

## *Frequently Asked Questions about AP, Honors, IB Courses, and Courses Offered for Concurrent Credit*

### ***1. What is the difference between an Advanced Placement course and an Honors course?***

Check the sheet with the descriptions of Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses found in the Course Description Handbook from your school. This tells you what caliber of student will do well with the type of work expected in each of these.

### ***2. What is an AP Exam and why would a student want to take one? Which AP courses offer the exam?***

For each AP course, an AP exam is administered at participating schools worldwide. Except for AP Studio Art – which is a portfolio assessment – each AP Exam contains a free-response section (either essay or problem-solving) and a section of multiple-choice questions. The modern language exams also have a speaking component, and the AP Music Theory Exam includes a sight-singing task. Each AP Exam is given an overall grade of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, with 5 indicating a student who is extremely well qualified to receive college credit and/or advanced placement based on an AP Exam grade.

Instructors of these courses will provide additional information about the cost, date and time the exam will be given for that particular course at the beginning of the course.

### ***3. What is the grading scale on the AP exams and what significance does the score hold? Is there a minimum a student must get?***

The end product of the AP Exam is the AP grade that is reported to students, their schools, and their designated colleges in July. The colleges use these grades as evidence of the students' abilities and achievement when they make their decisions regarding whether or not to grant credit and/or advanced placement.

The AP grade scale ranges from 5 to 1:

5	Extremely well qualified	4	Well qualified
3	Qualified	2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation		

Each college or university must decide what evidence is sufficient to demonstrate that the student has satisfied one or more of its course requirements. You can find this out by contacting the schools your student is interested in attending.

**4. *How many colleges accept AP credits?***

The best source of specific and up-to-date information about an individual institution's policy is its catalog or Website.

**5. What does concurrent credit mean and how does a class qualify for it? What expenses are related to taking a course for concurrent credit?**

Concurrent credit is defined on the sheet provided in the Course Description Handbook for your school. In order to qualify for concurrent credit a teacher must submit their class syllabus, student assignments and testing expectations. Once these have been reviewed by a university, they determine whether the class is comparable to what the institution offers. Some universities will approve concurrent credits in one content area and not another. Any course that has been approved for a concurrent credit will have a symbol next to them in the Course Description Handbook. Current cost of credits is \$65 for each credit. Most courses are offered for 3 to 5 credits.

**6. How does concurrent credit differ from AP Exams?**

Students enrolled in high school AP courses have the option of taking an AP exam. Credits are awarded by the university they attend, based upon their test score. Concurrent credit students earn the number of credits for which they enrolled, and the grade earned is the grade for the course, not the grade for one particular test.

**7. Where is the IB Program offered?**

IB courses are offered at Renaissance High School.

**8. What is IB and how is it different from AP and Concurrent Credit courses?**

IB and AP courses are considered by most colleges and universities as most demanding. Students may take an individual IB course as you would any AP class or a student may take the entire IB diploma. (See the IB definition found in the Course Description handbook.) IB courses require both internal and external assessments which determine the final score in the class. IB exams are scored on a 7-point scale. Each college or university establishes their own policy on acceptance of IB classes for college credit. It is best to check the individual institution's IB policy.

In a Concurrent Credit class, students earn college credit based on their work over the course of the year or semester as opposed to earning credit based on an exam at the completion of the course.