



Guide to Appropriate Course Placement

A student who is eligible for an Honors level or Advanced Placement course is not required to take that course. Appropriate placement in each course warrants careful consideration during the scheduling process as future class changes may only occur if there are seats available. Honors and Advanced Placement courses differ from College Preparatory courses in terms of the level of expectations placed on the students, the amount of independent work expected, the pace of coverage of content, the expected skill level and the breadth and depth of the content covered. Therefore, consider the balance of coursework demands (for example, Honors vs. College Prep) in relation to interest, ability, and extra-curricular activities. Serious thought should be given as to what a student can handle without creating undue stress. Students who are considering an Honors or Advanced Placement course should consult with their parents/guardians, teachers and counselor before finalizing their course selections.

Advanced Placement Courses	<p>AP courses offer the most rigorous curriculum at an accelerated pace for a student that is ready for independent college-level work. AP courses are appropriate for students who are self-motivated learners, and who have already developed conceptual, higher-order thinking (application, analysis, synthesis). AP courses expect more work than Honors courses and demand a stronger mastery of skills and more independent critical thinking. AP courses are tied to a standard curriculum designed by the College Board to prepare students to take a comprehensive final exam. Assignments are often given on a longer-term basis, demanding an abundant amount of self-discipline from students who must pace themselves accordingly.</p>
Honors Courses	<p>Honors courses follow a rigorous curriculum at an accelerated pace that is designed to ensure a student is ready for independent college-level work upon graduation from WWPHS. Honors courses are appropriate for fairly autonomous students who are self-motivated learners, and who are ready to move quickly from lower-order thinking (knowledge, comprehension) to more conceptual, higher-order thinking (application, analysis, synthesis). Honors courses expect more work than College Prep courses and demand a stronger mastery of skills and more independent critical thinking. Assignments are often given on a longer-term basis, demanding more self-discipline from the students who must pace themselves accordingly.</p>
College Prep Courses	<p>CP courses follow a demanding curriculum at a moderate pace that is designed to ensure a student is ready for independent college-level work upon graduation from WWPHS. CP courses are appropriate for motivated students who need more teacher guidance to master comprehension and expand their knowledge of a particular subject. CP students are gradually introduced to conceptual, higher-order thinking (application, analysis, synthesis). Compared to assignments in Honors courses, College Prep work tends to be more manageable and given in smaller segments over shorter time frames.</p>