

STEVENSON

History Course Eligibility Criteria Returning Students 2024

The history department offers regular, honors, and AP courses for grades 10-12. While the majority of students enroll in regular courses that aim to build on the preceding year's historical thinking, reading, and writing skill development, some students are eligible for an honors or AP course. For students who enroll in an AP course, it is expected they will take the national AP examination sponsored by the College Board in the spring. AP Economics is open only to grade 12 students. The honors courses and AP Art History are open to grade 12 students and grade 11 students who have fulfilled or concurrently fulfill the US History requirement. Additional criteria for eligibility for an advanced level course are outlined below.

Eligibility criteria for Honors or AP courses in grades 10-12:

The decision to recommend a student to an honors or AP course for grades 10 through 12 is based upon the teacher's assessment of a student's skills and behavior in accordance with the criteria outlined below. While grades are important, they are not the sole determinant of a student's eligibility:

- *Consistent preparation and engagement in class:* While the ability to meet homework requirements and participate in class are not sufficient qualification alone, each student proceeding to an honors or AP level course demonstrates consistent and thorough preparation for each class meeting, meets assignment and assessment deadlines (or communicates when extensions are necessary), and is diligent in communicating with their teacher and discovering what was missed in the case of absence. Each student demonstrates diligence and attention in class, contributes to the life of the class, and habitually refers to texts and documents to support their ideas in discussion.
- *Adaptable and independent learning:* Each student demonstrates the ability to adapt to a swift pace of learning and the ability to work independently on longer/heftier homework assignments. Students demonstrate clear self-motivation and focus.
- *Reading and comprehension:* Each student proceeding to an honors or AP level course demonstrates a clear ability to comprehend, summarize, contextualize, and articulate the main ideas of both primary and secondary documents. Students are able to discern main ideas apart from the details in each reading. Each student demonstrates the ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of any document based on, for example, the document's author, intended audience, date produced, and significance. Finally, each student demonstrates an ability to draw connections between texts and between historical ideas and events.
- *Analytical writing:* Each student proceeding to an honors or AP level course demonstrates a clear ability to develop a compelling and arguable thesis statement rooted in documentary evidence. In addition, students are able to select compelling

textual evidence and provide analysis of that evidence in support of a thesis in cogent, organized, well crafted body paragraphs.

- *Consistent high grades and responsiveness to feedback in history classes and on assignments and analytical writing assignments:* Each student proceeding to an honors or AP level course consistently receives course grades in the B+/A-/A range and on major assessments and writing assignments. In addition, each student demonstrates an ability to receive, respond well to, and show improvement after receipt of teacher feedback.

Eligibility for AP Economics:

In addition to demonstrating advanced skills in historical thinking, preparation, adaptability, and grades outlined above, students who wish to be eligible for AP Economics in grade 12 must demonstrate strong mathematical reasoning skills and the ability to interpret and analyze data, graphs, and tables. AP Economics is open only to grade 12 students.

Process:

As in other departments, decisions around course eligibility are made between individual students and their teachers. Stevenson history teachers recommend students for advanced level courses only if they demonstrate the skills and behavior in the criteria discussed above. For any student who wishes to be considered for an advanced level course but for whom the teacher does not recommend such placement, the student can initiate a more extensive process. That process will require a student to complete a document analysis and writing assignment to gauge the student's ability to read, comprehend, analyze, and write at the requisite level for an advanced course. The assignment will be reviewed by the succeeding year's honors or AP course teaching team and the department head; eligibility decisions will be made based upon the student's work.