About Advanced Placement® at BASIS Independent Schools

What is "Advanced Placement® (AP")? 

- Administered by the College Board to promote college readiness, AP courses and exam scores are objective measures to assess a high school student and permit the student to bypass introductory college courses. 
- Many colleges and universities use AP courses, with their demanding syllabi, as an integral part of their admissions decisions.

Why does BASIS Independent Schools use AP courses and exams to measure student learning? 

- BASIS Independent Schools uses the American AP course and exam system to ensure American students are as well prepared as their international peers for analytically demanding and information intensive 21st century careers. 
- Standards in American education are subjective and vary widely from school to school. AP exams, recognized around the world, allow comparison of students at different schools. 
- AP exams are the answer to the matriculation examinations used in high-performing systems in Europe and Asia, whose students are competing for the same college seats.

How does BASIS Independent Schools use AP? 

- BASIS Independent Schools prepares students to demonstrate mastery in all core courses, as well as foreign language and fine arts, through AP exams. 
- Our belief is that students should be challenged. Our advanced curriculum allows middle school students to take a diverse course load so they are prepared for AP courses and exams later. Seniors can take advantage of post-AP and capstone courses in specialized topics.

How does this accelerated AP schedule affect senior year and college admissions? 

- BASIS Independent Schools approaches Senior Year as a bridge year between our program and college. Rather than ending the academic high school journey, Senior Year is a transition year that focuses specifically on college readiness. While many private schools will graduate students out with APs, BASIS Independent Schools places APs earlier into the high school program, so that the all of grade 12 is dedicated to college counseling, capstone courses, and the Senior Project.

Why did BASIS Independent Schools choose AP versus IB? 

- Unlike most high schools, which allow students to take only the AP classes they are interested in, BASIS Independent Schools requires AP courses in all core subjects. While IB is similar in requiring students to take advanced classes in many subjects, BASIS Independent Schools allows students to have the freedom to take a variety of APs to meet our requirements. 
- AP courses are not restricted to upper high school grades like IB. The flexibility and acceleration of courses in our middle school ensures students are well prepared for APs in early high school. This allows them to take research-heavy post-AP and Capstone courses later; IB does not offer these opportunities for college-level study. 
- While both AP and IB programs prepare students to demonstrate mastery of basic concepts and skills, the AP model better fits BASIS Curriculum Schools’ vision of teacher autonomy. Through AP, we can empower our educators to provide instruction and assess learning in the ways that fit their passions and their students’ needs.

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2018 AP Exam Results

Exam Pass Rate

**BASIS Curriculum Schools**

- **National AP Scholar**: 1% vs. 13%
- **AP Scholar with Distinction**: 7% vs. 32%
- **AP Scholar with Honor**: 4% vs. 8%
- **AP Scholar**: 10% vs. 14%
- **All AP Scholar Award Levels**: 22% vs. 54%

**U.S.*

- **National AP Scholar**: 58.44%
- **AP Scholar with Distinction**: 32%
- **AP Scholar with Honor**: 8%
- **AP Scholar**: 10%
- **All AP Scholar Award Levels**: 22%

**All Countries**

- **National AP Scholar**: 58.97%
- **AP Scholar with Distinction**: 32%
- **AP Scholar with Honor**: 8%
- **AP Scholar**: 10%
- **All AP Scholar Award Levels**: 22%

Average Exam Scores

- **BASIS Curriculum Schools**: 3.87 out of 5
- **U.S.***: 2.87 out of 5
- **All Countries**: 2.89 out of 5

2018 AP Scholar Awards

(Percent of AP Test Takers Earning AP Scholar Distinction)

- **National AP Scholar**: 1% for BASIS Curriculum Schools vs. 13% for All Countries
- **AP Scholar with Distinction**: 7% for BASIS Curriculum Schools vs. 32% for All Countries
- **AP Scholar with Honor**: 4% for BASIS Curriculum Schools vs. 8% for All Countries
- **AP Scholar**: 10% for BASIS Curriculum Schools vs. 14% for All Countries
- **All AP Scholar Award Levels**: 22% for BASIS Curriculum Schools vs. 54% for All Countries

AP Performance Over Time

(At BASIS Curriculum Schools)

- **2015**: 3,619 test takers, 90% pass rate
- **2016**: 3,103 test takers, 88% pass rate
- **2017**: 2,671 test takers, 86% pass rate
- **2018**: 3,946 test takers, 84% pass rate

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**AP Scholar**

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

**AP Scholar with Distinction**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams.

**AP Scholar with Honor**

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams.

**National AP Scholar**

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of those exams.