

Expectations for Students Who Take Advanced Placement Courses 2017 - 2018

The Douglas High staff is excited that you are choosing to take the challenge of college level rigor by registering for one or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses. We work hard to prepare our teachers and to offer a variety of AP courses. Our AP teachers attend College Board-sponsored institutes, and they follow College Board approved syllabi.

It is important a student and his/her parent or guardian is fully aware of the rigor and expectations of the Advanced Placement Program. All Advanced Placement courses require collegiate-level workloads (an average of 1-3 hours of work outside of class for every hour in class). As college classes, AP courses require that students enter prepared to comprehend and master abstract levels of thought, literature, scientific principles, advanced theories, and historic documents, as well as perform a thorough analysis of complex problems. These concepts far exceed what is usually expected of a high school student and are beyond the average student's conceptual and developmental expectations. The quality of work from an AP student must reflect these expectations. Students who are not able to meet these high expectations may not earn satisfactory grades in the course or a passing score on the exam. **All students are granted equal access to Advanced Placement. However, it is strongly recommended a student not meeting prerequisites for an AP course find alternative course placement.**

If you choose to enroll in an Advanced Placement course, you agree to the following requirements:

1. Meet with each AP teacher(s) no later than May 26, 2017, to review expectations and any summer assignments he/she will need to complete. Sometime after April 7th, you will receive a letter from the instructor of each AP course you have requested with a scheduled meeting date & time. Failure to meet with the teacher and turn in this signed form will result in removing the student's enrollment in the class. Only one copy of this form is needed for all AP classes, but it must be signed by each AP teacher.
2. Complete an *AP Course Recommendation Form* by requesting signatures from current teachers who agrees with the AP course enrollment. If a teacher is unwilling to recommend a student for an AP course, a *Course Override Request* form can be completed. It is strongly advised students do not enroll in an AP course if he/she is not recommended for the course.
3. If a course requires summer assignments or reading, the student commits to complete these prior to the start of school. Information about Advanced Placement summer assignments and readings are posted on the Douglas High School website.
4. A student enrolled in an AP class is expected to complete the year-long course; however, he/she may request to withdraw from the course at the completion of first semester under the following condition: The student and his/her parent(s) have talked with the teacher of the course, his/her counselor, and an administrator.
5. If the teacher of the course determines that the student is misplaced or will most-likely be unsuccessful in the class, the teacher will work with the student, the parent(s), the AP Administrator, and the counselor to determine the best placement for the student. This will occur prior to the fifth week of the new school year.
6. The parent(s) can request, because of unforeseen or extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury, death in the family, etc., to have the student removed from an Advanced Placement course. The school will consider such requests and determine after discussions with everyone (e.g. the parent, student, counselor, and teacher) if staying in the course or withdrawing is in the best interest of the student.
7. The student will take the Advanced Placement examination(s) in the spring, and his/her family agrees to pay the cost of each test (approximately \$92 per test). Financial assistance is available for students who qualify. If the student is taking more than two Advanced Placement courses, he/she can have the requirement to test waived for the third or higher number of courses by completing the exemption form and submitting it to the AP coordinator.
8. The "Advanced Placement" course designation and weighted grading shall be removed from AP course work in the following circumstances:
 - A. The student withdraws from an AP course prior to completing the entire course.
 - B. The student does not take the AP examination in the spring of 2018 (unless waived—see #6).

Student & Parent/Guardian Obligations:

- 1.) **Complete the AP Course Recommendation Form.** This form requires a student to obtain recommendations from previous teachers to provide evidence a student has the necessary prerequisite skills and work habits for Advanced Placement. If a student or parent/guardian would like to challenge the recommendation, an *AP Course Override Request* form can be completed. Douglas High School teachers work very hard to ensure students are given appropriate opportunities for success; it is important students and parents/guardians are fully aware of the rigor of Advanced Placement.
- 2.) **Attend each mandatory AP meeting** hosted by the appropriate AP teacher for the courses the student is already registered for in the 2017-18 school year.
- 3.) **Obtain a signature (below) from the AP teacher for each course** you are registered for in the 2017-18 school year. If a signature is not obtained, it is assumed you have decided not to remain registered for that course. Note: A student must already be registered for the course in order to request a signature from an AP teacher.

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| AP English 3 _____ | AP English 4 _____ |
| AP U. S. History _____ | AP U. S. Government _____ |
| AP World History _____ | AP Statistics _____ |
| AP Calculus AB _____ | AP Calculus BC _____ |
| AP Biology _____ | AP Chemistry _____ |
| AP Environmental Science _____ | AP Psychology _____ |
| AP Spanish _____ | AP Physics _____ |
| AP CS A _____ | AP CS Principles _____ |

***IMPORTANT! IF A SIGNATURE IS NOT OBTAINED, THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE STUDENT’S SCHEDULE.**

- 4.) **Sign this form along with a parent or guardian and return it and the AP Course Recommendation Form to Mrs. Winter in room 725 no later than Friday, May 26, 2017** . Failure to return both forms will result in the student being dropped from the course. *These forms are available from any AP teacher, any counselor, or on our DHS web site.*

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| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Parent/Guardian (Print name) | Parent/Guardian Signature | Date |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Student (Print Name) | Student Signature | Date |