

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL
MATH/SCIENCE, PERFORMING ARTS, MEDICAL MAGNETS

About Advanced Placement AP[®]

AP[®] enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced placement. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.

Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course, and college and university faculty play a vital role in ensuring that AP courses align with college-level standards. Talented and dedicated AP teachers help AP students in classrooms around the world develop and apply the content knowledge and skills they will need later in college.

Each AP course concludes with a college-level assessment developed and scored by college and university faculty as well as experienced AP teachers. AP Exams are an essential part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level course work. More than 90 percent of four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant students credit, placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. Universities in more than 60 countries recognize AP Exam scores in the admission process and/or award credit and placement for qualifying scores. Visit <http://www.collegeboard.org/ap/creditpolicy> to view AP credit and placement policies at more than 1,000 colleges and universities.

Performing well on an AP Exam means more than just the successful completion of a course; it is a gateway to success in college. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher graduation rates than otherwise comparable non-AP peers.* Additional AP studies are available at <http://www.collegeboard.org/research>.

Academic Preparation

You don't need to be top of your class to be an AP student, but you'll want to be prepared for the AP course you choose. Some AP classes have recommended courses you should take first, and all AP courses ask that you come willing to do your best work. To choose an AP course that's right for you, talk to a counselor or teacher about the subjects that interest you and ask about your options for learning the skills to help you succeed.

Motivation

You show your determination when you do the things that matter to you. Think about when you've learned or accomplished something you're really passionate about. You practice until you get it right. You try harder when it's not easy the first time. The effort pays off and you feel a huge sense of accomplishment when you see how much you can do when you try. That is the kind of commitment that is sought out and rewarded in AP classes, and will help you succeed when you move beyond high school.

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Courses Available to 9th Graders at Van Nuys High School

Van Nuys High School offers more than 20 different Advanced Placement courses. Although these courses are open to all students, we ask that parents and students exercise caution when requesting to take AP classes. The students who are most successful in these courses are **academically prepared** and **highly motivated**. To help students transition to high school and the AP program, there will be 9th grade sections of AP Human Geography and AP Biology available. We highly encourage parents and students to review the course descriptions and prerequisites when considering Advanced Placement courses.

AP Human Geography

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

There are no prerequisites for AP Human Geography; however, students who have had experience with world geography, world history, or earth science may more easily address the objectives of this course. Experience with reading and interpreting data in various forms (e.g., graphs and maps) would also be beneficial. Students may have been effectively introduced to geographic terminology and concepts as early as at the elementary school level.

A full Course Description is available by clicking the link below.

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-human-geography-course-description.pdf>

AP Biology

The AP Biology course is designed to enable you to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses — a goal of every AP course.

This AP Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course and has been endorsed enthusiastically by higher education officials.

The prerequisites for AP Biology are high school courses in biology and chemistry.

A full Course Description is available by clicking the link below.

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

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Michelle King, Superintendent
Yolanda Gardea, Principal
Dawn Brown, Magnet Coordinator (MS, MM)
Fanny Araña, Magnet Coordinator (PA)

Advanced Placement Course Letter of Understanding

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rigorous, two-semester college level courses designed for students eligible for honors level instruction. It is assumed that students who are enrolled are committed to extensive work in the course and will devote the necessary time and effort to prepare for the AP exam. Advanced Placement courses are designed specifically to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. It is assumed by both the school and the course instructor that when you register for an AP course, that you fully intend to take the AP exam in May. The teacher of an AP course may require or incorporate the AP exam as a component of your class grade. Additionally, failure to complete an AP course or failure to take an AP exam may reflect negatively on university applications.

Instructional Year: _____ Counselor: _____

AP Courses Enrolled:

Recommended Alternate

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |
| 4. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |
| 5. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |
| 6. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> -Recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> -Not Recommended | _____ |

I have read the above statement, understand the rigors of an AP course and accept the **commitment** of finishing the course.

Student Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____