



AP CURRICULUM

AP Classes Overview



Advanced Placement (AP) classes are university-level classes that students can take at the high school level and earn college credit (dependent on passing an exam in May). AP classes are academically challenging, fast-paced, and require commitment, especially when completing homework assignments and independent learning. The exams are rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the best score. A score of 3 is generally accepted by most US Universities.

BENEFITS OF TAKING AP CLASSES

Besides receiving college credit, there are many other benefits to taking an AP class. Some examples include:

- Developing study skills at the university level
 - Studies show that if you receive a 2 on an AP exam, that you are ready for university level learning
 - Studies show that if a student receives a 3 or above that they typically perform better in university
- Strengthening of school transcript
 - Since AP classes are weighted, it can allow a student to receive above a 4.0 GPA
- Studies show that students who enroll in AP classes are more likely to go into a 4 year, more selective university upon graduation

The College Board provides additional information and statistics on the benefits of taking AP classes. You can find more information on what AP classes are here and benefits of taking AP classes here.



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Transferring AP Credit Abroad

According to the College Board: "Universities around the world recognize AP when making admission decisions, course requisites, and awarding university credit. In fact, half of students entering four-year colleges are now starting school with some credit from AP courses."

Qualifying AP Exam scores earn university credit in nearly all universities in the United States and Canada and **are recognized in 60 other countries worldwide. Scores of 3 or 4 on AP Exams fulfill admission requirements in many universities in the UK and Europe.**

Each college and university determines its own policies regarding AP Exam scores. For detailed information about the AP recognition policies of universities, use the searches below:

- Global: Search AP Credit Policies
- Outside the US: Search AP Recognition Policies (admissions, credit/placement, and scholarship considerations)"

Please keep in mind that students are graduating with a US diploma even though HKAA is located in Hong Kong. They should view the individual requirements for acceptance with an American diploma. If they are planning to study in Hong Kong, the UK, or elsewhere, they must meet their individual country requirements. For example, both [Hong Kong University](#) and [Hong Kong University of Science and Technology](#) require students to take a minimum of three AP classes to be eligible for admission.





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Current AP Class Offerings

Hong Kong Adventist Academy is proud to offer the following AP classes. Please note that some classes are on a rotating schedule and that we are seeking to expand our current list:

- English Language:
 - AP British Literature
 - AP English Language and Composition*
- Mathematics:
 - AP Calculus*
- History:
 - AP Human Geography*
 - AP European History*
 - AP United States History
- Arts:
 - AP Art History
- Language:
 - AP Chinese*

*Classes with an asterisk will be taught during the 2022-2023 school year.

Requirements:

AP classes are university level classes. Therefore, students that are interested in taking Advanced Placement classes should meet the following requirements:

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.3
2. At least an B in current year base subject class
 - a. B- or below - must petition
 - b. AP Chinese - by teacher permission
3. Student, parent, registrar and teacher signatures are required
 - a. Note that some classes may require an entrance exam
 - b. Some classes may require prerequisites



AP VS. IB PROGRAM

IB Overview



Launching in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland, the IB program was created to develop “inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.” The IB Diploma Program was designed for grade 11 and 12 students between the ages of 16 - 19.

Students who enroll in an IB Diploma Program are expected to study subjects across six different groups. Those subjects include the arts, individuals and societies, language acquisition, language and literature, mathematics, and science. In addition, students must study a set of core disciplinary approaches, including creativity, activity, service (CAS), theory of knowledge (TOK), and complete an extended essay. IB classes are offered at two different levels: standard level (SL) and high level (HL). Students must take at least three high level classes to earn an IB diploma.

Most IB tests cannot be taken independently from the class, like AP classes can.

AP

- Exam fee: \$94USD
- Can choose to self-study for AP class outside of school AP class offerings
- Choose which subjects you are interested and excel in
- Accepted locally and internationally
- Recommended to take 3 AP classes
- University level classes
- Can begin taking AP level classes in 9th grade
- No additional requirements outside of class
- HKAA offers on campus AP testing
- No additional testing requirements outside of exam

IB

- Exam fee: \$119USD
- Usually must be enrolled in an IB class to take the IB test
- Holistic, cross-disciplinary program; strong foundation in liberal arts
- Accepted locally and internationally
- Must take 3 “high level” classes to earn IB diploma
- University level classes
- Ages 16-19 only (grades 11/12)
- Additional requirements outside of class that focus on global awareness
- Most schools offer testing on campus
- Must write extended essay in addition to taking exam

