

Who should take an AP class?

The Advanced Placement experience is not for every student. Before choosing to enroll your child in an AP course, consider these factors:

- Your child's past performance in the subject area. If a student has always excelled at science, AP Chemistry may be a great idea. On the other hand, if he or she tends to struggle in math, AP Calculus might be too much of an ordeal.

Your child's interest in the subject area. A student that enjoys learning about science will deal with the difficulty of the AP science curriculum far better than a student that feels forced to take an AP science course for the perceived external rewards.

- Your child's skills. AP courses in the humanities—English, history, philosophy, etc.—require heavy amounts of reading and writing. Is your student prepared for long, difficult reading assignments, multiple essays, and in-depth research papers?

- Your child's schedule. A student who plays sports year-round, holds leadership positions in one or more extracurricular activities, and/or has a part-time job may find it difficult to meet the sizeable obligations of an AP class.

Articles that discuss academics, stress and college:

Rethinking College Admissions Frank Bruni
Op-Ed NY Times January 19, 2016

Stress is making our children ill; here is what we can do about it. Ro Khanna, Vicki Abeles and Tarun Galgali. San Francisco Chronicle January 2, 2017

I go to a competitive high school in suburbia. The stress is killing me. Ethan Brown.
Vox March 29, 2016

9 things I wish people understood about getting into college. Katherine Cohen Vox
March 25, 2015.