

Instruction

Advanced Placement/Honors/Accelerated Program Information

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District encourages all students to take a challenging academic program. Mira Costa High School maintains comprehensive Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and Accelerated courses to make it possible for academically talented and high achieving students to increase the challenge of their studies. The policies described herein apply to currently enrolled Mira Costa students who are working on their course schedule for the following academic year.

Teachers in the Mira Costa AP/Honors/Accelerated program are committed to preparing students to achieve academic excellence that will ensure superior preparation for college course work. These courses are more rigorous than college prep level courses. Teachers cover curriculum at a faster pace and in greater depth, while incorporating more complex analysis. An AP class is a college level course that culminates with an exam, which can earn college credit for the student. In an effort to ensure a high caliber AP/Honors/Accelerated program, prerequisites have been established to set admission criteria for these courses and to serve as indicators of the academic skills needed to succeed.

This policy applies to the following courses in the Course Description Handbook:

Social Studies:

AP European History, AP US History, AP Government, AP Economics, AP Psychology

Science:

AP Biology, AP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Physics, Honors Physics, AP Environmental Science

Foreign Language:

AP French, AP Spanish

Mathematics:

AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics

English:

Advanced English 1-2, English 3-4 Accelerated, English 5-6 Honors, AP English Lit and Comp

Fine Arts:

AP Art History, AP Studio Art, AP Music Theory, Computer Science

InstructionPrerequisites/Indicators for Successful Placement

Students most likely to succeed in AP/Honors/Accelerated courses have the following characteristics:

- * High academic achievement and intellectual ability;
- * Self-motivation and self-discipline;
- * Good organizational skills;
- * Excellent written expression;
- * An avid interest in reading;
- * Good oral communication skills;
- * An ability to work independently and collaboratively;
- * Good Citizenship and attendance

Students are invited to seek placement in AP/Honors/Accelerated courses if they comply with the prerequisites below:

If the student wishes to request special admission to the advanced course, then the student must pursue the Special Request/Academic Waiver procedure specifically described in these course materials. However, if a student wishing to enter an AP, Honors or Accelerated course earned more than one letter grade below the prerequisite grade, he or she is not eligible to submit a waiver.

Student Expectations

Upon acceptance into an AP/Honors/Accelerated course, students are expected to:

- * Maintain a high standard of academic performance and integrity
- * Be in class every day. Excessive absences are grounds for removal from the course.
- * Maintain a grade of B or higher in both semesters. Students earning a grade of C or lower in either semester may not be eligible to take another AP/Honors/Accelerated course in the same academic department unless a waiver is submitted and accepted.

Course Prerequisite**Special Placement/Academic Waiver Policy and Procedure**

If a student does not meet the prerequisites required for enrollment in any course, including but not limited to Advanced Placement, Honors and Accelerated courses, then the student may request special placement in the course. A Special Request/Waiver Form (Form 1) must be completed and submitted to the designated box in the Mira Costa school office. The deadlines for submitting the Form are as follows:

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1. April 15, if the student's first semester grade from this school year does not meet the grade prerequisite for the course for which the student applied; and is within one letter grade of the grade prerequisite.
2. August 11, if the student's first semester grade from this school year meets the grade prerequisite for the course for which the student applied, but his/her second semester grade does not.

A separate form must be submitted for each course for which an academic waiver is requested.

Each special request will be reviewed by the school administration on a case by case basis. The primary factors that will be considered are the student's prior grades, a departmental evaluation of the student, a skills assessment, and California Standards Test scores in the applicable academic discipline. Special requests via the academic waiver process will be considered only if space is available in the requested course.

Students placed in a course based on a Special Request/Waiver are expected to meet and maintain the academic standards of the course discussed in the Mira Costa High School Course Description Handbook and the teacher's syllabus.

Transfer students entering directly into AP coursework from another school, must meet the prerequisite without the use of a waiver.

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Form 1
Mira Costa High School

Course Prerequisite

Special Request/Academic Waiver Form

This form is for students who would like to take a course, but do not meet the prerequisites set forth in the Course Description Handbook.

Student Name: _____ Grade level in Fall: _____

Name of course for which special placement/academic waiver is requested:

1. List the prerequisites for the above class (these can be found in the Course Description Handbook on the school's website - www.miracostahigh.org):

2. Please initial all of the following statements:

_____ I understand that I do not meet the prerequisites for the above course, but I still request placement.

_____ I understand that these prerequisites are an important indicator of the likelihood of success in the requested course.

_____ I am willing to do the work necessary to meet the rigorous academic standards of the course.

_____ I understand that the grade that I earn in this class transfers with me if I make a course level change.

_____ I understand that should the course teacher determine that my performance fails to meet the rigorous academic standards of the course, I may be required to drop to a lower level course.

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3. List your semester grades for all courses completed at Mira Costa in previous levels of the requested discipline/subject matter (Summer School courses are indicated as SS).

Course	Teacher	Report Card Grades		
_____	_____	1st Sem ____	2nd Sem ____	SS ____
_____	_____	1st Sem ____	2nd Sem ____	SS ____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent/guardian name)

(Street address)

(City, State, Zip)

_____ (Telephone number) _____ (Cell phone number)

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AP Course Prerequisites

AP English Lit and Comp: B in English 5-6 Honors or B in English 5-6 CP

AP Spanish 9-10: B in Spanish 7-8

AP Spanish Lit 11-12: B in Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Honors or B in AP Spanish 9-10

AP French: French 4 CP with a grade of C- or better

AP Statistics: B in Algebra 3-4 or Algebra 3-4/Trig

AP Calculus AB: B in Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus BC: B in AP Calculus AB or B in year-long Pre-Calculus

AP Biology: B in Biology CP and Chemistry CP or B in Chemistry Honors

AP Chemistry: B in Honors Chemistry and B in Algebra 3-4

AP Environmental Science: B in Biology (AP or CP) and Chemistry (Honors or CP)

AP Physics: Concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus

AP European History: Geography completion or Model UN completion or minimum overall academic GPA of 3.0

AP US History: B in AP European History or B in Modern World History CP

AP Gov/Econ: B in AP US History or B in US History CP

AP Computer Science A Java: None

AP Art History: Minimum overall GPA of 3.0

AP Studio Art: Portfolio review

AP Music Theory: Passing Music Theory placement exam

Exhibit

MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Manhattan Beach, California

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