

The Advanced Placement Program

Ironwood Ridge High School

Advanced Placement Program

- Advanced Placement (AP) at IRHS includes two type of classes:
 1. Pre-AP courses- Classes provide a rigorous curriculum with skill development focused on success in future AP courses.
 2. AP courses- Curriculum designed to be college level content that is equivalent to either .5 to 1 year of that course in college. In May, a comprehensive test is offered for each class. Students may receive college credit upon passing this test.
- Students who take Pre-AP and AP courses receive weighted grades for those courses.
 - A=5
 - B=4
 - C=3
 - D=2

Why Take AP Classes?

“The increased rigors of AP courses will not only give your mind a workout, they will help you polish up your time management and study skills, which, given the pressures of undergraduate life, will become an invaluable ally.” - The College Board <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>

- Research shows that students who participate in AP classes are more successful in future academic endeavors.
- AP courses have a smaller student/teacher ratio than most college courses. This allows the students to learn the material with greater teacher support.
- Students with AP courses on their transcripts stand out to college admissions counselors.
- Students may be eligible to earn academic scholarships.
- Students save money and time by earning college credit before they start college.
- Students report that the independent learning skills they acquired in AP courses provided a valuable bridge towards the independent learning skills expected at the college level.

AP Classes: What's Different?

- Hands on approach to learning in class.
 - In Studio Art, students create studio quality portfolios to be submitted and evaluated.
 - In Chemistry, students engage in hands-on lab investigations to learn chemical concepts through direct experience and observations.
- Students tackle concepts and do things that will stick long after the class is over.
 - In French and Spanish, students build communication skills through one-on-one communication and collaboration that will transfer into lifelong skills when traveling or working abroad.
- Students don't just read about things, they learn how things really work.
 - In Physics, students use Excel to model a rocket's trip from Earth to the moon and explore Newton's laws.

AP Classes: What's Different?

- Not only learn by doing but by sharing and speaking out.
 - In Government and Politics, students will debate the merits of “judicial activism” vs. “judicial restraint” using recent Supreme Court cases as evidence.
- Start moving towards your future today.
 - Students interested in business and finance can begin by taking Statistics.
 - Students that want to make a difference in improving the environment can start by taking Environmental Science.
- Classes create a bridge between high school and college.
 - AP teachers will help students manage college-level work alongside their other priorities while still in high school, so they will be ready when they are on their own.

AP Courses Offered at IRHS

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- French Language and Culture
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Psychology
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Statistics
- Studio Art 2-D Design
- Studio Art 3-D Design
- US Government
- US History
- World History

IRHS AP Fast Facts

- IRHS Currently Offers 46 sections of Pre-AP and AP courses.
- 272 students took an AP test in 2015.
- 443 tests were taken by IRHS students.
- 84% of IRHS students taking an AP test in 2015 earned a passing score.
 - The Arizona average of public school students who passed at least one exam in 2015 was 18.1 % .
 - The national average of public school students who passed at least one exam in 2015 was 22%.
 - Passing average for both public and private schools was 57% in Arizona and around 60% globally.

Equity and Excellence

- Ironwood Ridge High School is committed to allowing **ALL** students to successfully prepare for college through our Advanced Placement Program.
- Pre-AP and AP students are able to experience the rigors of college-level studies while still being in a **supportive, nurturing** high school **environment**.
- Ironwood Ridge AP teachers **help** their students **develop** and **apply** the skills, abilities and content knowledge they will need when they get to college.