

AP US History pgs 1-4

AP US Biology pgs 5-8

Class of 2030 Students and Families,

As Waterford Union High School administration and academic teams continue to focus on continuous improvement and ensuring all students achieve high expectations to be college, career, and life-ready, we are excited to share a new opportunity within our Social Studies program.

“The Why”

Based on College Board research and benchmarks, ACT indicators, and past student success, WUHS is pleased to announce a **pilot program for a limited number of students for the 2026–27 school year.**

Your child was recommended to take **Honors US History**; therefore, based on PreACT scores and academic trajectory, Waterford Union is offering you the opportunity to enroll in **AP US History** in lieu of Honors US History.

This opportunity reflects our commitment to appropriately challenging students while distributing advanced coursework in a thoughtful, balanced way across their high school experience.

Course Comparison

	AP US History (9th Grade Pilot)	Honors US History (Traditional 9th Grade Option)
Course Focus	College-level survey course aligned to the College Board framework emphasizing historical thinking skills, primary source analysis, argumentative writing, and thematic understanding of U.S. history.	Accelerated high school course emphasizing content knowledge, historical analysis, reading comprehension, and structured writing to prepare students for future advanced coursework.

Academic Rigor	Students are challenged at their appropriate academic level through college-aligned expectations and heterogeneous grouping with both select 9th and 11th grade students.	High school rigor designed for academic performers within a 9th-grade cohort.
GPA Weighting	Weighted based on a five-point GPA scale.	Weighted based on a four-point GPA scale.
College Credit Opportunity	Students may take the AP Exam for potential college credit (exam fee applies).	No AP exam; no direct college credit opportunity.
Civics Requirement	Prepares students to complete the required civics exam in 9th grade.	Prepares students to complete the required civics exam in 11th grade after completion of civics class.
Government Course Flexibility	Students have the <i>option</i> of completing a government class as a junior rather than being <i>required</i> to complete government as a junior, thus freeing up a student's schedule to take other social studies or other content electives..	Government class is typically required during the junior year. Either AP US History, AP US Government, or American Government.
Long-Term Scheduling Impact	Opens schedule in junior and senior year to enroll in additional AP, dual credit, career pathway, or elective courses. Distributes Advanced Placement courses over a student's academic career rather than overloading 11th and 12th grade.	Traditional sequence concentrates AP coursework more heavily in junior and senior years.
Criteria Indicators	Recommendation based on academic performance, PreACT indicators, and trajectory. 25 PreACT score in 8th grade.PreACT ELA score reviewed.	Teacher recommendation and demonstrated academic success. 19 PreACT score in 8th grade.
Graduation Requirement	Fulfills WUHS U.S. History and government graduation requirements.	Fulfills WUHS U.S. History graduation requirement.

Additional Support for the AP US History Pilot

- In the rare occurrence that a student begins to struggle significantly - earning less than a C- - a student will have the option to transfer at semester to the honors or general course.
- Advanced Placement classes are recorded on a five-point scale for GPA calculations. This means if a student earns a C in the class, it is calculated as a B in their GPA.
- [Link to College Board research](#) indicating student success and correlation with PreACT scores.
- Five- Year AP US History Pass Rate (A score of a 3 or higher out of 5 is considered a passing)

 SCHOOL SUMMARY

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total AP Students	42	31	23	35	39
Number of Exams	42	31	23	35	39
AP Students with Scores 3+	29	22	11	31	36
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	69.05	70.97	47.83	88.57	92.31

- The WI pass rate and Global pass rate for AP US History in 2025 compared to WUHS:



The Short-Term Plan

Families of recommended students may elect to enroll in AP US History for the 2026–27 school year. Due to the pilot nature of the program, enrollment is limited. Course placement decisions must be finalized during the registration window this spring.

Student progress will be monitored, and the district will make future determinations based on the success of this cohort’s action research.

The Long-Term Vision

By thoughtfully expanding early access to Advanced Placement coursework, Waterford Union High School aims to:

- Increase college readiness indicators
- Expand access to rigorous coursework
- Provide flexible academic pathways
- Allow students to pursue specialized interests during junior and senior year

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to partnering with you to determine the best academic pathway for your student.

If you have questions regarding placement, workload expectations, or long-term academic planning, please contact your child's principal or school counselor.

Go Wolverines!

Dan Foster, Principal

dfoster@wuhs.us

Niki Werner, Counselor Students Last Name A-E

nwerner@wuhs.us

Jonathan Frey, Counselor Students Last Name F-K

jfrey@wuhs.us

Amy Wessel, Counselor Students Last Name L-R

awessel@wuhs.us

Amy Meyer, Counselor Students Last Name S-Z

ameyer@wuhs.us

Class of 2030 Students and Families,

As Waterford Union High School administration and academic teams continue to focus on continuous improvement and ensuring all students achieve high expectations to be college, career, and life-ready, we are excited to share a new opportunity within our science program.

The Why

Based on College Board recommendations, ACT indicators, and past student success, WUHS is pleased to announce a **pilot program for a limited number of students for the 2026–27 school year.**

Your child was recommended to take **Honors Biology**; therefore, based on PreACT scores and academic trajectory, Waterford Union is offering you the opportunity to enroll in **AP Biology** in lieu of Honors Biology.

This opportunity reflects our commitment to appropriately challenging students while distributing advanced coursework in a thoughtful, balanced way across their high school experience.

Course Comparison

	AP Biology (9th Grade Pilot)	Honors Biology (Traditional 9th Grade Option)
Course Focus	College-level laboratory science course aligned to the College Board framework emphasizing inquiry-based investigations, data analysis, scientific argumentation, and conceptual understanding of biological systems.	Accelerated high school biology course emphasizing foundational content knowledge, scientific reasoning, laboratory skills, and structured scientific writing to prepare students for future advanced coursework.

Academic Rigor	Students are challenged at their appropriate academic level through college-aligned expectations and heterogeneous grouping with both select 9th and 12th grade students.	Advanced high school rigor designed for academic performers within a 9th-grade cohort.
GPA Weighting	Weighted based on a five-point GPA scale.	Weighted based on a four-point GPA scale.
College Credit Opportunity	Students may take the AP Exam for potential college credit (exam fee applies).	No AP exam; no direct college credit opportunity.
Laboratory Experience	Emphasizes extended, college-level laboratory investigations and analysis aligned to AP standards.	Includes structured laboratory experiences aligned to high school biology standards in preparation for AP Biology.
Future Science Flexibility	Provides flexibility in junior and senior year to enroll in additional AP sciences, dual credit, career pathway, or elective courses. Distributes Advanced Placement courses over a student's academic career rather than overloading 11th and 12th grade.	Traditional sequence may concentrate AP coursework more heavily in junior and senior years.
Prerequisite	Recommendation based on academic performance, PreACT indicators, and trajectory. 23 PreACT score in 8th grade. PreACT STEM score reviewed.	Teacher recommendation and demonstrated academic success. 19 PreACT Score in 8th grade.
Graduation Requirement	Fulfills WUHS Biology graduation requirement.	Fulfills WUHS Biology graduation requirement.

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- [Link to College Board research](#) indicating student success and correlation with PreACT scores.

- Five- Year AP US History Pass Rate (A score of a 3 or higher out of 5 is considered a passing)

 **SCHOOL SUMMARY**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total AP Students	24	15	7	12	29
Number of Exams	24	15	7	12	29
AP Students with Scores 3+	22	15	6	12	28
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	91.67	100.00	85.71	100.00	96.55

- The WI pass rate and Global pass rate for AP US History in 2025 compared to WUHS:

 STUDENTS TAKING EXAM				 MEAN SCORE				 % SCORES 3 OR HIGHER			
YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	WI	GLOBAL	YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	WI	GLOBAL	YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	WI	GLOBAL
29	29	5,400	289,154	3.79	3.79	3.23	3.24	96.6%	96.6%	72.6%	70.4%

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Families of recommended students may elect to enroll in AP Biology for the 2026–27 school year. Due to the pilot nature of the program, enrollment is limited. Course placement decisions must be finalized during the registration window this spring.

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