

Honors Diploma

The Honors Diploma option requires a student to earn 24 credits and successfully complete six Honors/AP courses with four of the six during the junior and senior year and maintain a GPA of 3.0 (or rank in the top 25%). Students must also "Exceed" on at least two of the AIMS exams.

Honors Diploma course/credit requirements:

Language Arts	4	Social Studies	3
Science	3	Mathematics	4
Foreign Language	2	Fine Arts	1
Physical Education	1	Electives	6

Graduate Recognition

Those who complete the Honors Diploma will receive a "Standard of Excellence" seal on their diploma. Top graduates speak at graduation and march at the front of the class. Medallions and cords are given for academic achievements. Honors and Awards ceremonies honor student accomplishments.

Similarities Between AP and IB

Both AP and IB (International Baccalaureate) programs are rigorous and dedicated to educational excellence. Both involve dedicated and creative teachers and attract highly motivated students who wish to excel and attend selective universities. Both articulate with junior high and middle schools. Both have attracted the attention of international educators and the general public on ways to improve education. They both value programs that require research, thinking, and writing and offer extensive professional development opportunities for teachers.

Why Choose AP?

More North American Universities accept AP exam scores than IB exam scores. AP allows more flexibility in choosing classes and AP programs cost less which results in more money in the classroom. Student fees for AP exams are covered by the GUHSD.

Student Thoughts

"My honors classes have challenged me by pushing my limits and helping me discover my otherwise unknown capabilities." - Tania Chairez

"Because of my honors classes, I have had many opportunities to make myself successful in school. I have been exposed to a variety of thinking strategies and methods for analyzing material. It has taught me to always try to achieve my highest potential." - Now Bahar Alam

Contact Information

Glendale Union High School District 623-435-6000
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Apollo High	623-435-6300
Cortez High	623-915-8200
Glendale High	623-435-6200
Greenway High	623-915-8500
Independence High	623-435-6100
Moon Valley High	623-915-8000
Sunnyslope High	623-915-8760
Thunderbird High	623-915-8900
Washington High	623-915-8400



What is Advanced Placement?

Benefits of AP for Students

Why Take AP? Various Perspectives

Cost of Taking AP Courses

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment Savings

Typical Honors/AP Track

Honors Diploma

Similarities Between AP and IB

Why Choose AP?

What is Advanced Placement?

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program offers students the opportunity to take rigorous courses during their high school years in order to gain college credits as well as prepare them for the challenges of higher education.

Benefits of AP for Students

- Obtain a head start on college
- Save money on college
- Increase opportunity for success
- Earn academic scholarships and awards
- Earn extra honors points for Honors Point Average (HPA)
- Assists in obtaining college admission
- Opportunity to earn college credits
- Enter upper-level courses in college
- Fulfill foreign language requirements
- Experience college-level exams

Why Take AP? Various Perspectives

College credit can allow you to move into upper-level college courses sooner, pursue a double major, and gain time to study and travel abroad. Brent Wiese, of the University of Iowa commented, "As a freshman, I was able to skip general ed requirements and head straight into the higher-level classes I wanted to take. Taking AP Exams literally saved me semesters of time."

A U.S. Department of Education study¹ found that the strongest predictor of college persistence was the academic intensity and quality of a student's high school curriculum.

Harvard Dean of Admissions, Williams R. Fitzsimmons, stated that , "One of the best standard predictors of academic success at Harvard is performance on Advanced Placement Examinations."

Cost of Taking AP Courses

There is an \$82 fee for each AP Exam, which the College Board uses to:

- 1) subsidize teacher training
- 2) develop classroom resources

Glendale Union High School District covers the cost of this exam.

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment allows students the opportunity to earn college credit while completing high school requirements. Dual enrollment is offered through many AP and Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes. Dual enrollment credits cost approximately a third of community college tuition and includes the cost of books.

Dual Enrollment Core Courses & Possible Credits:

AP English	6	AP Government	6
AP US History	6	Honors Pre-Calculus	5
College Algebra	4	AP Biology	8
AP Physics	8	Honors French or Spanish	8
AP French or Spanish	8		

Dual Enrollment Savings

A total of 59 credits could cost you:

- \$2,537 through GUHSD Dual Enrollment
- \$4,189 at Glendale Community College
- \$35,400 at Arizona State University

Typical Honors/AP Track

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year
Honors English 1-2	Honors English 3-4
Honors Biology	Honors Algebra 2
Honors Alg/Geo	Honors Chemistry
Physical Education	Honors World History
Spanish 1-2, French 1-2, or Elective	Spanish 3-4, French 3-4, or Elective
Elective of your choice	Elective of your choice
Junior Year	Senior Year
Honors English 5-6	AP English
Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
AP Biology	AP Government
AP US History	AP Physics
Honors Spanish or French 5-6, or Elective of your choice	AP Spanish, AP French, or Elective
Elective of your choice	Elective of your choice

¹Clifford Adelman, *Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor's Degree Attainment* (1999), U.S. Department of Education.