

STANDARDIZED TESTING REVIEW

Advanced Placement Exams

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Purpose

Created in 1955, Advanced Placement tests were created to serve college preparatory students in their pursuit of college level work. Since 1955 the AP program has gone to great lengths to expand the program making it more accessible to a variety of students.

Advanced Placement tests are meant to validate a student's knowledge base of a college level course. Testing allows colleges to know the depth of learning that has taken place for a student in the course and to potentially grant the student college credit and/or placement in more advanced classes in the freshman year of college. They may also be used by college admissions as criteria to determine strength of a student's schedule and academic rigor for the student.

How Many Advanced Placement Tests?

Not all students at St. Ignatius take AP exams; however, all students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP test at the end of the school year (May).

Registering to Take Advanced Placement Tests

Students register for AP testing through the AP Program Coordinator at St. Ignatius. The registration procedure involves noting the exams taken and paying the required fee on the check.

The cost per exam in 2010 is \$86.00. Registration takes place in February. Students are informed about the registration process through their AP teacher. Those students who are strong in certain subjects but did not elect the AP course may also take the AP exam in the corresponding subject. Such students should first speak to an SI teacher in that subject to better understand the requirements of the test. Then they may go through the AP Coordinator, Mr Dworak in the Counseling Center, to register.

Preparing for the Advanced Placement Tests

Primary preparation is through enrollment in an AP course with their classroom teacher. Review sessions are offered in the Spring in most subjects offered at St. Ignatius prior to the test. Within AP coursework, teachers provide students with sample AP tests to practice taking and scoring the test.

Advanced Placement Scoring

AP tests are scored on a scale of 1–5.

According to the College Board, the scores may be considered as follows:

- 5 = extremely well qualified
- 4 = well qualified
- 3 = qualified
- 2 = possibly qualified
- 1 = no recommendation

Scores of 3, 4, & 5 are generally accepted at the college level. This depends entirely on the specific college. Some schools such as UC/CSU almost universally accept a score of three or higher and allow college credit and/or higher placement in the particular subject (if applicable).

Advanced Placement Score Reports

Grade reports are mailed from The College Board to the student in July, the college designated on the registration answer sheet (if indicated during the test), and St. Ignatius College Preparatory in the first two weeks in July.

Sending Advanced Placement Scores to Colleges

When a senior takes an AP test, part of the information requested includes the name of the college that student plans to attend (if known). This information allows the College Board to automatically send a cumulative report to the college of attendance designated to receive them by the student. Underclassmen do not need to select a specific college at this time.

When scores are sent to colleges, a cumulative report is submitted by the College Board. Scores from every AP exam taken in high school will be sent for each student. Any student can choose to have scores reported at any time by contacting the College Board. This would also apply to students who have already graduated from St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

To submit AP Scores after the score report is generated, students may contact 1-888-308-0013. Or, fill out and send in the College Information Card on the back of the AP Student Pack (received on the test date). The fee for additional grade reports is \$15 per report or \$25 per report for rush service.

Please Note: Whether or not to indicate AP test score results on a college application is primarily at the student's discretion.