

What's an AP Course all about?

From the AP website

“AP enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both.”

- AP courses provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge to real world questions or scenarios (including societal issues or technological innovations) to help them become scientifically literate citizens.

- Emphasizes scientific inquiry, **reasoning**, and **critical thinking**
- Enables students to plan, direct, and integrate a range of science practices, such as designing experiments, collecting data, and applying quantitative skills

- AP courses provide opportunities for students to develop their communication skills by recording evidence of their research of literature or scientific investigations through verbal, written, and graphic presentations.

AP Lab Skills

Science Practice: The student can design a plan for collecting data to answer a particular scientific question.

Proficient	Follows directions and adds a thorough description of a design plan (with clearly labelled diagrams), including predictions and assumptions.
Nearly Proficient	Follows directions and adds a design plan that is mostly complete (with diagrams), and including assumptions.
On the Path to Proficiency	Follows direction but does not clearly indicate a plan for experimental design and procedure.
An attempt	Misinterprets directions or does not clearly indicate a viable plan for experimental design or procedure.

AP Lab Skills

Science Practice: The student can collect data to answer a particular question.

Proficient	Collects accurate data in a methodical way and presents the data in an organized fashion.
Nearly Proficient	Collects mostly but not entirely accurate and complete data or the presentation of the data is somewhat disorganized.
On the Path to Proficiency	Collects somewhat incomplete or inaccurate data and the presentation of the data lacks organization.
An attempt	Collects inaccurate or incomplete data and doesn't provide any organization for this data.

Science Practice 6.1. The student can *justify claims with evidence*.

Proficient

Accurately identifies and aligns a comprehensive array of evidence with claims the evidence supports. Provides a substantive justification for the selection and/or exclusion of evidence. Considers data from multiple sources, and provides appropriate rationales for the selection and exclusion of evidence.

Nearly Proficient

Accurately identifies and aligns most but not all available and relevant evidence with claims it supports. Provides a clear justification for the selection and/or exclusion of evidence. Considers data from multiple sources.

On the Path to Proficiency

Identifies and aligns evidence with claims; but some evidence is inappropriate or fails to support the claims. Accurately differentiates between a claim and the evidence that supports it.

An Attempt

Identifies some appropriate evidence in support of claims, but connections drawn between evidence and claims are generally weak.
