

Advanced Placement Biology Frequently Asked Questions

What is AP Biology?

The AP Biology course is designed to enable you to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. It is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course.

Why should I take AP Biology?

Students who understand and are willing to accept that academic classes will become increasingly rigorous through high school and college often take AP classes to prepare themselves for these challenges. AP classes are weighted more than other classes and they look great on college applications if you're willing to put in the necessary work. The AP Exam, taken at the end of the year, offers the opportunity to earn college credit (often worth thousands of dollars in tuition) while still in high school.

How much and what type of work will I be doing?

A 90-minute class typically includes discussion and notes and lecture about a specific biology topic for about 30 minutes. The remainder of the class is usually spent doing an activity such as a laboratory experiment, group work or reading discussions.

You should expect to work one-to-two hours each night. Homework typically consists of a reading assignment or questions related to laboratory assignments.

What are tests and quizzes like?

Quizzes will be given for each topic. You'll have tests at the end of each unit. The test typically includes multiple choice, matching and an essay question. In mid-May, each student will take the AP Exam.

What is the AP Exam?

The AP Exam is the end-of-course test for AP Biology. It is administered by the College Board. There are two parts on the exam. Part 1 contains 53 multiple choice questions and 6 grid-in questions. Part II consists of 8 free-response questions (2 long and 6 short). Each part counts as 50% of the score. Students have about three hours to take the exams. Scores range from 1 to 5 and students who get a 3, 4, or 5 stand a good chance of receiving college credit for their score.

Who can I talk to if I need more information?

It's likely that some of your friends and acquaintances have taken an AP class before, and talking with them might give you an idea of what's in store. The best way would probably be to speak with Ms. Nelson-Rogers. You can email her at laura.nelsonrogers@nn.k12.va.us.

You can also visit the College Board's AP Biology website here:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-biology>.

Information on AP courses was provided by The College Board. See [AP Courses](#) for more information.