

## Hickman High School's AP (Advanced Placement) Course Information

"AP courses, put simply, make you improve. Because AP courses focus on college-level material, AP students get more out of each class for the same amount of time. Every AP class I've taken has had an excellent teacher, so don't be afraid of having a difficult class without anyone to help. If you want to improve your class or you're just curious about college-level learning, take an AP class."

--Cole, 2007 Kewpie Graduate, Engineering Major at Brown University

AP courses provide students the chance to take rigorous, college-level coursework while still in high school. The curriculum of an AP course is determined by The College Board. Please see [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information. A list of AP courses offered at Hickman can be found in the Course Guide. Each student enrolled in an AP course has the opportunity to take the AP Exam in May. Depending on his/her performance, college credit may be granted-saving time and money. Each college or university has their own AP credit policy. Contact the individual college or university to find out its credit policy, or search on: <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>

### Frequently Asked Questions

- I have never taken an honors class am I eligible to take an AP class?

You are eligible if your teacher agrees that you are capable of the work, and you are prepared to work hard. It is a good idea to talk to your parents, teachers, and other students who have taken AP courses to get a realistic idea of the expectations of such a course.

- How much work can I expect?

Remember AP courses are college level in content and difficulty. You should be organized and willing to do the work each day. You will have teachers to support you. Expectations are very high, so you will need to produce more than the usual amount of work on a consistent basis.

- Since Hickman doesn't have weighted grades, is it worth it to take an AP class if I know it might lower my GPA?

The benefits you gain from the challenge of an AP course are more than just mastering course content. You will acquire skills that prepare you for the rigors of college study, such as time management, organization and, of course, effective study skills. Highly selective colleges and universities prefer schools to not weight grades and generally remove the weighting when making admissions decisions. This is because when schools do weight, there is no standard method of weighting or of determining what courses will be weighted. Weighting grades does not level the playing field. Students who are applying for scholarships that require a certain GPA or class rank should talk to their counselor if they do not meet the qualification set forth.

- What impact does having an AP course on my transcript have on the college admissions process?

Counselors are often asked to indicate the level of difficulty a student has chosen with their high school course selection. AP courses are the most difficult courses a student can take in high school. As a result, a 'B' in an AP course will demonstrate greater achievement than an 'A' in a non- AP course.

- How do Hickman students perform on the AP exams?

Year	Percentage of Test Scores of 3 or Higher*
2004	80%
2005	82%
2006	83%
2007	83%
2008	83%

\*According to the College Board, a grade of 3, 4, or 5 on a 1-5 scale is considered passing. Each college or university creates their own credit policy and, therefore, definition of passing for each course.

Kewpie Graduates say...

"The quality of education at Hickman prepares you for the college curriculum better than any introductory course I am in. The amount of knowledge you gain by taking an AP course overlaps with courses up through junior and senior level classes. Even if you don't score very high on an exam, the previous knowledge makes the transition into college much easier."

--Taylor, Biochemistry Major at Mizzou

"Taking AP courses means being surrounded by more people who are motivated to learn and have higher work ethic-this does not imply that everybody is-but it does help promote a more focused learning environment."

--Boiar, Engineering/Computer Science Major at Cornell University

"AP classes are fantastic because you'll never be bored! Both the teachers and the students around you are truly interested in the topic and will make coming to class exciting! AP teachers find ways to make everything understandable, even when it's hard!"

--Catherine, History Major at Missouri State University

"AP classes really do prepare you for the pace in college. I really wish I would've taken more AP classes in high school."

-- Matt, Psychology Major at Mizzou.

"There are many benefits to taking AP classes. The benefits include preparing you for study habits that you need in college, for the pace of college courses, for the difficulty of college courses, and not having to spend money in college on classes that I took in high school."

--Loren, Biology/Pre-Med Major at William Jewell College

Questions? Contact Hickman's AP Coordinator, Ms. Ann Landes, at 573-214-3008 or [alandes@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:alandes@columbia.k12.mo.us).