



Advanced Placement at BSS

The Advanced Placement (AP) program creates a community of students and educators who are passionate, curious and committed to academic excellence. The AP program allows the flexibility for students to select specific courses as enrichment in disciplines where they have particular interest. The results of BSS students who elect AP courses continue to exceed provincial, national and global averages at every level.

BSS offers AP courses in biology, calculus, chemistry, Chinese, English language, English literature, French language, physics, psychology, statistics, macroeconomics and microeconomics. The core of AP courses at BSS parallels the material of the Ontario high school university preparation courses and meets the Ontario curriculum expectations, however, in AP courses students take on more work and greater academic challenge. Students achieve an Ontario credit for each AP course studied. Students write exams set by the College Board in May and earn AP level grades (1-5) distinct from their BSS marks.

Note: Achievement in AP exams is recorded on the College Board transcript accessed through a student's online account. Achievement in the AP exam is not recorded on the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

An example of a BSS AP course

BSS Course Title	Grade 12 AP English ENG4UI	
Comprises:	Ontario curriculum - Grade 12 English ENG4U	Advanced Placement Exam preparation - English Literature and Composition
Assessment:	BSS teachers assess the Ontario curriculum expectations covered in the course. Assessment is ongoing throughout the year, ending in June.	One final exam in May, administered and assessed by the College Board.
Students achieve a:	high school credit with a percentage	level 1-5
Recorded on the:	Ontario Secondary School Diploma (issued by BSS on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Education)	College Board Transcript (accessed online by the student through the College Board website)

BSS has an extraordinary record of achievement and success for students writing the AP Exams. 2016 highlights:

- 89% of the exams were scored 3, 4 or 5, which for most students will allow either a university credit or advanced standing. This compares with a Canadian average of 78% and a global average of 58%.
- 35% of the exams scored 5.
- 65% of the exams scored 4 or 5.
- Our cohort received 30 AP Scholar awards.

Why AP?

Most European universities, including those in Britain, value AP results when making admission decisions. Students applying to an American university, and particularly an Ivy League college, should be aware that the American schools may view the scores as significant in the admission process. Thus, AP courses completed in the Grade 11 year have a particular value with international applications. Enrollment in an AP course is also interpreted as a sign of serious academic commitment; college application forms and requests for teacher references ask that courses taken be designated as regular or enriched.

Among the other advantages offered by the AP program are the direction it may provide in the choice of university majors, and the opportunity to earn advanced standing and/or credit at university. Every Canadian university has an AP policy in place; you may find this information on the AP Canada website.

AP Capstone Diploma

BSS was one of the first schools in Canada to be invited to participate as a part of the AP Capstone Pilot. The AP Capstone Diploma is an innovative program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork and communication skills that are increasingly valued by universities. Students will take AP Seminar in their Grade 11 year, followed by AP Research in Grade 12. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of university level academic and research skills. Students who successfully complete these courses will receive two Ontario high school credits:

- AP Seminar – HSP3UI Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology
- AP Research – IDC4UI Interdisciplinary Studies – Independent Project

AP Seminar and Research Certificate

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams only will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ signifying their attainment of university-level academic and research skills.