



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

PCHS ADVANCED PLACEMENT POLICY

College Board Advanced Placement Courses provide college-level studies for high school students who are ready to do college-level work. Advanced Placement (AP®) courses are taught using college level materials and strategies that will prepare students to take College Board Advanced Placement Examinations.

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP® programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Schools should make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging coursework before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

Palisades Charter High School has an open enrollment policy for AP courses. Palisades Charter High School students interested in a post-secondary degree should consider challenging themselves during their four years at Pali by taking at least one to two AP courses. **At PCHS, the maximum number of AP classes recommended is eight during the span of four years.**

Freshman Year: 0 recommended AP classes
Sophomore Year: 0-1 recommended or 2 maximum AP class
Junior Year: 0-2 recommended or 3 maximum AP classes
Senior Year: 0-2 recommended or 3 maximum AP classes

The rigor of AP coursework in high school will help prepare students to be successful in college. Acknowledgment of the rigor of a college course should be considered when balancing a high school class load and extracurricular activities. Choosing to take an AP course at Palisades Charter High School is a mutual decision made by student, parent, and PCHS. Each entity is a vital participant in choice and commitment to the AP program. While the students bear the ultimate responsibility to achieve success, both the school and the parent play supportive roles. Palisades Charter High School EXPECTS that students who are taking AP courses will be preparing for and taking the AP exams for these courses. The AP course is designed for this summative assessment.

Students are expected to take the AP Exam if they are enrolled in the AP class. Students who take the AP Exam and score a 3 or higher, generally excel better in college. Students may not be penalized should they not take the AP Exam.



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Palisades Charter High School must provide:

- Professional development opportunities for every AP teacher
- Exceptional instruction at college level and pace
- Regular and timely communication with students and parents- this may include online updates via Infinite Campus and Schoology/LMS.
- As many AP course opportunities as possible to meet the needs of our interested students
- Provide students with a range of information on the course, including student expectations, course requirements, and college readiness.

AP teachers must provide:

- Required course information to the College Board
- Exceptional instruction at college level and pace
- Specific information regarding course workload, schedule changes, and drop policies

Parents must:

- Read and sign the PCHS AP Course Agreements
- Acknowledge the increased rigor of AP courses which includes, but is not limited to heavily weighted testing, increased independent reading and research, and increased hours of homework
- Become familiar with each AP course requirements in which their child are enrolled and try to attend AP information events at PCHS
- Help their children balance their commitments and actively support good time management and monitor their children's progress and registration deadlines
- Help their children organize their study and preparation time for each AP class
- Encourage their children to excel when the coursework becomes challenging
- Contact the teacher first with any concerns

Students must:

- Become familiar with the particular requirements for each AP course and try to attend AP information events at PCHS
- Acknowledge the increased rigor of AP courses which includes, but is not limited to heavily weighted testing, increased independent reading and research, and increased hours of homework
- Understand the rigorous nature of AP coursework and commit themselves to work at the level required to be successful
- Organize their time and effort to successfully complete each course
- Have outstanding attendance in class
- Come prepared academically for each AP course

How does Advanced Placement benefit students?

- AP students who pass the College Board Advanced Placement examinations can be exempt from introductory courses in college, depending on the college. This may save students and their families money on college courses.
- AP students demonstrate scholarship on national and international academic levels



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- Since AP courses are worth more GPA points, a student's opportunity to be accepted by the college of their choice improves.
- At PCHS, the weighting for student grades increases with AP coursework. Students' final grades are given greater GPA weight for an AP class.

Who is eligible to take AP courses?

Since PCHS has a philosophy of open enrollment for AP, it would be unusual for a student to be denied a request to take an AP course. However, some AP courses have prerequisite and recommended prerequisite classes students must take before enrolling in the course. It is critical for families to evaluate the commitment to an AP course prior to enrolling. For example, if a student has already taken a few AP courses, and has not scored above a "1" on the College Board Exams, this indicates either that the student may not be academically prepared to take on this challenge or is not committed to put in the time and work needed to be successful. Additionally, families should acknowledge the time commitment required for AP courses, as well as other courses, extra-curricular activities, and other commitments.

Can I just sign up for an AP course with my counselor?

Interested students need to check with the AP teachers, as they may have information regarding an application process, recommendations, waitlists, and other required actions students must take in order to have the opportunity to take the class.

Further, students are not guaranteed placement in the class, as there may not be space for all interested students. Students interested in taking AP courses should create a plan with alternative options should they not be able to take all/any of the desired courses.

Can a student in an AP class withdraw and be placed in a non-AP course?

Palisades Charter High School students are asked to carefully consider the academic commitment that the student is making before they schedule an Advanced Placement course. However, in order to withdraw from an AP class, students **MUST** do so before the Permanent Schedule Day. After this time, students cannot change or drop a class and must remain in the class for the rest of the semester unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Is testing an expectation for an AP course?

Students are **expected** to take at least two PCHS administered College Board AP examinations during the course of their AP career to meet the state requirements for college and career readiness.

All students who enroll in AP courses are **expected** to complete the courses and take the corresponding, annual College Board AP examinations.

June 5, 2019

Pending: Adoption by the PCHS Board of Trustees on June 21, 2022