July 29, 2019

Dear Student,

Congratulations on registering for an Advanced Placement (AP) Course! While AP courses can be challenging, they are also highly rewarding academic experiences. For the 2019-2020 school year, the College Board has made significant AP program changes including the development of new AP tools for students and changing the AP test exam registration to November.

**New AP Tools for Teachers and Students**

New AP test resources, designed and tested by teachers across the country, allow students to track their progress in developing content knowledge and skills and receive more direct teacher feedback. A College Board account is required in order to register for an AP exam and to access the new AP tools.

- If you do not have a College Board account, you will need to create one before the end of the first week of school. Please visit this link to create your account. [https://pages.collegeboard.org/account-help/how-create-account](https://pages.collegeboard.org/account-help/how-create-account)
- If you already have a College Board account (for those who have already taken the PSAT and/or an AP exam), you will need to be able to access your account with your credentials. If you have taken multiple exams and have more than one College Board account, you will need to merge these accounts. For account help students and/or parents can visit [https://www.collegeboard.org/account-help](https://www.collegeboard.org/account-help) or call the College Board at 888-225-5427 or 866-315-6068.

Once you have created a College Board account, each of your AP course teachers will be able to provide you with a “join code” so that you will be able to register for the exam and utilize the online tools. While the online tools are greatly beneficial and provide you with feedback to improve your performance, the online tools are not required for your course. If you choose to opt-out of using the tools, your teachers will be able to provide alternative assignments offline.

**AP Exam Registration**

Exam registration for May 2020 exams must be submitted by November 1, 2019. Payment for each exam will be required in full at time of registration, however, if you decide not to take the exam you will be issued a partial refund.

Please read the attached handout from The College Board for further information on changes and plan to attend one of the AP information nights that will be scheduled for this fall.

If you have any further questions or require further information, please contact C. Renee Bos, Coordinator of Secondary Social Studies and Advanced Placement at 410-313-6622 or [Christina_Bos@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Bos@hcpss.org).

Sincerely,

C. Renee Bos
Coordinator, Secondary Social Studies and Advanced Placement

10910 Clarksville Pike• Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-313-6600 • [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)
AP® students do college-level work in high school. And if they score a 3 or higher on the exam, they can earn college credit. To help them make the most of this opportunity, we’re supporting their teachers with a suite of online tools and introducing new policies for the 2019-20 school year.

More Students Succeed When They Register in the Fall

More than half of schools that offer AP ask students to commit to taking the exam in the fall, boosting their chance of earning a score that translates to college credit. We’ve seen the benefits firsthand. Our 2017-18 fall exam registration pilot included 100 schools and 40,000 students. At these schools, scores of 3 and above increased across student groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Socioeconomic</th>
<th>STEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White and Asian students</td>
<td>Moderate/high-income</td>
<td>Male STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+5%</td>
<td>students</td>
<td>students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underrepresented minority students</td>
<td>Low-income students</td>
<td>Female STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>+20%</td>
<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“IT’S DEFINITELY BEEN A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT I’M TAKING AN AP CLASS. I’M HERE TO DO WORK AND I’M HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT WORK IS SHOWN.”

“PEOPLE WERE MOTIVATED. THEY WERE REALLY TRYING EVERY SINGLE DAY TO WORK TOWARD THAT EXAM.”

“I WOULD SAY THE DEADLINE BROUGHT ME INTO THE CORRECT MINDSET EARLY ON, GIVING ME AN ADVANTAGE WHEN IT CAME TO THE EXAM.”

— AP PILOT PROGRAM STUDENTS

What These Changes Mean for Students

The AP experience will largely remain the same—students will still sign up for classes at the same time, and exams will still be administered in May—but there are a few changes they’ll notice throughout the 2019-20 school year.

FALL COMMITMENT

Students will sign up for AP Exams in the fall. Your school will provide directions on how to register and will place the exam order for students. If a class doesn’t start until after the fall deadline, AP coordinators can still order exams by the spring deadline.
NEW RESOURCES
Students will get personalized feedback through new digital tools that provide daily support for every AP classroom. Their teachers will be able to track their performance throughout the year using an online bank of real AP practice questions and monthly personal progress checks.

EXAM COSTS
The exam fee and the fee reduction haven’t changed for the 2019-20 school year, but we’re introducing two new fees—one for late registration and another for canceling the exam. These fees encourage students to commit to the exams early and stay engaged throughout the year, increasing their chances of earning college credit. We were pleased that very few students in our pilot paid these fees. The best outcome we can imagine is to finish each school year without collecting a single late or cancellation fee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost per Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-time order</td>
<td>Exam ordered by November 15</td>
<td>$94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late order</td>
<td>Exam ordered between November 16 and March 13</td>
<td>$94 + $40 fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unused/</td>
<td>Exam canceled or not taken by the student</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canceled exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Once you’re into it for a while, you’ll definitely feel that, ‘You know, I am capable.’”

—AP PILOT PROGRAM STUDENT

Your Student’s To-Do List
Here is what students need to do to prepare for the 2019-20 AP school year.

THIS SPRING
- Students sign up for AP classes at school.

BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR
- Students visit apstudent.collegeboard.org to learn more about AP courses and exams.
- Students without a College Board account should create one and set their password. They’ll need their username and password when their AP classes start in the fall.
- Students who already have an account should make sure they know their username and password.

FALL 2019
- First week of class: Teachers will give students a join code for each of their AP classes. Students use their College Board username and password and join code to enroll in their class section.
- October/November: Schools submit exam orders.

SPRING 2020
- March: Schools submit any changes to their exam order and order exams for students in spring courses.
- May: Students take AP Exams.

SUMMER 2020
- July: AP Exam scores are released.

Questions? Contact your AP coordinator or AP services for students, or email us at apexams@info.collegeboard.org

© 2019 The College Board. 01597-061