

# **Lanier High School**

# **Advanced Placement Handbook**

**2023-24**



## **What is the Advanced Placement (AP) Program?**

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school.

In May 2021, 2.3 million students representing more than 19,000 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took over 4 million AP Exams. Approximately 3,800 U.S. and international colleges and universities received AP Exam scores last year.

## **What is special about AP Courses?**

AP courses count toward graduation requirements and may result in college credit (based upon exam score and institutional policy).

AP courses challenge and engage students at a high level.

AP courses allow students and instructors to explore areas of interest in a team setting.

AP courses must meet national standards. Therefore, AP courses are a universally accepted indicator of RIGOR.

Pursuit of an academically rigorous course of study is a key factor in the admissions process for many colleges and universities.

## **From the University of Georgia Admissions Website:**

### **The Primary Factor in Admission Decisions at UGA**

"Demonstrated academic achievement" is the primary factor in first-year admission decisions at the University of Georgia. The academic review of first-year applications centers on three criteria: the student's grade point average (GPA) in core academic courses, the rigor of a student's course selection, and his or her best combination of scores on the SAT or ACT. Additionally, all applications are reviewed for conduct issues; recommendations; satisfactory completion of all courses and completion of the required College Preparatory courses.

GPA and rigor of curriculum weigh roughly three-to-two to standardized tests in predicting academic success at UGA. Effectively, this means that a student with a 4.0 GPA in a superior curriculum of Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses might be admitted with an SAT score at or below 1000. Yet, another student with a 3.0 GPA and an SAT score of 1400 might not be admitted, if the student opted for no more than a standard college prep curriculum with few if any Honors, AP or IB courses.

## **How Advanced Placement courses impact GPA and class rank:**

Students in Gwinnett County Public Schools who take Advanced Placement courses are to have 10 points added to their final grade in the course. These points are not associated with the student's performance on the Advanced Placement exams.

### **Cumulative Grade point Average (GPA):**

The average of all of a student's course GPAs in every high school course he/she has taken. The cumulative Grade Percent Average is used to determine class rank, honor graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian.

\*The percent average is often converted to the 4-point scale in GPA reports (A = 4; B = 3; C=2).

## **How Advanced Placement courses impact HOPE Eligibility:**

In determining HOPE Scholarship eligibility, the 10 points added by GCPS will be subtracted from the AP numerical grade.

For the HOPE average only, the "unweighted" numerical grade will be converted to a 4.0 scale, then .5 points will be added to the converted score. No grades higher than a 4.0 will be awarded.

*It is important for each student to consider the potential impact an AP course will have on his/her HOPE GPA.*

### **For example:**

A student earns an 88 in AP Biology, and has a weighted numerical average of 98 with the 10 points.

For determining class rank and GPA for college applications, the grade would be considered an "A" with a 98 numerical average and a 4.0 on the 4-point grading scale.

For HOPE Scholarship eligibility only, the unweighted numerical average of 88, considered a "B," would be converted to a 3.0, then .5 would be added back for a 3.5.

\*\* If the student had a 92 unweighted average (102 with the 10 points), the converted score would be a 4.0 for both HOPE and on the 4-point scale.

# **Lanier High School Advanced Placement** **Course Offerings 2024-25**

**AP Art History**

**AP Biology**

**AP Calculus AB**

**AP Calculus BC**

**AP Computer Science A**

**AP Computer Science Principles**

**AP Environmental Science**

**AP European History**

**AP Human Geography**

**AP Language**

**AP Macro Economics**

**AP Micro Economics**

**AP Music Theory**

**AP Physics 1**

**AP Physics C: Mechanics**

**AP Psychology**

**AP Statistics**

**AP Studio Art**

**AP United States History**

**AP World History**

## **An Additional Incentive for LHS Students:**

Once AP Exam scores are reported to Lanier High School (mid-July), we will adjust the final course grade\* for semester 1 and 2 of a student's AP course, based upon the exam score.

Score of 3 on the AP Exam will result in a final grade of 90

Score of 4 on the AP Exam will result in a final grade of 95

Score of 5 on the AP Exam will result in a final grade of 100

*\*Final grade prior to the additional 10 points*

*\*If the student's original grade was higher, that grade will not be replaced.*

*\*For seniors, the AP exam scores arrive after graduation. Therefore, the course grades cannot be adjusted.*

## Potential Advanced Placement students:

### AP is probably a good option:

- Self-motivated
- Enjoys reading
- Actively participates in and enjoys classroom discussions and debates
- Comfortable and capable writer
- Self-starter
- Organized and able to manage time
- Enjoys a challenge
- Interested in building a high school “resume” for college admissions and/or scholarship applications

### Advanced Placement courses are not a good fit for the student who:

- Needs a great deal of prompting to start a task
- Is primarily interested in earning college credit to expedite future plans (Dual enrollment may be a better fit)
- Rarely reads for pleasure
- Is unable to devote 5-10 hours per week to study outside of class.

## Schedule Changes

The master schedule is built, and hiring decisions are made, based upon the Spring registration numbers. For this reason, we do not make schedule changes over the summer, at the beginning of the school year, or during winter break.

After the initial registration window closes (late February), each student will receive a **Student Course Request Profile**. The SCRP will list all course registrations for 2022-23. The SCRP must be signed by the student and parent and returned to the school.

Please use the SCRP to request any changes to course selections, including Advanced Placement selections. After this window closes, there will not be another opportunity to change course requests. **This includes dropping Advanced Placement courses.**

Any student who has registered for an Advanced Placement course will receive an AP Contract along with the SCRP. Both documents should be signed by student and a parent/guardian.

## AP Exams

Advanced Placement exams are administered in May

Every student receives **one** free exam if they are enrolled in the class (paid for by GCPS).

Exam fee for additional exams is **\$95.00 per exam**

**\*\*Free/Reduced (F/R) lunch students** currently enrolled in AP classes must pay the **\$10** registration fee, however, the exams fees will be waived for any course in which they are currently enrolled.

Any student wishing to take an exam who is *not enrolled* in the class must pay **\$95** per exam, plus the registration fee.

Any test ordered *but not taken* will cost the student an *additional* **\$15**.

## Words of wisdom from AP students and teachers...

"AP teachers try to challenge you, but you'll have to put in the work up front and ask for help when you need it."

"Prepare to learn like you've never learned before. But also be prepared to commit about an hour a day per class to studying and other homework."

"Falling behind is not an option. Make sure you keep up with your work and don't wait until the last minute."

"Don't take AP classes just because they sound nice. Take them if you're interested in the subject and think it will actually help you in college."

"AP teachers go over more material in less time and will not hold your hand; the responsibility is on you."

"Don't take them if you're lazy or busy because AP courses require a great deal of time and effort."

"If you have not taken AP classes before, do not take more than one or two in a single year."

"AP is for students who want the challenge and rigor of learning in a meaningful and collaborative environment. My "four C's" for AP students are Curious, Committed, Connected, Contributors."

-Advanced Placement teacher



**LANIER HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT  
REGISTRATION CONTRACT  
2023-24**

*Each student who registers for an Advanced Placement course will receive a copy of this contract with his/her Student Course Request Profile (late March). This contract should be signed by the student and a parent and returned along with the signed SCRIP*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student #: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to register for the following AP course (s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AP Student: Please initial to indicate acceptance of each condition listed below.**

- \_\_\_ I understand that the Advanced Placement curriculum is rigorous and will require 5-10 hours of study per class each week.
- \_\_\_ I understand that 10 points will be added to my grade at the end of each semester, per GCPS policy.
- \_\_\_ I understand how HOPE calculates AP course grades (see AP Handbook for information).
- \_\_\_ I understand that summer work may be required for any AP course.
- \_\_\_ I have researched the above-listed courses (discussed with my current teachers, talked to the AP teacher, talked to successful students, read the AP Handbook, and/or visited the CollegeBoard website) and feel that I will be successful in each AP course I have selected.
- \_\_\_ I believe that I have taken the necessary coursework to prepare me for success in the above-listed AP courses.
- \_\_\_ I understand that my commitment to the AP courses listed above is for the entire year, and **schedule changes WILL NOT be granted after Student Course Request Profiles are submitted.**
- \_\_\_ I understand that I will be expected to register for and participate in the AP exam for each AP course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**                      **Date**

I have read and understand the above listed requirements for and expectations of my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**                      **Date**

**Turn in this completed AP Contract to your Longhorn teacher along with your signed Student Course Request Profile.**