

Verden High School

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors Academic Programs

Overview

Verden High School is committed to providing students with rigorous academic opportunities that prepare them for success in college, career, and beyond. As part of this commitment, Verden High School offers **Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors coursework** designed to provide academically motivated students with opportunities to engage in challenging, college-level academic content while still in high school.

Verden High School utilizes a **5.0 weighted grading scale** for applicable advanced coursework, rather than the traditional 4.0 grading scale. The weighted scale recognizes the increased academic rigor associated with AP and Honors coursework.

Advanced coursework is available to eligible students through Verden High School's academic program, including online AP course options provided through the **THRIVE program**. THRIVE utilizes **Edgenuity** online coursework as an outsourced educational program serving Verden High School students.

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Advanced Placement courses provide students with the opportunity to complete rigorous, college-level coursework while enrolled in high school. AP courses are designed to prepare students for the corresponding standardized AP examinations administered by the **College Board**.

Successful completion of an AP course demonstrates that a student has completed advanced high school coursework; however, **completion of the AP course alone does not automatically result in college credit**.

To potentially receive college credit or advanced placement, a student must:

1. Successfully complete the AP course.
2. Register for and take the corresponding **College Board AP Examination**.
3. Earn a qualifying score on the AP Examination.
4. Have the AP score accepted by the college or university the student plans to attend.

AP examinations are scored on a **1–5 scale**. Many colleges and universities award credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP scores; however, each institution establishes its own AP credit and placement policies. Requirements may differ regarding:

- The minimum AP score required.
- The number of college credit hours awarded.
- Whether credit is awarded for general education requirements or specific coursework.

- Whether AP credit applies toward a particular degree or major.
- Whether the institution awards college credit, advanced placement, or both.

Students and families are encouraged to consult the AP credit policy of the college or university they plan to attend before assuming that an AP examination score will result in college credit.

AP Examination Costs

Students who wish to receive the potential college-credit or advanced-placement benefits associated with AP coursework must **take the corresponding AP Examination**. AP examination fees are separate from the student's enrollment in the high school AP course.

Students are responsible for the applicable AP examination cost unless another funding source, waiver, or school/district arrangement applies.

AP Course Offerings

Verden High School currently provides the following AP course options through its academic program:

Course Code	Advanced Placement Course
4057	AP English Language and Composition
5121	AP Environmental Science
4615	AP Calculus AB
5415	AP United States History

Course availability may be subject to student enrollment, scheduling, program requirements, and annual course offerings.

THRIVE Online AP Course Delivery

Verden High School offers AP coursework through an online educational option provided through the **THRIVE program**.

THRIVE serves as an outsourced educational program for Verden High School and utilizes **Edgenuity** online courses. This delivery model allows eligible Verden High School students to access rigorous AP coursework that may not be available through the school's traditional classroom schedule.

Students enrolled in an online AP course are expected to meet the same academic expectations associated with advanced coursework, including completing assigned coursework, assessments, projects, and other requirements of the online course.

Enrollment in an online AP course does not eliminate the requirement to take the corresponding College Board AP Examination when a student wishes to pursue AP college credit or advanced placement.

Honors Coursework

In addition to AP coursework, Verden High School offers **Honors-level coursework** to provide students with additional opportunities for academic challenge and preparation for postsecondary education.

Honors courses are designed to provide greater academic rigor, depth, and/or pace than standard-level coursework. Students enrolled in Honors courses are expected to demonstrate increased independence, critical thinking, preparation, and engagement with course material.

Honors coursework is included within Verden High School's **5.0 weighted grading system** when designated as weighted coursework.

Unlike AP courses, successful completion of an Honors course does **not**, by itself, result in college credit. College credit opportunities associated with high school coursework are determined by the policies of individual colleges and universities and may include separate programs such as concurrent enrollment or other articulated-credit opportunities.

5.0 Weighted Grading Scale

Verden High School utilizes a **5.0 grading scale** to recognize the additional academic rigor associated with designated advanced coursework.

The weighted grading system is intended to distinguish advanced academic coursework from standard-level coursework and to recognize students who elect to challenge themselves academically.

Students and families should understand that colleges and universities may recalculate high school GPAs according to their own admissions policies. Therefore, the GPA appearing on a Verden High School transcript may not be calculated in exactly the same manner by every postsecondary institution.

College Credit and Advanced Placement: Important Distinction

Passing an AP course is not the same as earning college credit.

The high school course grade reflects the student's performance in the Verden High School AP course. College credit or advanced placement is determined by the student's performance on the **College Board AP Examination** and the AP policies of the college or university the student attends.

A qualifying AP examination score may allow a student to:

- Earn college credit before beginning college.
- Receive advanced placement and bypass an introductory college course.
- Receive both college credit and advanced placement.
- Potentially reduce the number of courses or semesters required to complete a degree, depending on the institution's policies.

Because AP policies vary among colleges and universities, students should review the AP credit and placement policies of each institution they are considering.

Program Purpose

Verden High School's AP and Honors programs are intended to:

- Provide academically rigorous opportunities for students.
- Prepare students for postsecondary-level coursework.
- Encourage college and career readiness.
- Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning skills.
- Provide students with opportunities to demonstrate college-level academic achievement.
- Support students in pursuing potential college credit and/or advanced placement through AP examinations.
- Expand access to advanced coursework through both traditional and online course delivery.

Verden High School is committed to providing students with meaningful opportunities to pursue challenging coursework and to develop the academic skills necessary for success after graduation.

Official Program Information

For current course availability, enrollment requirements, AP examination registration information, and questions regarding advanced coursework, students and families should contact the **Verden High School Counseling Office**.

Course offerings, online course availability, examination fees, and program requirements are subject to change based on annual scheduling, enrollment, College Board requirements, and school/district policies.