

A U.S. Department of Education study examined the factors which could be used to predict college success — the attainment of the Bachelor's degree. The study concluded, "No matter how one divides the universe of students... **a high school curriculum of high academic intensity and quality is the factor that contributes to a student's likelihood of completing a college degree.**"

Courses such as AP outranked, grade point, class rank, SAT scores as a contributing factor for success. Just one AP course exposes a student to college-level work, the challenge of the course and the emphasis on critical thinking, study skills and increased content knowledge prepares a student for college work.

**In other words, those who took AP courses were more likely to succeed in college **

10 Reasons to take AP Biology

1. You can impress your friends with big words, such as ribulose biphosphate, deamination, chi square analysis, and recombinant DNA. This may also improve your chances of winning at trivia games!



2. Your dog will approve of you taking this course, as it will teach you to appreciate all animals, understand how we are all connected, and give you insights into behavior.

3. You will develop skills that can be applied to ANY course of study you choose to pursue in the future: a) Organizational skills b) Study Skills c) Critical thinking skills d) Analytical writing skills e) Data analysis f) Strong work ethic. These skills are **NOT** specific for success in science only, but in **ALL** academic endeavors (law, business, arts, engineering, liberal studies, etc).

4. You get to think really big thoughts and ask really deep questions. What is "Life"? Could there be life anywhere else? How can we improve our lives? Should we "mess" with Mother Nature?

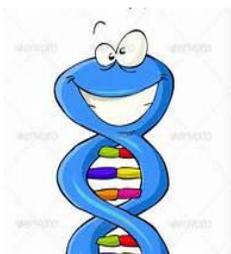
5. For students interested in the physical sciences, this course provides the opportunity to study how the principles of physics & chemistry are applied to living systems. After this class you can no longer say "when will I ever use this"?



6. You get to do cool labs, draw pictures, create concept maps and utilize 3D models of science processes. You also get to color!

7. For prospective science majors, this course provides a solid foundation for higher-level science courses and degree programs (i.e. pre-med, nursing, bio-engineering, pre-vet, research, microbiology, etc). Since your science GPA will be used to apply to competitive programs this class can help make your college classes easier. Think of it as a movie preview of what's ahead. Only in this movie you will already know the ending! Or, for students **NOT** interested in pursuing a collegiate science degree, this course provides an excellent opportunity to earn college credit to satisfy your degree programs' mandatory science requirement. Scoring a 4 or 5 on the AP Test will get you 8 college credits in science (BIO 181 and 182 with Labs is the normal)! A score of 3 will get you 4 college credits (usually sci. lab elective). Contact your college to see how they handle the AP class credit. Get it done & leave more time for electives and courses you want to take in college.

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8. You will appreciate your great, great, grandparents in a new way as you examine how their genes have an impact on your life today. You'll understand how your cells actually contain the information of your ancestors and **WHY** you can blame them for all of your problems due to you receiving "bad genes".

9. You will sharpen your debate skills as you examine issues in bioethics, when life begins, animal experimentation, environmental issues, and genetic modification!

10. You'll learn the best ways to deal with zombie infestation, pandemics, clone invasions, food shortages, and hostile takeovers by artificial intelligences. Your very survival might depend on understanding how living (and non-living) systems work. 😊

Some Common Student Concerns About AP Biology:

1) Concern 1: "AP Biology is difficult"

Response: ANYTHING can be difficult if you don't put in the minimal amount of time & effort and the most rewarding things in life are often the most challenging!

2) Concern 2: "The tests are hard"

Response: The exams are complete but FAIR... and curved if needed (see #1).

3) Concern 3: "AP science courses are only for the smartest students"

Response: ANYONE can excel in this course if they put in the time & effort. Build a group network and I will ALWAYS be available to work with anyone who is willing to seek my assistance. Also, many online resources are available to assist students who work, play sports, or just need them when they are ready to study or review (ask around).

4) Concern 4: "I did not do well in Biology"

Response: You are NOT the same student you were in 9th grade! If you did not put your best self into that course, there is no reason you can't challenge yourself to step it up and grow!

5) Concern 5: "No one gets an A"!

Response: NOT true! Most students earn an A or B and CeHS test scores are usually the highest in the district and have ranked highly in the state! I will do my best to help prepare you for success on the AP Bio test!

