October 2026

IOAPA:

FOR NEW SCHOOLS

IOWA | College of Education
Belin-Blank Center

The Iowa Online AP® Academy (IOAPA) provides free, online, above-level courses to Iowa students who do not have access to on-site advanced coursework options.

1. Why IOAPA?

Many of Iowa's schools lack the resources, staff, or number of students to offer AP courses. Online courses through third-party vendors are available, but can be costly and require additional administrative work to set up. The Belin-Blank Center's Iowa Online AP Academy (IOAPA) solves this problem by contracting with those vendors and handling the related administrative requirements on behalf of the schools. Any school that does not offer a course in-person is eligible to offer that course through IOAPA.

Cost

Schools can register up to eight students per IOAPA class at **no cost.** IOAPA fully pays for each student's enrollment thanks to generous support from the State of Iowa. The only costs to the school are for AP Exam fees, textbooks, and lab materials. Materials lists for each class can be found in the course descriptions listen in IOAPA's course catalog. IOAPA mentors will be notified via email when those opportunities are available.

Benefits

The IOAPA program offers several advantages.

Dedicated Support

The Belin-Blank Center has a dedicated support email, ioapa@belinblank.org, which is monitored year-round. IOAPA staff can help with any aspect of the program. Additionally, IOAPA's support team will connect in-school educators directly with our partners at the course vendors, meaning schools can skip the line and get help as soon as possible.

Program Assistance

IOAPA provides a limited number of scholarships to help purchase AP Exam registrations for low-income students. Additionally, a limited number of small program grants are available each year to help schools facilitate and enrich IOAPA courses. Finally, IOAPA provides a stipend each semester to in-school mentors to help compensate them for their work with the program.

Flexible Scheduling

All IOAPA classes are online and asynchronous, meaning students can access their coursework at a regularly-scheduled time that works for their schedule. Students can take semester-long courses during either semester, and there are no minimum class sizes, so even if just one student wants to register, IOAPA can help.

2. In-School Support Structure

While instruction for the courses is provided virtually, IOAPA students still have in-school support thanks to IOAPA-required mentors and site coordinators, who help them to stay on track and reach out for help if they need it.

- **Mentors** are responsible for proctoring exams/assignments, supervising students, and providing moral support, encouragement, and assistance to students as needed. Mentors must be licensed educators in the state of Iowa. Mentors do not have to answer questions about course content. Instead, they can encourage students to contact their course instructors. The Belin-Blank Center helps to support mentors with a stipend for each semester they teach IOAPA students.
- **Site Coordinators** register their school with the IOAPA program each year, enroll students, make arrangements for course materials, and allocate time in the student's regular school day and space in the school building for students to work. Site coordinators are often TAG teachers, guidance counselors, or tech coordinators. Mentors and site coordinators can be the same person.

3. Setting up IOAPA at Your School

Once a school determines that they would like to offer IOAPA courses and identifies interested and eligible students, the online set-up and registration process is easy to complete.

1. The site coordinator registers the school on the Belin-Blank Center's website. This is done once a year.
2. Once the school is registered, the site coordinator can register students.
3. Mentors and students receive login information shortly before the school year begins.
4. Students take their course(s) during a regularly-scheduled time during their school day with mentor supervision. Instruction comes virtually from a teacher provided by the course vendor.
5. IOAPA helps to monitor the course and provides technical or administrative support as needed.

4. Get Started Today!

Ready for IOAPA, or want to learn more? Step-by-step registration instructions, as well as important program dates and the course catalog, can be found at belinblank.org/ioapa. The mentor handbook outlines the same program information and provides helpful resources for mentors. For more information, please reach out to our dedicated support email at ioapa@belinblank.org.

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