

## FAQs



**1. What is the difference between Advanced Placement and regular classes?**

Advanced Placement courses are both rigorous and demanding, offering an intellectual stimulation for students who are committed to academic excellence. AP course enrichment prepares students for the College Board Grade 12 exam in the specific subject area.

**2. Can I receive course credit for first year, university with AP courses?**

Grade 12 AP exams are scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). While each post-secondary institution can vary, students earning a 3 or higher can receive course credit, advanced placement, or both when entering first year at a post-secondary institution. Students should contact individual universities to inquire about the policy of each.

**3. Who can apply to the Advanced Placement Program?**

Students residing in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area, who are currently in Grade 8 can complete a Pre-AP application to be considered for the Pre-AP program prior to entering St. Mary's College. Grade 8 students who are currently enrolled in the Pre-AP Reach Ahead Program (Science and/or Math) are not required to complete a Pre-AP Application and can select any Pre-AP Grade 9 courses on the course selection sheet.

**4. What background does my child require to be successful in an Advanced Placement course?**

The content for an Advanced Placement course is more sophisticated and complex. Students should have had practice in analyzing content, drawing comparisons, and reasoning through problems, as well as being proficient to write clear, concise essays. Students who may not be skilled in these areas must be motivated enough to bridge the gaps in their deficiencies, while taking on the rigorous academic demands of the AP course. The keys to success are motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation.

**5. How can I assist my child with doing well in Advanced Placement courses?**

Preparation for Gr. 12 Advanced Placement courses should begin early in high school by encouraging your child's academic pursuits, helping them to schedule time wisely, providing them with a positive study atmosphere, and reinforcing the need for a strong work ethic.

**6. Does my child have to take an AP course in order to take an exam?**

Students are required to complete the Gr. 12 AP course to be eligible to write the College Board Advanced Placement exam.