

Grace Preparatory Academy

Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement FAQs

What are Pre-Advanced Placement (PAP) courses?

Pre-AP high school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses. A PAP class challenges and motivates students to engage deeply with the material and to learn the critical thinking skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

What PAP courses are available at Grace Prep for the 2015-2016 school year?

The following PAP designated honors classes will be offered next school year. Students should review the Recommended Academic Standards for each course prior to enrolling in the following classes.

- English II PAP
- World Studies II PAP
- Algebra II PAP
- Pre-Calculus PAP

Will my student earn honors credit for taking PAP Classes?

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, Grace Prep students who take 300-level and above *core* classes that are described as PAP will receive honors credit and earn a 10 point honors weight in their final semester grade **if the final semester grade is 85% or above**. The averages for these core classes will also count in the rank calculation. In 2015-2016, the PAP courses listed above are 300 or 400-level classes.

English II vs. English II PAP at Grace Prep:

In both English II classes, literature and writing are taught the traditional way through analyzing plot, themes, and literary devices. In English II PAP, instruction will also include a deeper analysis of the argument of a literary work and how the author achieves that. English II PAP focuses more on rhetoric, argument, and specific types of writing - rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis papers. Students read great works of literature, but an emphasis is placed on analyzing argument, syntax, and rhetoric, and preparing students for the rigor of AP.

What are AP courses?

AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting. At the end of each AP course, an AP exam is given. Grace Prep students who take AP courses are strongly encouraged to take the AP exam as a good score may earn the student college credit. Qualifying scores on the AP exam *can* result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college. Transferable courses and acceptable scores vary from university to university. *Students should refer to the website of the college they plan to attend for information on a qualifying AP exam score.*

What AP® courses are available at Grace Prep for the 2015-2016 school year?

English: AP® Language and Composition – Jr. level class

English: AP® Literature and Composition – Sr. level class

Social Studies: AP® Government and AP® Macro Econ – Sr. level class; AP® US History

General Elective: AP® Psychology – Jr./Sr. level class

Math: AP® Calculus – Typically a senior level class

What is required of an AP student?

Because AP courses are college-level courses, it is important that students possess the skills and *motivation* required to succeed in an AP class. AP students should:

- Be reading on or above grade level
- Possess strong study skills
- Be self-motivated
- Have the discipline to plan, organize, and complete assigned tasks

Can any student take a PAP class?

Parents should carefully review the Recommended Academic Standards for PAP and AP classes before enrolling their student in these classes. This document is located on the Grace Prep website, www.graceprep.org, under “Academics,” “Secondary,” and “Academic/College Advising.” Parents should also review the 2015-2016 Secondary Course Descriptions document (available March 24) located under the “Academics” and “Secondary” tabs at www.graceprep.org. Please contact the appropriate Department Chair or Dean of Academics with questions.

If my student chooses to take standard classes, will he/she still be prepared for the rigors of college?

For 20 years, Grace Preparatory Academy has maintained a high standard of academic rigor. It is this rigor, and the partnership with Grace Prep parents, that has allowed Grace Prep students to achieve high academic success. Our highly qualified and experienced faculty maintains this tradition of academic excellence in *all* classes, holding true to the vision statement of “Developing *college-worthy* character witnesses for Christ.”