Right Classes for High School

High school is an important time. If your child wants to attend a four-year or two-year college, he or she will need to start preparing by working hard in high school, taking rigorous or challenging courses, and getting good grades.

Your teen will need to pass a certain number of credits in each subject to graduate from high school, BUT there are different requirements to get into college. When registering for high school classes, ask the school’s counselor how your child can be on track meet college requirements and what classes are needed.

Some college programs or majors might require or recommend certain classes. For example, if your child is interested in going into the medical field, he or she will need to take as much math and science as possible.

Some high schools offer challenging classes like the following:

- **Advanced Placement**: College-level curriculum taught in the high school. Students must receive a satisfactory score on an end-of-year examination to be eligible for college credit at some colleges.
- **International Baccalaureate**: An interdisciplinary program at the high school; students must pass six subject assessments and fulfill three core requirements.
- **Running Start/College in the High School**: Students receive both high school and college credit for classes.

Sources: [College Board](https://www.collegeboard.org), [International Baccalaureate Organization](https://www.ibo.org), [Career Guidance WA](https://www.careerguidancewa.org) & [Oregon GEAR UP](https://www.oregongearup.org)

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**Did You Know?**

Students who pass an Advanced Placement (AP) exam are **three times** likelier to complete college than those who do not pass an AP exam.

Source: [Ed.Gov](https://www.ed.gov)
MYTH: Challenging classes like Advanced Placement or AP courses are too stressful.

REALITY: It is no secret that AP courses are challenging. Students have to be committed and work hard. However, they get support from classmates and teachers who can help ease their worries.

Plus, by taking AP classes, your child can:

- Stand out in college admissions.
- Earn college credit.
- Skip introductory classes.
- Build college skills.

Interested in your child taking an AP course? Talk to a teacher or counselor about next steps.

Source: APStudent

March Resources

- College Board: Explore AP  
  - [https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap)
- International Baccalaureate Organization: About the IB  
- Career Guidance WA  
- Oregon GEAR UP  
  - [http://oreongearup.org/resource/parent-newsletters](http://oreongearup.org/resource/parent-newsletters)
- Ed.Gov: To Get More Students Ready for College and Careers, Kentucky Expands Access to Advanced Placement for Low-Income Students  
- APStudent: Work Toward College Success  
  - [https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/the-rewards](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/the-rewards)

Student Checklist

Talk with your parents, guardians or friends about taking challenging classes in subjects in which you are interested.

Schedule a meeting to talk with your counselor or teacher about what classes are right for you.

Family Checklist

Encourage your teen to think about taking challenging classes next year in high school. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what is going on in school.

Talk to teachers and staff. Talk to your child’s counselor about high school class selections. Make sure he or she is on track to progress from middle school to high school on time.

Help your child create a plan for the appropriate classes that he or she needs to take each year in high school in order to pursue his or her dreams after high school.

Source: APStudent