

IOAPA:

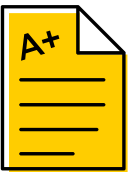
BENEFITS OF AP COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are introductory college-level courses offered to high schoolers, with national curriculum requirements set by The College Board. Like dual enrollment courses with a community college, AP courses provide students with rigorous coursework while they are still in high school, and give them the option to earn college credit at a much lower cost. However, there are a few benefits that are unique to AP courses:



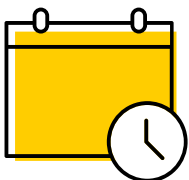
Designed with high schoolers in mind

Although they offer introductory college-level content, AP courses are designed with high school learners in mind. AP content and instructional strategies challenge bright students and help them to dig deeper into topics of interest.



Helps with college admissions and placement

AP is an internationally-recognized standard, and AP courses on a student's transcript show colleges that the student has pursued academic challenges in high school and is ready for college-level coursework. This is *especially true* for selective colleges and programs. Students who take one or two AP Exams show [benefits](#) in college performance, with diminishing returns as the number of courses increases.



Builds important skills for school and career

The rigor of AP courses helps high schoolers to build important time management and study skills. These benefits can help students to succeed while they are still in high school as well as with their future goals.

About IOAPA:

The Belin-Blank Center's Iowa Online AP Academy (IOAPA) was created to provide high school students in small or rural schools with the same access to AP courses as their peers in other districts. IOAPA covers the cost of registration in online courses, allowing schools to offer AP courses even if they don't have the numbers, staff, or resources to offer those courses in-house. For more information on whether AP coursework through IOAPA might benefit your students, please contact ioapa@belinblank.org.