State and System-wide AP® Credit and Placement Policies

For more than 60 years, the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program® has collaborated with high schools, colleges, and universities to prepare students for success in higher education.

AP State and System-wide Policies Nationwide

As of April 16, 2019, there are 31 states across the country that have committed to clear, consistent AP policies.

1California State University System & California Community Colleges
2Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
3State University of New York System
4Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

How Consistent Policies Help

Advanced Placement (AP) provides motivated and academically prepared students with challenging course work developed, approved, and evaluated by college and university faculty. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP exams experience greater academic success in college and improved graduation rates compared to students who do not participate in AP examinations. A clear and consistent AP credit and placement policy ensures that all qualified students consistently receive credit or placement. It can also:

- Allows prospective students and families to know which institutions recognize AP achievement and award course equivalent college credit and placement based on qualifying scores
- Allow for the optimal application of qualifying AP scores for credit toward meeting graduation requirements
- Improve seamless course articulation and transfer, credit portability, and degree completion rates
- Reduce the duplication and accumulation of excess credit hours, minimizing economic burdens for students and families, and improve enrollment efficiency for higher education systems

For more information, reach us online at aphighered.org.
AP Policies with Exemplar Language and Implementation

The states below represent a set of best practices for clear, consistent AP credit and placement policies. There are two main types of policies. Legislative policies are created by the state legislature and signed into law by the governor. Administrative policies are set by the head of higher education in the state (typically the SHEEO) or by other senior system leaders.

**Arkansas**
Agency: Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: Applies to all exams with a score of 3 or higher to reduce the total number of credits required for graduation with degree or elective requirements. 24 exams are directly mapped to gen ed requirements in their articulation system.
Type: administrative policy

**California**
Agency: California State University System
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: General education / breadth and transfer to University of California
Type: administrative policy

**Florida**
Agency: Florida Department of Education and Board of Governors
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: Aligned to statewide course equivalents to meet general education and subject-specific requirements
Type: legislative policy

**Kentucky**
Agency: Kentucky’s Council on Postsecondary Education
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: Aligned to campus course equivalents to meet general education and subject-specific requirements
Type: legislative policy

**Mississippi**
Agency: Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
URL: Adopted March 2018, URL in progress
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: General education
Type: administrative policy

**Ohio**
Agency: Ohio Board of Regents
URL: [http://1.usa.gov/1KbfE8N](http://1.usa.gov/1KbfE8N)
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: General education when possible.
Requires ongoing validation of results.
Type: legislative policy

**South Carolina**
Agency: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Policies
Min credit-granting score: 3
Credit application: Aligned with campus course equivalencies to meet general education and subject-specific requirements
Type: administrative policy

The AP Higher Ed Team

The College Board’s AP Higher Education team consists of experts in academic policy, curriculum alignment, and higher education policy. We can support your efforts to create, implement and maintain a robust AP policy in your state or system. Staff members have the expertise and resources to ensure you meet the mandate of legislated action or the goals of administrative policy.

Team members can assist you in planning, assessing policy and practice disparities, building a timeline, convening and presenting to stakeholders, providing materials and meeting support, communicating policy, validating the results.

Each state has an assigned member of the AP Higher Ed team. For more information about your state’s assigned team member, please contact us at aphighered@collegeboard.org.

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