

Choosing The Right AP Classes

Who should take an AP class?

The Advanced Placement experience is not for every student. Before choosing to enroll your child in an AP course, consider these factors:

- Your child's past performance in the subject area. If a student has always excelled at science, AP Chemistry may be a great idea. On the other hand, if he or she tends to struggle in math, AP Calculus might be too much of an ordeal.
- Your child's skills. AP courses in the humanities—English, history, philosophy, etc.—require heavy amounts of reading and writing. Is your student prepared for long, difficult reading assignments, multiple essays, and in-depth research papers?
- Your child's schedule. A student who plays sports year-round, holds leadership positions in one or more extracurricular activities, and/or has a part-time job may find it difficult to meet the sizeable obligations of an AP class.
- Your child's GPA. No student should take an AP course if it's likely to lower his or her overall GPA. College admissions officers want to see students taking challenging courses, but they also want to see strong grades. If your child is worried about maintaining decent grades in an AP course, it might be wise to stay with an honors course.

Which academic subjects are available as AP courses at Sun Prairie High School?

Sun Prairie High School (SPHS) will be offering 26 AP courses in the 2017-2018 school year. A full list can be found on the SPHS AP Website.

How many AP classes should my child take?

For success in college admissions, there is no “magic number” of AP courses; it will depend on the individual student. If your child is highly ambitious and wants to take four AP classes in one semester, advise him or her to slow down! It's important to strike a balance between work and play. Some high schools, in fact, limit the number of AP courses a student can take. As a Washington Post article on AP classes cautions, “I know high school students who literally have no social life and enormous anxiety because they spend practically every waking hour doing school work.” Colleges want students that are well rounded, normal people, not students that only excel academically.

Source: <http://www.studypoint.com/ed/ap-classes/>