

# The ABCs of AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP

What do I need to know  
before I schedule for classes?



# What is AP<sup>®</sup>?

- AP<sup>®</sup> stands for **A**dvanced **P**lacement and are courses that are offered by The College Board with the possibility of earning college credit. AP<sup>®</sup> teachers must be approved to teach the class and must submit a syllabus that is reviewed and approved by AP<sup>®</sup>.



# AP<sup>®</sup> Courses offered at G-CHS

- AP<sup>®</sup> Biology
- AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus AB & BC
- AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry
- AP<sup>®</sup> English Language & Composition
- AP<sup>®</sup> European History
- AP<sup>®</sup> Music Theory
- AP<sup>®</sup> Physics 1
- AP<sup>®</sup> Physics 2
- AP<sup>®</sup> Psychology\*
- AP<sup>®</sup> Statistics
- AP<sup>®</sup> Studio Art (2D & 3D)\*
- AP<sup>®</sup> US History



*\*Senior year classes*

# What is ACP ?

- ACP stands for **A**dvance **C**ollege **P**roject and is a dual-credit program offered through Indiana University. Teachers must apply to teach and must be approved by the corresponding department chair at IU. They must also follow the IU syllabus for the course.



# ACP Courses offered at G-CHS

- BIOL-L 100 – Biology\*
- CHEM-C 105/C125 – Chemistry
- CHEM-C 106/C126 - Chemistry
- H105 US History (1<sup>st</sup> semester)
- H106 US History (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
- W131 Reading, Writing, & Inquiry I
- L202 Literary Interpretation
- C121 Public Speaking

*\*yearlong class*



# How are these programs similar?

- Both AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP courses allow students the opportunity to earn dual-credit (both high school and college credit).
- Both courses present their material in a college format with college-level expectations for course rigor.



# How are these programs different?

- Earning college credit
  - Students in AP<sup>®</sup> courses earn college credit by scoring an acceptable score on the AP<sup>®</sup> exam given in May. Most colleges will award credit if the student earns a 4 or 5 while others will allow credit for a 3.
  - ACP students earn IU credit with the grade they earn in the high school course. The credit is transcribed and transferable to other colleges and universities.



# How are these programs different?

- Cost

- Last year, AP<sup>®</sup> exams were \$91 per exam. Luckily, the State of Indiana pays for all math and science exams and will pay for the AP<sup>®</sup> English Language exam this year.
- ACP courses are billed through Indiana University at a rate of \$25/credit hour or \$75 for a 3-hour course.





# How are these programs different?

- Transferability
  - Most colleges and universities throughout the U.S. recognize AP<sup>®</sup> courses and provide some type of credit for passed exams.
  - ACP course credit is awarded through Indiana University. All Indiana public universities will accept course credit if the course is on the CTL. Some private schools may not accept the credit.



# AP Exam Information

- Our goal at G-CHS is that students should prepare to earn a 5 on each AP<sup>®</sup> exam taken.
- We will register students for these tests in late February.
- Tests are given during the first two weeks of May.
- Scores are available on-line to students in July.



# AP<sup>®</sup> Exam Preparation

- Students should prepare for the exam immediately– this is a college-level course and it “looks” different from any other class a student has taken.
- Students who perform the best on the exams look for outside resources, form study groups, and attack the class and its work from Day 1.



# ACP Registration

- Students who take ACP classes are IU students and must register for the class as an IU student would do.
- ACP students receive e-mail from IU regarding their class(es) so they should create a habit of checking their e-mail regularly.
- Only students with a G-CHS GPA of 2.7 or higher are eligible to earn IU credit.



# ACP and the IU Transcript

- The IU credit for ACP classes is transcribed by Indiana University, not G-CHS. Students who want to submit their IU classes for credit at another college or university must contact the Registrar's Office on the Bloomington campus and request that it be sent.



# ACP and FERPA

- FERPA is the **F**amilies **E**ducational **R**ights and **P**rivacy **A**ct and guarantees that “Once a student reaches 18 years of age **or attends a *postsecondary institution***, he or she becomes an “eligible student,” and all rights formerly given to parents under FERPA transfer to the student.”



# What does FERPA mean to me if my student is in an ACP course?

- Technically, it means that IU will ask that the student initiate and maintain contact with ACP or the Registrar's Office regarding registration and grades.
- The bill, however, will be sent to the home address. This year it was billed in mid-September and was due October 10 for first semester courses.



# How are the course expectations different for AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP courses?

- Students can expect fewer assignments so each grade has a greater impact on the final grade.
- Students can also expect to do independent research and learn necessary background information on their own time and without prompting from a teacher.





# How are the course expectations different for AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP courses?

- Like a college course, exams and final papers are weighted more heavily than daily work.
- ACP students are held to the same attendance requirements as IU students and will be penalized for missing class – even excused absences.



# How are the course expectations different for AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP courses?

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are a year-long commitment and counselors and teachers will expect students to stay in the course all year.
- Both types of courses are challenging and your student will probably experience frustration at some point during a semester. Remember, it's a college-level course.



# AP<sup>®</sup> and ACP from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP<sup>®</sup> experience favorably impacts admission decisions\*
- AP<sup>®</sup> courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision



*\*Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP<sup>®</sup> course or an ACP class helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP<sup>®</sup> Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP<sup>®</sup> peers\*

1. \*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Expand Students' Options and Opportunities

When students earn college credit through AP Exams and ACP courses, their college options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about advanced courses. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

- **What AP course is right for me?**
- Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:
  - Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
  - What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP: Start the Conversation

**Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:**

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or ACP or prepare me for college and careers?



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP: Start the Conversation

## **What steps do I need to take?**

- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP or ACP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP or ACP classes?





# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Myths & Realities

## Myth

AP and ACP courses are for students who are always get good grades.

## Reality

These courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Myths & Realities

## Myth

AP and ACP courses are too stressful.

## Reality

It's not secret that these courses are challenging. But, the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Myths & Realities

## Myth

I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.

## Reality

You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit and course placement based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Myths & Realities

## Myth

Taking AP and ACP courses could hurt my GPA.

## Reality

AP and ACP courses are weighted .5 grade points if you earn a C- or better in the course (earning an 'A' is 4.5 grade points instead of 4 grade points). Taking these courses also shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.



# AP<sup>®</sup> & ACP Myths & Realities

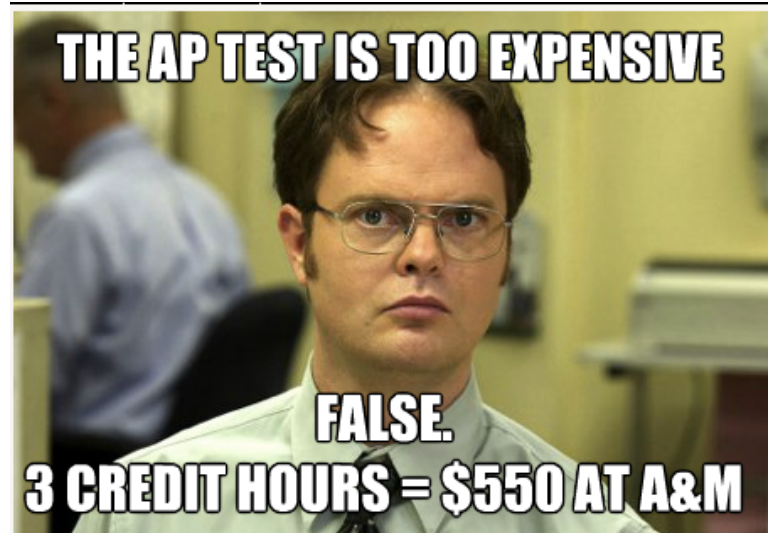
## Myth

I can't take AP or ACP courses because no one has recommended me.

## Reality

If you think you're ready to take an advanced-level course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself – just talk to a teacher or counselor, but remember that you will be expected to stay in the course through its duration.





Questions?

