IOWA

Iowa Online Advanced Placement Academy (IOAPA)

POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Updated 9/2026

IOAPA Policies and Requirements

About

The Iowa Online AP Academy provides free online above-level courses to Iowa students who do not have access to on-site versions of such courses. The program was designed with talented students from small, rural schools in mind, but it is not exclusive to that population.

Courses include AP courses for high school students and high school-level courses for eligible middle school students. Middle school courses are not AP courses; rather, they are AP-preparatory, intended to equip students with sufficient skills and background knowledge to be prepared for future AP courses in high school.

We hold two annual registration periods: one in late fall (for courses to be started in spring semester), and one in late spring (for courses to be started the following fall). To enroll students in courses, certain requirements must be met (see below). If these requirements are met, the school's designated site coordinator should then register the school and students (see the "Getting Started" Guide).

Requirements

School Eligibility

1. The school must be an accredited school in the state of Iowa. Home schooled students may take Iowa Online AP Academy courses only if they sign up through an accredited Iowa school.
2. The course must not currently be offered through the school district (or, in the case of middle school students, the course must not be offered at the student's grade level).
3. Iowa Online AP Academy courses must be scheduled into part of the students' regular school day. Schools should provide a designated time and space within the school building for students to work on each course.
4. The school must not enroll more than 8 students per course.
5. The school district must provide a course mentor (a teacher employed by the school district and licensed through the state of Iowa) and site coordinator (typically a TAG teacher or school guidance counselor) for their Iowa Online AP Academy student(s). See below for details.
6. The school district must provide lab space and equipment for all science courses (if applicable).
7. The school must provide the needed technology and textbooks required for course completion.
8. When students take the AP exam at the end of the school year, the school or student must pay the exam fee.

Student Eligibility

High School

Students should be able to handle the academic rigor of a college level course, as well as the self-discipline and motivation necessary for an online course. Additionally, students should not be over-committed in their curricular and/or extracurricular activities. Please review suggested prerequisites listed in the course catalog, and use pre-tests for AP Calculus AB, AP Chemistry, AP Physics B, and AP Statistics.

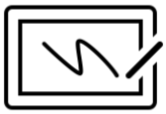
Middle School

Please see our separate document that more fully states middle school recommendations.

Cost and Potential Fees

The Iowa Online AP Academy covers all course fees for Iowa students, and schools provide the necessary course materials, lab equipment (if applicable), and technology required for course completion.

If a high school student chooses to drop an IOAPA course more than 12 days after the start of the course, the school will be assessed a $350 cancellation fee for each course they drop. Additionally, if a high school student is not active on their course for 21 consecutive school days, they will be dropped from the course, and the school will be assessed a $350 drop fee. This fee currently applies only to high school students.

Additional Policies and Requirements

- Full year courses cannot be started mid-year.
- Students who enroll in a full-year course are automatically enrolled in both semesters of the course. If a student does not wish to continue the course after completion of the fall semester, the school should notify IOAPA staff before the spring semester's drop deadline. Schools who do not notify us before the deadline are subject to the drop fee.
- Students who fail the first semester of a full-year course will automatically be dropped from the second semester unless schools petition for an exception.
- If any student decides to drop a course, the site coordinator should contact the Belin-Blank Center to remove the student from the course. Please do not attempt to drop the student yourself.