

GRACE Christian School
Advanced Placement (AP) Program Expectations and Commitment Form
2011 – 2012 School Year

Advanced Placement Program

AP courses are offered to students committed to rigorous academic work. All students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the end-of-course AP exam. GRACE expects that students will carefully evaluate their own interest, self-responsibility, demands of class schedule, and participation in school and non-school related activities as part of the personal process of deciding to enroll in any Advanced Placement course. Students not fully prepared for such courses may need additional support outside of the school setting. Few students take more than two AP courses in one school year.

The GRACE Advanced Placement (AP) program is offered in English, foreign languages, math, science, and social studies. AP courses offered for the 2011-2012 school year include:

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP Literature and Composition
- AP French Language
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Calculus AB/BC
- AP Biology
- AP European History
- AP United States History
- AP United States Government
- AP Economics

In the GRACE AP Program, homework passes do not apply to class assignments. Homework will be assigned over summer and holiday vacations. Absences do affect performance and instruction. Students are responsible to pay for exam fees to the College Board. The exam fees for 2011 were \$87 per AP test.

Benefits of the Advanced Placement Program

- Earn college credit (*check on individual college websites for credit information*)
- Stand out in the competitive college admissions process
- Gain skills that will help you succeed in college
- Broaden your intellectual horizons

Successful AP students are:

- Motivated and dedicated to successfully complete challenging academic work both inside and outside of the classroom
- Successful time managers (able to multitask, prioritize activities, meet deadlines on time, and balance academic and extracurricular activities)
- Strong organizers of academic resources (ability to manage and maintain textbooks, online resources, notebooks, and other required class resources independently)
- Strong communicators (reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills)

Successful AP students have:

- High interest in learning academic subjects at an advanced, college level
- Well-developed critical thinking skills
- Positive attitudes about engaging in challenging academic work both at school and outside of school

Successful AP students will develop:

- Academic, critical thinking, time-management, and study skills
- Skill in analyzing and synthesizing information in innovative ways
- Increased self-confidence and motivation

Expectations for AP Courses

The following table provides an idea of how much time and work is needed to prepare for each Advanced Placement course we offer. These entries are meant to be an approximation of time and assignments outside of class work. Some students will need less time and some will need more to do the same assignments depending on their skill level. It is assumed that an AP student, having done well in the preliminary courses, will have the level of skill, interest, commitment, and achievement needed to be successful in a college-level course taught with a college textbook.

This table should be used by prospective students to gauge the impact of an AP course on their overall course schedule; to be aware of the time impact on other core courses and electives; and to remember the time needed for after school activities.

All students enrolling in an AP course must complete the AP contract as part of the registration process. Students must remain in an AP course until the end of the first semester. Dropping an AP course after the first semester has begun is highly discouraged.

AP Course Offerings

English				
Course	Reading per class	Study Hours per class	Tests, Essays and Papers	Major Projects
Language & Composition	2-3 major works per quarter	1-2 hrs/day	4-5 in-class essays per quarter; frequent analytical writing responses; periodic quizzes, tests, and exercises that focus on analytical reading and writing skills and American Literature	Extensive summer reading and assignment; end of the year research paper
Literature & Composition	2 major works per quarter; from 10-70 pages per night (to include annotation of texts)	1-2 hrs/day	Analytical expository papers(4-6 pages); 4 timed essays per quarter; 2-4poetry analyses per quarter; practice AP exams (1-2 each quarter); periodic quizzes and tests that focus on analytical reading and writing skills	Extensive summer reading and assignment; major critical paper (8-12 pages); major project coupled with creative writing assignment
Foreign Language				
Course	Reading per class	Study Hours per class	Tests, Essays and Papers	Major Projects
French Language	Varies	1-1.5 hr/day	Timed written essays monthly; timed oral practice weekly; daily reading; at least 2-3 essays per quarter; at least 2 tests per quarter	Summer reading and assignment; attendance and active participation each class period is critical
Spanish Language	Varies	1 hr/day	At least 2 tests per quarter; At least 2-3 essays per quarter	Summer reading and assignment; attendance and active participation each class period is critical
Math				

Course	Reading per class	Study Hours per class	Tests, Essays and Papers	Major Projects
Calculus	5-10 pages	1-1.5 hrs/day	4-5 study hours for quizzes and tests; 3 major unit exams per quarter requiring 6-8 hours studying time	Summer reading and assignment; major project 4th quarter
Science				
Course	Reading per class	Study Hours per class	Tests, Essays and Papers	Major Projects
Biology	10-20 pages	1-1.5 hr/day	2-3 tests per quarter; 2-3 labs per quarter	Summer reading and assignment; essay writing due every 3 weeks
Social Studies				
Course	Reading per class	Study Hours per class	Tests, Essays and Papers	Major Projects
European History	60-80 pages per week	1 hr/day	3-4 major tests per quarter; weekly reading quizzes; 6 major writings per quarter	Extensive summer reading and assignment; 1 major reading/research project/semester
U.S. History	60-80 pages per week	1 hr/day	3 tests per quarter; weekly reading quizzes; 6 major writings/essays per quarter	Extensive summer reading and assignment; 1 major reading/research project/semester
U.S. Government	30-50 pages per week	1 hr/day	10 tests; frequent quizzes	Extensive summer reading and assignment; several major projects
Economics	20-40 pages per week	1 hr/day	10 tests; weekly problem sets or study guides; frequent economic graphing exercises	Major project 4th quarter

GRACE Christian School

Advanced Placement Program Commitment Form

2011- 2012 School Year

We understand the expectations and commitment required for the GRACE Christian School AP Program, as well as each individual course offered.

Printed Student Name (Legible first and last name)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

AP courses committed to for the 2011-2012 school year:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____ *

***Few students will take more than 2 AP courses in one academic year**

***Student ARE REQUIRED to take the AP exam.**

***Homework passes do not apply in AP courses.**