



Your path
to excellence
starts here.

Advanced Placement® at Montverde Academy

In the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP®) classes offered at Montverde Academy, you'll face new challenges and learn new skills in the subjects you care about. MVA provides an extensive selection of AP offerings. These courses, designed for students who are academically prepared and motivated to take on college-level courses, are taught by MVA teachers who are specially trained through participation in AP Workshops and Summer Institutes.

montverde.org



A study done in 2008 by the College Board found that students who took AP® courses in high school had better four-year graduation rates in college than those who did not take an AP course.

This study also showed that graduation rates for AP English Literature students were 62 percent higher than graduation rates for students who took other English courses in high school. (dodea.edu, 2018)

BENEFITS

Study abroad
College admissions

Scholar awards
College credits



Why should I take an AP course?

Regardless of the extra effort needed to be successful in an AP course, there are many benefits. Consider the following:

- You will have the opportunity to study a subject in-depth, at the college level, so you will be more prepared for college work.
- If you receive a qualifying score on an AP Exam, you may be eligible for higher level course placement at the college level and/or course credits at many colleges and universities in the United States.
- The AP Program offers a number of Scholar Awards to students for outstanding performance on AP Exams. This achievement is noted on the AP transcript and recognized by colleges.

Is there an AP course that will interest me?

There are AP courses in virtually every subject including arts, languages, math, science, and social studies. At Montverde Academy, we offer 34 Advanced Placement® courses, which is more than any independent school in Central Florida.

34

MONTVERDE ACADEMY

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TRINITY PREP

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LAKE HIGHLAND PREP

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BISHOP MOORE

22

FIRST ACADEMY

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FOUNDATION ACADEMY

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REAL LIFE

2

WIN. PREP

Advanced Placement Course Offerings

For 2019-20, the Upper School at Montverde Academy offers 34 Advanced Placement courses in the following subject areas.

Arts	AP Art History AP Music Theory AP Studio Art 2-D Design AP Studio Art 3-D Design AP Studio Art Drawing
Computer Science	AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A
English	AP English Language and Composition AP English Literature and Composition
Mathematics	AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC
Capstone	AP Seminar AP Research
Science	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1: Algebra-based AP Physics 2: Algebra-based AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Social Studies	AP European History AP Comparative Government and Politics AP Human Geography AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics AP Psychology AP United States Government and Politics AP United States History AP World History
World Languages	AP Chinese Language and Culture AP Spanish Language and Culture AP Spanish Literature and Culture AP French Language and Culture



AP Biology student prerequisites:

9th grade students must have

- Completed Algebra I and Geometry with a grade of at least 87% and be enrolled in Algebra II or a higher math class
- A combined score on the PSAT of at least 1150 (or an equivalent score on an alternative standardized test)
- A recommendation from their current science teacher
- A grade of at least 87 percent in their 8th grade science and English courses
- Participated in an intensive pre-AP Biology summer program

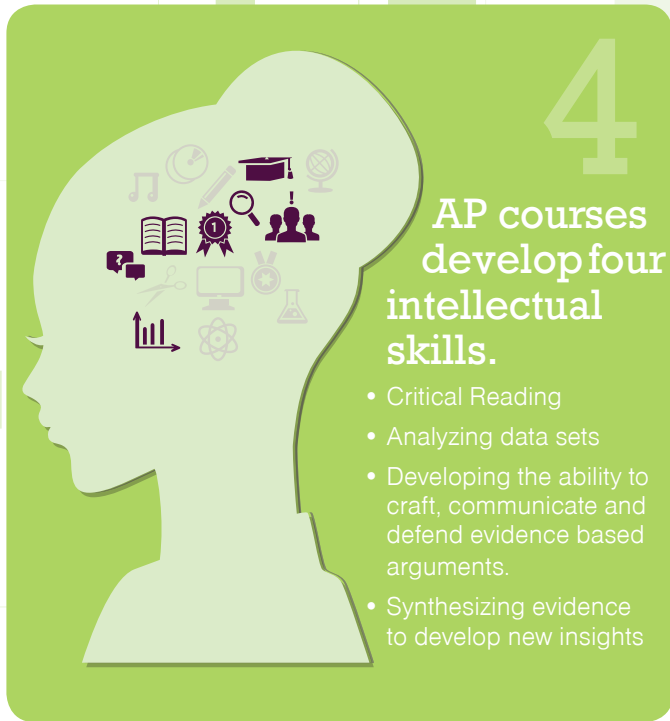
AP Human Geography and AP World History student prerequisites:

9th grade students must have

- A grade of at least 87 percent in their 8th grade social studies and English courses
- A recommendation from their 8th grade social studies and English teachers
- A combined score on the PSAT of at least 1150 (or an equivalent score on an alternative standardized test)

You don't need to be at the top of your class to be an AP student, but you do need to be prepared. AP classes are tough, but if you're willing to work hard, you'll find that the skills you need to succeed are ones that you already use in other parts of your life.

How difficult are AP courses?



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AP courses develop four intellectual skills.

- Critical Reading
- Analyzing data sets
- Developing the ability to craft, communicate and defend evidence based arguments.
- Synthesizing evidence to develop new insights

AP courses are college-level courses that provide the most talented high school students the opportunity to master advanced material. Students who successfully complete the AP exams can receive college credit, advanced placement, or both from thousands of colleges and universities. Compared with regular high school courses, AP courses are more demanding. Depending on the subject, you may read and write more, analyze material, synthesize ideas, solve problems, and evaluate arguments. Classes are comparable to sophisticated college courses. The four intellectual skills and interests developed in AP courses – reading critically, analyzing data sets, synthesizing evidence to develop new insights, and developing the ability to craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments - equip students for life-long learning.

What are AP Exams?



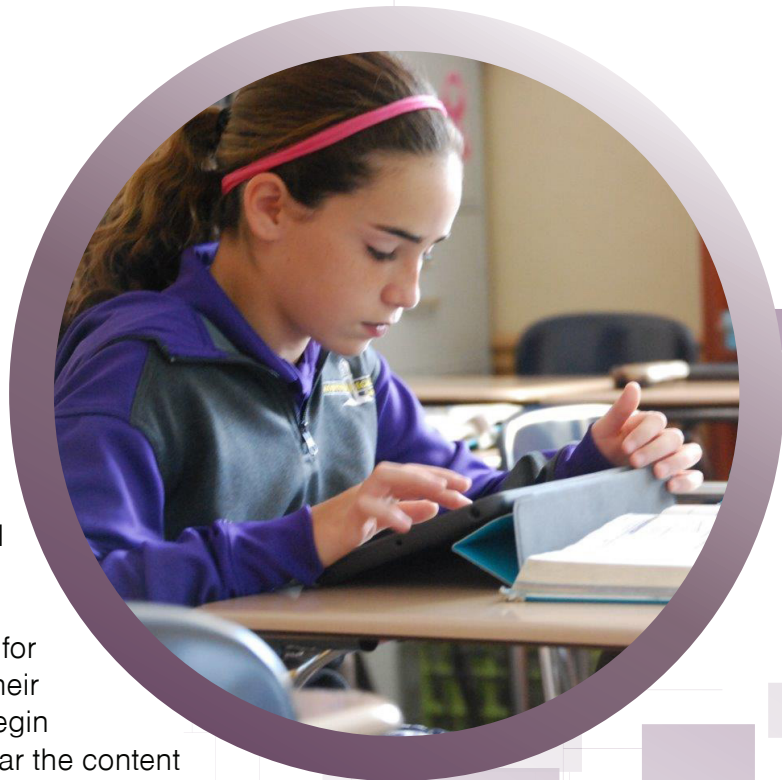
At the conclusion of an AP course, students will take the corresponding AP Exam. AP Exams are two to three-hour exams, given in May, made up of multiple-choice and free-response (essay) questions. They are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 considered a “qualifying” score. The more selective colleges and universities may accept a 4 or 5 for credit. The College Board website provides a list of colleges and universities in the United States that award academic credit at the college or university level. This list can be accessed at collegeboard.com.

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Am I ready for an AP course exam?

If you are committed to participating actively in an AP class and doing the out-of-class assignments, you have met a major prerequisite for success!

“Keeping up” is a basic practice for any college-level course. These courses move rapidly and cover a lot of ground. Your record in earlier courses is the most obvious indicator of that ability. At MVA, preparation for AP-level courses begins long before students take their first AP course. As early as fourth grade, students begin responding to Document-Based Questions. Each year the content becomes more advanced and their writing and analytical skills more developed. MVA also uses Thinking Maps in all divisions to instruct and encourage students toward metacognition. Students who enter MVA as ninth graders are not at a disadvantage, however, as our AP teachers are very prepared to develop the skills the qualified students will need to be successful in the courses.



AP Teachers
must attend
AP workshops
regularly

15
Years of
classroom
experience

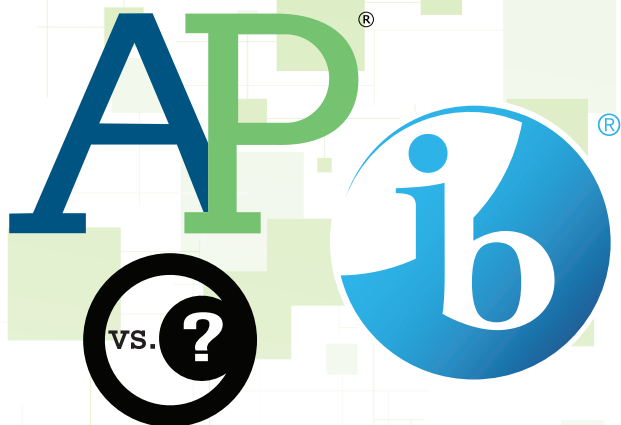
College
Board
training

23
AP teachers
at MVA

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Who
teaches AP
at MVA?



Because the AP program is a vital component of our Upper School curriculum, MVA invests heavily in the hiring, retaining, and training of teachers for these courses. Currently, our 23 AP teachers have an average of over 15 years in the classroom. AP teachers who are new to Montverde Academy attend a weeklong Summer Institute run by the College Board and return to an Institute on a regular basis thereafter. In addition, teachers also attend one-day AP Workshops during the school year. Perhaps most beneficial to our students, many of our teachers are also College Board readers for the exams. They spend a week each summer with other AP teachers and college professors, scoring the Free-Response Questions and learning more about how to help students succeed from the subject-area leaders from the College Board.



At Montverde, in-depth analysis has been done throughout the past few years in consideration for the Academy to select the academic program which best serves our student population.

Which program do colleges and universities prefer?

For various reasons, colleges do not automatically consider AP or IB harder or more impressive on a transcript. Because of this, colleges – especially the most selective ones – just want to see you have taken the most challenging course load available at your high school. Jay Mathews, an educational columnist for the Washington Post noted, “IB and AP students share a great advantage when seeking admission to selective colleges, who want students that have taken the most demanding courses... In the course of pursuing those college goals, high schools become better places to learn and better places to augment skills as a teacher.”

Although IB higher-level courses are usually accepted by colleges, standard-level IB courses are not always accepted. In contrast, AP is offered at one level. So if you take three higher-level IB courses and three standard-level IB courses as part of the diploma program, you may end up with less credit than you would for the same six AP courses.

Which program works best for a student with a busy co-curricular schedule?

MVA has many students who like to balance a commitment to co-curricular offerings with a rigorous selection of coursework, and this is consistent with feedback from competitive colleges and university Deans of Admissions who indicate their desire to admit students who are academically capable but will also contribute to their school communities beyond the classroom. Since IB is a program concept curriculum, the opportunity to create this type of balance is prohibited. Should our MVA students aspire to be part of a program concept, they can choose from expansive offerings through the Study Area Concentration (SAC) program, which is inclusive of many AP (a minimum of 5) classes. In 2019, Montverde Academy students will take more than 700 AP exams. This indicates that even our busiest student-athletes and student-performers take at least one AP course during high school, preparing them for the rigors that lie ahead. To quote one MVA alumnus who graduated from Harvard University and played on their basketball team, “My AP courses at Montverde Academy definitely prepared me for college. I haven’t taken any courses at Harvard that were any harder than my AP classes at Montverde Academy.” - Ugo Okam ’10



While both programs are highly recognized by colleges and universities, MVA has decided to commit to a varied and rich offering of 34 AP classes in English, World Languages, Math, Science, Computer Science, Fine Arts, and Social Studies. This commitment allows MVA students to engage in a selection of high-level classes across disciplines. In addition, although the College Board provides a curriculum overview and course description for each AP course, AP teachers have a great deal of flexibility and autonomy in designing the courses to best meet the needs of their students. Teachers are able to collaborate and create interdisciplinary units of study, which is a critical component of the AP Capstone program, outlined below. The IB program tends to be more prescriptive, allowing for less flexibility for teachers.

Are there differences between AP and IB?



To further promote interdisciplinary research and communication, MVA offers the AP Capstone program. According to the College Board, this program “equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions. AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — AP Seminar and AP Research — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses. Participating schools can use the AP Capstone program to provide unique research opportunities for current AP students, or to expand access to AP by encouraging students to master the argument-based writing skills that the AP Capstone program develops.” Schools must apply to the College Board to gain approval to offer the Capstone program, and currently MVA is one of only about 1,100 high schools in the country that have been granted that approval.



Rigorous, college level materials and expectations



- Score is determined solely by the end of the course exam
- Recognized in the U.S. with growing recognition in countries like Thailand, Australia, and the U.K.
- Courses are one year long. You can choose as many as will fit in your schedule.
- The student chooses which courses and subjects to take. It can be any combination.
- Courses meet every day



- Score is determined by internal assessments and of course exam
- A combination of six courses from different subjects like math, English, and science.
- Must complete an extended essay, Theory of Knowledge and community service hours.
- SL courses meet every other day. HL courses meet three out of four days per week.
- You are committed to the same six courses (plus TOK) for two years.
- Recognized in almost all countries that RIS students commonly attend, including the U.S.

Students who have challenged themselves during their high school career at Montverde Academy with a series of honors and AP courses in multiple disciplines will be well prepared for the rigors of an Ivy League school as well as other top tier institutions. However, one must understand the difference between being prepared for the academic rigor of an Ivy League school and being accepted to an Ivy League school. In the past five years, Montverde Academy has had students accepted to Yale, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell and Duke, among other top tier institutions.



Admission to Ivy League and other top-tier schools is highly competitive. Applicants have a better than a 90 percent chance of being rejected by one of these schools. As indicated in the chart below, the 25th percentile average SAT score is 1360. The mean SAT score is 1460, and the 75th percentile average is 1550. While not a definitive measure of success at an Ivy League school, colleges and universities recognize that there is a disparaging difference in the quality of education among secondary schools across the United States. For that reason, AP courses and SAT scores are a standard measure against an established norm to determine aptitude and performance. Performance on AP exams and SAT tests can indicate a student's ability to thrive in a competitive academic environment. In an effort to prepare our students for admission to these top-tier schools, MVA offers an SAT preparation course in addition to the 34 AP course offerings.

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Will MVA’s AP program prepare me for admission to an Ivy League school?

There is no magical formula to earning admission to an Ivy League school. Consistently, college university deans of admission at competitive colleges and universities remark that they look for students who have challenged themselves academically during their high school career. This would translate into pursuing honors and AP coursework and performing well on the AP exams. Neither the AP or IB program is considered more desirable in the review process by college and university deans of admission. Our college guidance department contacted the eight Ivy League schools' admissions offices, who affirmed that neither AP nor IB is given preference over the other. Any school or educational consultant that suggests that one or the other program is more capable of assisting a student to gain admission to an Ivy League school is at a minimum misleading.

Ivy League College or University	Acceptance Rate	25th Percentile SAT Score	75th Percentile SAT Score
California Institute of Technology	8.8	1500	1600
Yale University	6.3	1210	1600
Georgetown University	17.4	1320	1520
University of Chicago	8.8	1435	1600
Bowdoin College	14.9	1340	1520
Johns Hopkins University	16.1	1360	1510
Harvard University	6	1410	1600
Dartmouth College	11.5	1360	1550
Princeton University	7.4	1400	1600
Columbia University	7	1390	1570
Duke University	11.4	1370	1550
University of Pennsylvania	10.4	1360	1550
Brown University	8.7	1330	1550
Vanderbilt University	13.1	1430	1580
Rice University	15.1	1390	1550
Middlebury College	17.2	1260	1470
Washington & Lee University	19.5	1320	1460
Average	11.7	1360	1550