AP and AP classes now! Talk to your teacher(s) or counselor today.