



Advanced Placement in North Carolina

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

The Advanced Placement testing was created in 1952 by the Committee on Admission which was urged by elite prep schools and prestigious colleges. The College Board describes AP as “rigorous, college-level classes in a variety of subjects that give students an opportunity to gain the skills and experience colleges recognize.”

In 2017, almost 5 million AP exams were taken.

How much does the state of North Carolina pay for AP exams?

North Carolina pays for AP exams for all public-school students in the state. In 2016, NC spent \$12,184,251 on 138,282 AP exams. This total does not include investments in teacher training, professional development, or materials.

How do AP scores correspond to course grades?

AP courses are followed by an AP exam with the following possible scores and grade equivalents established by research from the [College Board](#):

AP Exam Score	Recommendation	College Course Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A+ or A
4	Very well qualified	A-, B+ or B
3	Qualified	B-, C+ or C
2	Possibly qualified	
1	No recommendation	

College Board psychometricians consider a 3 or above as “Qualified”, which means “you have proven yourself capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college.”

Who creates and scores AP exams?

Committees of college faculty members and expert AP teachers design the AP courses and exams; faculty members and trained teachers score the AP exams as well. To see some of the content area experts who contribute to the AP exams, visit: <https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/overview/expert-input>

How many states have an AP credit policy?

Twenty states have state-wide AP credit policies. In addition, three state university systems (California, New York, and Minnesota) have system-wide AP credit policies.