

Advanced Placement Calculus BC Frequently Asked Questions

What is AP Calculus BC?

Students will explore the key concepts, methods, and applications of single-variable calculus including all topics covered in AP Calculus AB (functions, graphs, and limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus) as well as additional topics in differential and integral calculus, such as parametric, polar and vector functions, and series.

Become familiar with concepts, results, and problems expressed in multiple ways including graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support your conclusions.

Why should I take AP Calculus BC?

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 topic for about 30 minutes. The remainder of the class is usually spent doing an activity such as group work or practice problems.

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 and problems. 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 Calculus BC. It is administered by the College Board. There are two parts on the exam. Part I contains 45 multiple choice questions. Part II consists of 6 free-response questions. Calculators are required for some portions of the exam and prohibited for other parts. Each part counts as 50% of the score. Students have about three hours and fifteen minutes 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 Mrs. Julyn Sheppard. You can email her at julyn.sheppard@nn.k12.va.us. You can also visit the College Board's AP Calculus BC website here: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-calculus-bc>.

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