

Inspiring minds.
Shaping lives.



Spring
Branch

Independent School District

Parent U – Advanced Programing to Prepare for College

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Advanced Academic Studies
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Topics for Today

- ★ Why Take Advanced Classes?
- ★ What's the Difference?
AP/DC/EPC/DE/IB
- ★ What do Universities Think?
- ★ How to Support your Student



WHY ?

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Where do you go from here?

- ★ A. The Work Force?
- ★ B. College?
- ★ C. Both – Simultaneously or Chronologically

Pre-AP and AP Defined

- ★ Both are part of the AP Program
- ★ Pre-AP courses add strategies to prepare students for AP courses
- ★ AP courses prepare students for the rigor of college.
- ★ Both help improve writing skills, problem-solving techniques, and study habits.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP[®])

- ★ Designed by SBISD curriculum teams to add depth and strategies.
- ★ Designed to engage students
- ★ Do not have end of year standard exam.
- ★ Currently not overseen by College Board.
- ★ Do provide a GPA bump in high school.

Who Takes Pre-AP?

- ★ Anyone who chooses the challenge
- ★ SBISD has a commitment to open access
- ★ GT Students
- ★ Students that enjoy an intellectual challenge

Pre-AP[®]

- ★ Move at a faster pace
- ★ Require more independent learning
- ★ Require more homework
- ★ Stretches intellectual muscles
- ★ Be cautious about packing a schedule

Pre-AP®



Advanced Placement (AP®)

- ★ Course frameworks and standards developed by the College Board.
- ★ Teacher must submit a course syllabus to be approved yearly.
- ★ School maintains a roster of their approved courses.
- ★ Standard exam offered at the end of each year (optional)
- ★ Provide College Credit

Which AP Course are Offered?

- **Arts:** Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography*, Macroeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1 & 2*, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C: Mechanics, Computer Science
- **World languages:** French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture Spanish Language, Spanish Literature and Culture
- **AP Capstone Program and Diploma**



THE BENEFITS

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Expanding Student Options

- ★ Introduces students to the challenge of college level courses
- ★ College level credit being earned
- ★ Faster entrance to upper level college courses.
- ★ Expand academic interests

- ★ Improves “soft skills” – critical thinking, analysis, team work, project management, problem solving

- ★ Saves money!

- ★ <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

AP/DC/EPC/DE
...OH MY!

Advanced Placement (AP)

- ★ Rigorous, college-level coursework for high school credit
- ★ Students prepare for and take AP exams
- ★ Colleges use AP exam scores to award college credit
- ★ SBISD instructors
- ★ Open access to SBISD students
- ★ Exam primarily paid for by parent

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- ★ Only offered at Westchester Academy (WAIS)
- ★ IB exams take place Junior and Senior year
- ★ IB prep begins in middle school
- ★ Students have the option to graduate with an IB diploma.
- ★ Teachers go through content and model specific training to follow IB standards.
- ★ Exam are mainly paid for by parents

Dual Credit (DC)

- ★ Rigorous college coursework that has been cross-walked with high school classes
- ★ College credit earned and placed on college transcript (HCC). Transferrable in Texas
- ★ SBISD instructors embedded at SBISD campuses
- ★ Partnership with HCC – tuition waived
- ★ Must meet college-readiness standards

Early College Program (ECP)

- ★ Rigorous college coursework that has been cross-walked with high school classes
- ★ College credit earned and placed on college transcript (HCC). Transferrable in Texas
- ★ HCC instructors at HCC Spring Branch and SHS and SWHS
- ★ Partnership with HCC – tuition waived
- ★ Must meet college-readiness standards

Early College Program

- ★ Students may earn 24-30 college credit hours
- ★ Working toward additional offerings

On Ramps – Concurrent Enrollment

- ★ SBISD teachers partner with UT professors.
- ★ Students enrolled in the SBISD course and the UT course.
- ★ Separate gradebooks and grades.
- ★ Same assignments
- ★ Student may deny the UT credit
- ★ No cost to student
- ★ Courses vary by campus

AND COLLEGES?

It makes a difference

- ★ AP performance impact admissions decisions.
- ★ AP and Advanced coursework shows strength of schedule
- ★ College prep work and strength of curriculum – Top 2 Factors in admissions

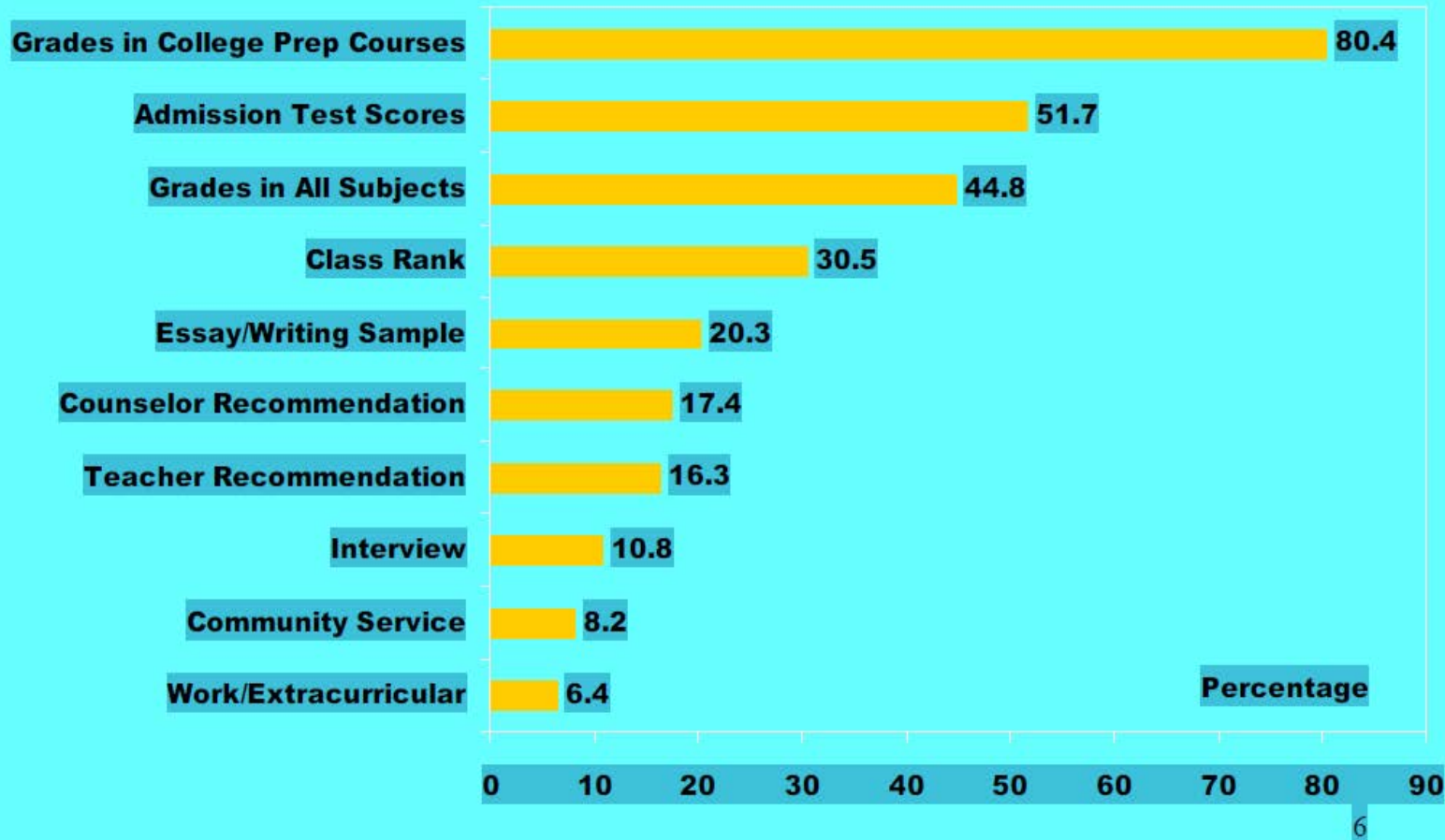
Curriculum Evaluation

- ★ Students evaluated based on courses available at their High School.
- ★ Students compared between like high schools.
- ★ AP Course grade vs. AP Test Score Results
- ★ Strength of course selection over time.

What about the GPA?

- ★ Final Transcript and Grade Evaluation
- ★ Only core content advanced courses are weighted.
- ★ Senior year performance
- ★ Bonus thought...

Factors Influencing College Admission Decisions



New Graduates' Work Force Readiness Report

Percent of high school graduates deficient in this skill

★ Written Communications	82.6%
★ Professionalism/Work Ethic	73.7
★ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	69.1
★ Oral Communications	51.6
★ Ethics/Social Responsibility	49.0
★ Reading Comprehension	36.7
★ Teamwork/Collaboration	35.8
★ Information Technology Application	23.0

ADVANCED COURSES ADDRESS ALL OF THESE SKILLS!

#1 Reason for taking Advanced Coursework!

Majority of graduates would have taken harder courses

Knowing what you know today about the expectations of college/work

■ College students
■ Students who did not go to college

Would have taken more challenging courses in at least one area



Would have taken more challenging courses in:

Math



Science



English



How Do I Help?

Tips for Supporting your Student

- ★ Course Selection – Select what they NEED, what will BENEFIT
- ★ Practice Working Under a Time Limit
- ★ Devote the Time
- ★ Practice Delayed Gratification
- ★ Learn to Structure Days/time
- ★ Have a Plan for Failure

Tips for Supporting your Student

- ★ Believe in Teamwork
- ★ Set Goals
- ★ Reflect to Build Self Awareness
- ★ Celebrate Success
- ★ Provide a place
- ★ Be involved (review the work, know the teacher)

Other Resources

- ★ www.shmoop.com – AP, SAT, ACT test prep – free services for SBISD students.
- ★ www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy
- ★ www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- ★ www.Khanacademy.org – free tutorials and support, SAT prep
- ★ Naviance
- ★ On Ramps Website

For More Information

- ★ **Your School Counselor**
- ★ **AP / Pre-AP / GT**
- ★ **Amy.Ellingson@springbranchisd.com**
- ★ **Dual Credit / Dual Enrollment / ECP**
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