



marigold prep

PARENT ACADEMY

What are **APs** and why do they matter?

What are APs, anyways?

- AP, or “**Advanced Placement**”, refers to **college level** courses and exams offered to high school students.
- Many schools weigh grades in AP classes more heavily than grades in regular classes, meaning taking AP classes can **boost your GPA**.
- AP classes can also make a student’s **transcript stand out** to colleges.
- AP classes are designed to prepare students for **end-of-year exams**, offered in May every year.
- AP exams are generally **offered through a student’s school** and during the school day.
- AP exams are generally a **combination of multiple choice and free response questions**, and range from 2–3 hours long.
- AP exams are scored from 1–5. Qualifying scores on AP exams can **earn students college credit**.

AP CLASSES & EXAMS

English

- Language & Composition
- Literature & Composition

History & Social Science

- Comparative Government & Politics
- European History
- Human Geography
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Psychology
- US Government & Politics
- United States History
- World History

Arts

- 2D Art & Design
- 3D Art & Design
- Drawing
- Art History
- Music Theory

Sciences

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics 1
- Physics 2
- Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- Physics C: Mechanics

Math & Computer Science

- Calc AB
- Calc BC
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Precalc
- Statistics

Languages & Culture

- Spanish Language & Culture
- Spanish Lit & Culture
- French Language & Culture
- Chinese Language & Culture
- German Language & Culture
- Japanese Language & Culture
- Italian Language & Culture
- Latin

Earning College Credit

Most U.S. colleges offer **credit** or **advanced placement**, or both, for qualifying AP scores.

College Credit

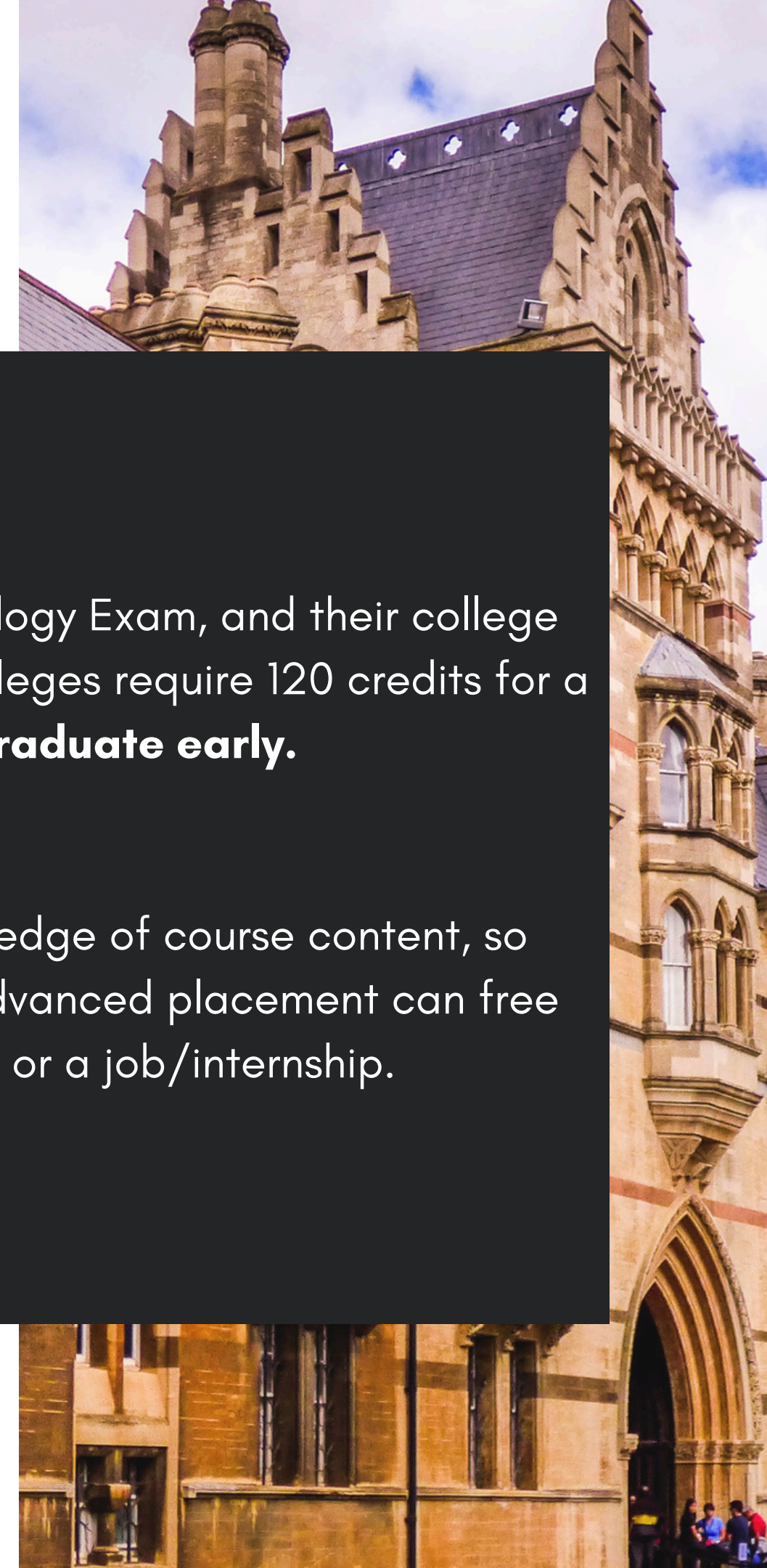
Many colleges offer credit for AP scores. For example, if a student earns a 4 on their AP Biology Exam, and their college grants eight credits for that score, the student will enter college with eight credits. Most colleges require 120 credits for a bachelor's degree, meaning **students who enter college with credits might be able to graduate early.**

Advanced Placement:

Many colleges recognize that a qualifying AP score demonstrates a student's existing knowledge of course content, so they will let that student **skip the course**. This is called granting **advanced placement**. Advanced placement can free up time in a student's schedule, allowing them to pursue a double major, a special program, or a job/internship.

Both Credit and Placement:

Many colleges award students credit and advanced placement for a qualifying AP score.



Earning College Credit

Qualifying scores can also differ from school to school and test to test. For example, some schools will accept a 3 for credit and/or placement on some tests, and require a 5 for others.

AP Exam Score	Qualification for College Course	Equivalent College Course Grade	Eligible for AP Credit
5	Extremely qualified	A	Usually
4	Well qualified	A-, B+, B	Usually
3	Qualified	B-, C+, C	Maybe
2	Possibly qualified	N/A	Rarely
1	Not qualified	N/A	No

How can I find out what my student's (future) college's policy is?

The College Board has an "AP CREDIT POLICY SEARCH" tool that allows you to search policies for every major college by AP Course. You can also find policies on individual college websites.