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SASKATOON  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS**



**CollegeBoard AP**

# The Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>

**connect to college success**  
**[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)**

# History of Advanced Placement

The Advanced Placement Program began as a partnership among high schools and universities with the goal of providing challenging learning opportunities to high school students.

As the program expanded, the opportunity to obtain a university credit, in addition to the challenge and enrichment, became part of the program.

## Growth in Advanced Placement

- The Advanced Placement Program continues to grow in Saskatchewan and within GSCS. Growth of the program in the province is evident by the number of exams received by the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. In 2010, 811 exams were written in Saskatchewan compared to 731 in 2009.

- The program is recognized internationally. In 2010, approximately 3 million exams were written throughout the world.

# Who should apply to take AP courses?

- AP courses are open to any high school student who is willing to accept the additional rigor that is an expectation in these classes. Generally, students inquire about registration in Pre-AP/AP classes through the guidance office and receive counsel as to whether the AP option is for them.

- AP courses are designed to enhance and enrich the regular Saskatchewan curriculum. Students may take AP classes for enrichment and /or university credit or placement. AP exams are marked on a 5 point scale. At the U of S and the U of R, students need to obtain a 4 or a 5 to receive the university credit for the course.

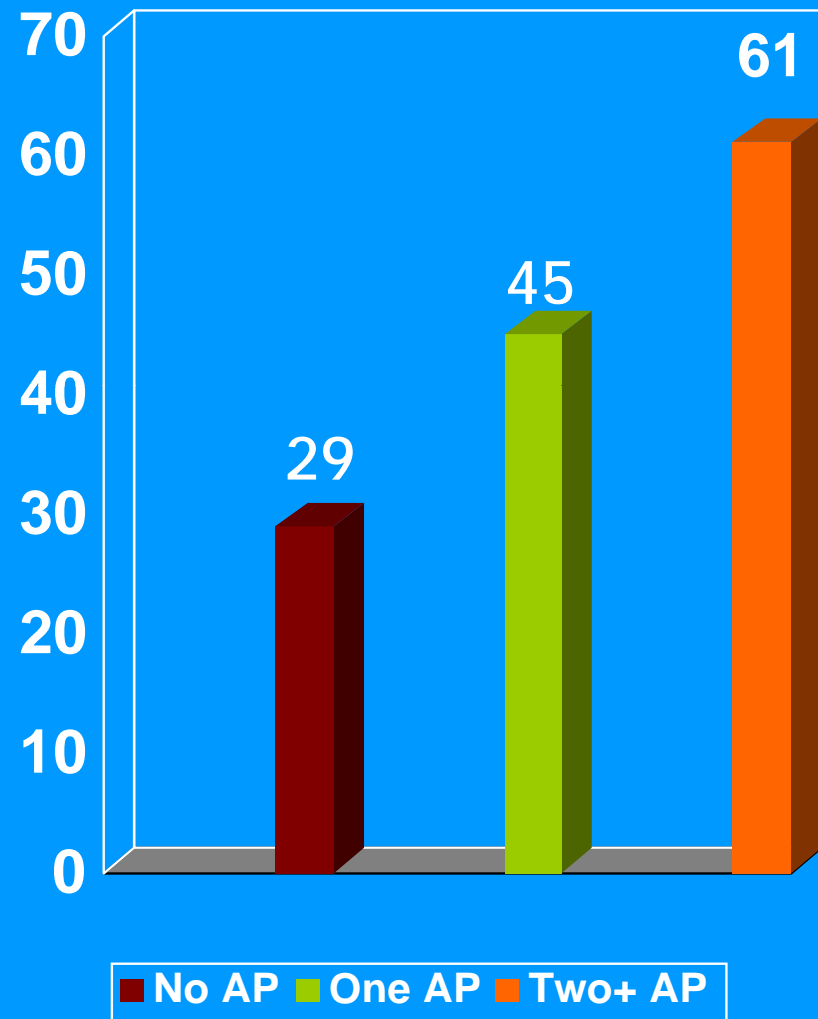
## Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>) courses give students a head start on university

Taking the end-of-course **AP Exam** sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that a student is ready for higher education. Successfully completing an AP exam *may* enable students to gain admission, receive university credit, or be placed in a course at the second or third rather than entry level. As a result, AP students could prosper from long-term learning and even financial benefits.

# AP and College Success

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor's degree in four years or less.

**Source:** Camara, Wayne (2003). *College Persistence, Graduation, and Remediation. College Board Research Notes (RN-19)*. New York, NY: College Board.



# AP is on the cutting edge

- AP courses are designed and updated annually to reflect what's being taught in cutting-edge university courses.
- Students receive an external evaluation—the AP Exam—which is scored by both high school and university faculty from around the world who verify that the student has mastered university-level studies.
- Over 100 countries offer AP courses; in 2010 there were 3 million external exams written. This means that every student worldwide writes the same exams.

# AP and the University of Saskatchewan

The U of S will grant credit in approved courses to students who have completed AP examinations with a grade of at least 4 (using a 5-point scale). Many other leading Canadian universities offer either AP credit and/or placement as well.

See:

[http://www.ap.ca/pages/04\\_AP\\_policies.htm](http://www.ap.ca/pages/04_AP_policies.htm)



# What's the difference between credit and placement?

- Some colleges award “credit” for qualifying AP Exam grades. This means students actually earn credits toward their university degrees.
- Others award “advanced placement.” This means students can skip introductory courses, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.

# Why should a student take the AP Exam?

Colleges and universities give credit for qualifying AP exam grades, not AP course grades.



# Why should students take the AP Exam even if they are not looking to earn credit or placement?

- Stand out in the admissions process
- Earn academic scholarships and awards
- Experience a college-level test
- Experience the discipline of exam preparation



# AP and GSCS

- AP courses are offered at the following schools:
- Holy Cross – Calculus AB, Studio Art, English Literature and Composition, Chemistry, French Language
- Bishop James Mahoney – English Literature and Composition, Studio Art, French Language
- St. Joseph – English Literature and Composition, Studio Art, French Language, Calculus AB
- Bethlehem – English Literature and Composition, French Language
- For additional information, please contact any of the above schools.