

# Advanced Placement Program Pre-Advanced Placement Program



**Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School**

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## THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM:

### An Overview

Advanced Placement (AP) is an internationally recognized enrichment program that offers acceleration and challenge to motivated and gifted students as it prepares them for the transition from high school to university. The program began in 1955 in the United States and it is offered in over 45 countries worldwide. In 2001, over 844,000 students from over 13,680 high schools wrote more than 1,400,000 AP Exams. Successful completion of these exams permits students to obtain credit or advanced placement in first year university courses at over 3,500 colleges and universities around the world.

In many school divisions, there are students capable of completing university-level studies during secondary school. The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, sponsored by the College Board, provides the means for secondary schools and universities to provide such educational opportunities. Students in their final year of high school may enroll in one or more AP courses, depending on which programs are being offered in their school and/or whether the students meet the basic entry criteria.

The AP Program provides descriptions of and examinations in college-level courses to the schools, co-ordinates the evaluation of the examinations, and will send the results of those examinations to the universities of the student's choice. Participating universities, in turn, grant either credit or placement or both to students who have performed at a required level on the AP examination(s).

The Advanced Placement Program is administered by the College Board under the advice of national groups of educators – its Council on College-Level Services and its discipline-specific development committees consisting of college faculty and AP teachers.

### THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM: Courses, Examinations, and Grades

At Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School we offer segregated AP courses in Grade 12 **English Language Arts, Psychology, Calculus and Studio Art**. These courses follow the Saskatchewan Learning Curriculum in addition to preparing students for the AP exam. Courses will be offered based on sufficient enrollment numbers.

As a registered AP site, we will also provide academically talented students with the opportunity to challenge exams when an AP class is not formally offered in the school. The AP teacher provides mentorship, which may involve instruction, direction and clarification of curricular issues when meeting with and assisting the students who plan to challenge the AP exam in **French**.

The AP examinations are given each May at participating schools or multi-school centres throughout the world. Each June, college faculty and secondary school AP teachers grade the examinations under the direction of a Chief Faculty Consultant in each field. The Chief Faculty Consultants are college professors who develop initial grading standards in consultation with their immediate assistants.

Chief Faculty Consultants bring to the grading process the same high standards that are applied to examination development. The readers' judgements on the essay questions are combined with the results of the multiple-choice questions into a single raw score. Chief Faculty Consultants then convert the raw scores to the Program's five-point scale: 5 – extremely well qualified; 4- well qualified; 3 – qualified; 2 – possibly qualified; 1 – no recommendation. In early July, the grades can be accessed online by students and their AP teachers and are sent to the universities they are entering.

**NOTE:** The marks attained on AP exams do not affect a student's high school standing. However, Saskatchewan Learning will recognize AP instruction on student transcripts, by adding the letters "AP" to the subject code (ex. ELA 30 (AP)) for most of the offered courses.

**THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM:**

The Advanced Placement Program of the College Board enables students to complete university-level studies during secondary school, thus serving as an “academic bridge” that helps to smooth the transition from secondary school to college.

The primary goals of the program are to enrich the secondary school experience of those students willing and able to apply themselves to university-level studies, and to provide the means for universities to grant credit or placement or both to students who have successfully met the requirements.

**THE AP PROGRAM AT ARCHBISHOP M.C. O’NEILL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:****Objectives:**

- To provide a proven, viable, challenging program alternative for highly motivated, academically talented students.
- To provide programs that will challenge the critical thinking, organizational and writing skills of talented students, beyond what is possible in a regular classroom setting.
- To provide successful students with the opportunity to receive credit and/or placement at participating universities for advanced academic work that they have accomplished while attending high school.
- To provide a basis for a more meaningful relationship between the high school and the universities, by allowing students to study university level work while they are still in high school.

**Who should take AP courses?**

**Generally, a mark of 80%** or greater in a prerequisite course is suggested for students who wish to take an AP course. More important is the student’s motivation and commitment to the importance of education. To be successful, students should:

- enjoy a challenge
- have a well-developed work ethic
- be self-disciplined and self-motivated
- be motivated to achieve
- find learning stimulating and exciting
- have a teacher’s recommendation
- have parental support and approval

**OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AP:****WHO RECEIVES AP EXAM RESULTS?**

AP exam results are available online in July. Students can also request that the results be sent to designated universities and/or colleges. Students have the option (until June 15<sup>th</sup>) of canceling or withholding a grade or sending the results to additional universities. The onus is on the student to make this decision.

**IS ADVANCED PLACEMENT A LOCALLY-DEVELOPED ENRICHMENT COURSE?**

No, it is not. The examinations that AP students write are developed and graded by the College Board. Because these examinations are monitored by an acknowledged outside body, most universities will accept the results for advanced placement. AP courses are taught in 76 countries around the world. Over 1,300 schools offer AP courses. Almost 3,000 post-secondary institutions grant advanced placement. AP courses are internationally recognized.

**HOW IS AP DIFFERENT FROM IB?**

Both the Advanced Placement Program (AP) and the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) are excellent enrichment programs that recognize student differences in preparation, motivation and ability. Both are equally accepted by universities throughout the world.

However, the AP program differs from the IB in several important ways. First the AP is centered in North America; the IB is European based. We have regular contact with AP officials; assistance is readily available and easily accessed by telephone.

Secondly, fewer changes to Saskatchewan Curricula are required in AP than are required in IB. In general, this means that students can complete the AP program for each subject in addition to meeting the Ministry of Education requirements in the allotted time frames.

Thirdly, there is no minimum number of AP courses students must take. The AP program has a flexibility that permits students to enroll in those courses that complement their strengths, while remaining in the mainstream for the rest of their program. Enrichment occurs on a course by course basis and not on an entire program basis.

### **IS AP CANADIAN?**

Though the program is based in the United States, the College Board has been enormously responsive to requests for Canadian content. There are Canadian AP markers and there is a Canadian AP office. As a result, the AP program is growing rapidly in Canada. AP is one of the most recognized enrichment programs worldwide.

### **WHAT ARE OTHER BENEFITS OF AP?**

Research on the effects of taking Advanced Placement courses and examinations has demonstrated that when AP students reach university, they typically take additional courses in the academic areas of their AP courses, enroll in more courses than their peers, achieve higher grade-point averages, and go on to graduate school at a rate double that of their non-AP peers. Students who have enrolled in AP courses are generally better prepared for post-secondary education.

### **MUST STUDENTS WRITE THE AP EXAMS, OR CAN THEY TAKE THE COURSES FOR ENJOYMENT?**

Students taking the Pre-AP route in Grade 9, 10, and 11 may do so for the valuable enrichment those courses provide, but they will not be taking any College Board examinations. In Grade 12, however, it is expected that students in AP classes will write the AP exams. The AP exams are the evaluation of the AP Program and provide students with the opportunity to compare their results on a national and international basis.

### **THE AP PROGRAM AT ARCHBISHOP M.C. O'NEILL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:**

#### **AP English**

In Saskatchewan, all Grade 12 students are required to complete English Language Arts 30.

Students who take AP ELA will complete the regular ELA 30 course along with ELA Literature and Composition 30L and do additional work in order to prepare for the AP exam in May. The mark for ELA 30 will be derived from the same content, assignments, and exams that the regular Grade 12 English class contains. Students in the AP Program will be expected to do a significant amount of reading, writing, research and discussion in preparation for the AP exam. This will include a reading list to be completed over the summer holiday. Students should, therefore, have an interest in literature and be willing to do the extra work.

#### **AP Psychology**

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behaviour and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

This course will allow students an opportunity to complete studies in secondary high school, which they may later use as an equivalent to an introductory university course in Psychology thus enhancing future opportunities. It will also give students who are gifted in this area an opportunity to embark on new academic challenges when readiness is evident.

#### **AP Studio Art**

The Advanced Placement Studio Art course seeks to provide high school students with college level visual art experiences leading to the completion of a portfolio of work for evaluation. The portfolio is a vehicle through which students can

demonstrate their ability to deal with the fundamental concerns of the visual arts and earn credit and/or advanced placement at the college level. AP Studio Art is not based on a written examination. The Advanced Placement Studio Art course is an extension of Art 30. The marks for Art 30 that will be submitted to the Ministry of Education will be derived from their course work.

The AP Studio Art course addresses three major concerns that are constants in the teaching of Art: 1) a sense of quality in a student's work; 2) the student's concentration on a particular visual interest or problem; 3) the student's need for breadth of experience in the formal, technical and expressive means of the artist.

The AP Program in Studio Art is intended for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in the study of art. Students must be committed to spend significantly more time than they do in the typical Art 30 course. The portfolio that is created will be a great asset to students who are applying for

scholarships, bursaries, or entrance into post-secondary art programs. It is advantageous to have taken other art courses; however, there are no prerequisite classes for entering the program.

### **AP Calculus AB**

Advanced Placement Calculus is a challenging university-level course. It will be offered to students who take a combination of Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus 30 and Integral Calculus 30. Advanced Placement students can write the 3.5 hour internationally recognized AP Calculus exam in early May. Students who achieve a sufficiently high standing on this external exam can earn credit at most North American universities. Students must register in the combined course noted above in their Grade 12 year. AP Calculus will provide students with the course content of both courses listed below over the two semesters.

### **CHALLENGE COURSES SUPPORTED AT ARCHBISHOP M.C. O'NEILL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:**

- French
- Computer Science

### **THE AP PROGRAM AT ARCHBISHOP M.C. O'NEILL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Application/Acceptance Criteria for AP Courses**

- It is recommended that students should have attained at least an 80% average in prerequisites for the specific AP subject(s).
- Students must have parental permission.
- Teacher recommendations/references may be solicited by the selection committee.
- There will be limited class sizes.

### **AP Examination Fees**

The cost per student for each AP examination is \$98.00 (U.S.). This fee is covered by The Regina Catholic School Division. A \$26.25 (CDN) administration fee will be charged to the student for each examination that he/she writes along with the course fee. If an AP course is dropped after November 10<sup>th</sup>, and \$52.50 non-refundable AP course drop fee.

### **AP Scholarship and Scholar Awards**

The Advanced Placement Program offers a number of Advanced Placement Scholar Awards (non-monetary) that recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and examinations. Students who receive marks of 3 or higher on three or more full-year AP Course Examinations receive AP Scholar Awards. Students who receive marks of 3 or higher on four or more full-year AP Course Examinations, with an average of at least 3.25, receive AP Scholar with Honor Awards. Students who receive marks of 3 or higher on five or more full-year AP course Examinations, with an average of at least 3.5, receive AP Scholar with Distinction Awards. Students who receive marks of 4 or higher on five or more full-year AP Course Examinations with an average of at least 4.0 receive National AP Scholar (Canada) Awards.

## University of Regina Policy

The University of Regina will grant credit in approved courses to students who have completed AP examinations with a mark of at least 4. The list of approved classes that Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School offers is as follows:

<u>AP Course</u>	<u>UNIV. OF REGINA COURSE(S)</u>
Studio Art (Drawing)	Art 220 (3 credit hours)
Studio Art (2D Design)	Art 220 (3 credit hours)
Studio Art (3D Design)	Art 221 (3 credit hours)
Calculus AB	Mathematics 110 (3 credit hours)
Computer Science A	Computer Science 110 (3 credit hours)
English (Literature & Composition)	English 100 & 110 (6 credit hours)
French Language **	Placement Test Required (up to 6 credit hours)
Psychology	Psychology 101 & 102 (6 credit hours)
Spanish (Language or Literature)	Placement Test Required (up to 6 credit hours)

## University of Saskatchewan

The University of Saskatchewan will award transfer credit for most AP courses with grades of 4 or higher. No transfer credit is granted for courses with grades of less than 4.

<u>AP COURSE</u>	<u>UNIVERSITY OF SASK. EQUIVALENT</u>
Calculus AB	Math 110.3
Computer Science A	CMPT 111.3
French Language	One of French: 122.3 + 125 or 128.3 depending on previous education
English Literature and Composition	Eng 110.6
Psychology	Psy 120.3 & Psy 121.3
Studio Art (including Art 2D, 3D, drawing)	Art Unsp. 3
Spanish Language	Span 214.3

# The Pre-AP Program at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School

## Objectives:

- To advance AP at O'Neill by providing enrichment programming to highly motivated, academically talented students at Grades 9, 10 and 11.
- To form a vertical team of at least four teachers, one from each of the 4 grade levels, who will support each other through collaborative, reflective and collegial processes.
- To sequence instruction to avoid unnecessary annual repetition, and to challenge talented learners to higher-level thinking with more in-depth application of knowledge and skills.
- Ultimately, the vertical team's long-term objective is to prepare for success on the external AP examination.

## Application/Acceptance Criteria for Pre-AP/Advanced Courses:

- Students should have attained at least an 80% average in each of Grades 9-11 in order to register in a Pre-AP /Advanced course.
- Students must have parental permission and teacher recommendation.
- The rigor of this Pre-AP endeavor would require students to work harder and at a faster pace, to do more homework, engage in independent study and delve into subjects in greater depth.

- Students can opt in and out of the Pre-AP/Advanced courses, as they desire.
- Students will be evaluated just as they would in the regular classes and marks should reflect progress made. Students in AP will not be academically penalized for studying a more rigorous curriculum.

## Pre-AP Timetables

### English Language Arts Strand

Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
Sem. 1&2		Sem. 1&2		Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
ELA A9/B9 Advanced		ELA A10 and/or B10 Advanced *both are recommended		ELA Lit and Comp 20L	ELA 20 Advanced	ELA Lit and Comp 30L	ELA 30

\* **Note:** All ELA courses taken in Grade 10 through 11 will be designated as advanced courses. Each course in Grades 10 and 11 will receive credit from the Ministry of Education. The ELA30 AP courses will be recognized for two Ministry of Education credits and, if a mark of 4 or 5 is achieved, university credit.

### Mathematics Strand

Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Sem. 1	Sem. 2	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
Math 9	Math 9	Math 10-F/PC	Math 20 F	Math 20 PC	Math 30 PC	Calculus 30 AP	Integral Calculus 30L

\* **Note:** AP Calculus 30 would be taken over two semesters and students earn two credits.



# Give Yourself Credit

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Take an AP class  
in high school and get  
placement or credit  
in university  
Prepare for AP by enrolling in Pre-AP

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*See your AP coordinator or guidance counsellor  
for more information about AP classes*

For additional Information on AP or Pre-AP contact:

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<i>Mrs. Janna Hollinger</i>	<i>Education Leader, Student Services</i>	<i>306-791-7240</i>