

Honors and AP® Courses

Chicago Virtual Charter School offers a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for high school, college and additional post-secondary plans. High school students who are enrolled at the Chicago Virtual Charter School have the opportunity to complete regular education courses or be placed into Honors or Advanced Placement (AP®) courses taught by highly qualified state-certified teachers. Honor and AP courses provide students with the opportunity for personal growth and encourage intellectual curiosity in pursuing a more in depth study of a particular subject.

AP® and Honors course offerings require a more intensive study and time commitment than what is required in regular courses. **K12 Honors courses** hold students to a greater degree of accountability, and demand even greater independence and self-discipline than their comprehensive counterparts. **The K12 Advanced Placement (AP®) courses** are college-level courses that follow curriculum specified by the College Board and are designed to prepare students for success on AP® exams, providing students the opportunity to earn credit at most of the nation's colleges and universities. Depending on course offerings at CVCS, course choices may be limited and availability is subject to change each semester.

Due to the nature of difficulty of each Honor and AP® course that is offered by CVCS, the school will hold students accountable for meeting a set of criteria to determine if they are eligible for higher course placement. It is important to follow the established guidelines to ensure students will be successful in the rigorous AP® or Honors courses. Students who take Honors and AP® courses will have it designated on their transcript and grades will be weighted more than a regular course, which will be weighted on a five (5) point scale.

AP® courses are recommended more for students who are in eleventh and twelfth grade. Students who are registered in an AP® course at CVCS are required to sit for the AP® Examination offered at other CPS high schools. The CVCS Counselor will help parents and students make testing arrangements when requested, but all testing and travel costs are at each student's own expense.

Criterion for AP®/Honors Course Consideration:

Due to the rigor of Honors and AP® courses, CVCS requires students meet certain criterion before begin considered to take an Honors or AP® course. Students who are interested in taking an Honors or AP® course should schedule time to meet with the High School Advisor before the start of a new semester to find out if they meet all of the following necessary requirements. All Honors and AP classes are at the discretion of and must be approved by the Academic Administrator.

1. ISAT Scores in appropriate subject area above the 90th percentile (for incoming 9th grade students only)
2. PLAN/EXPLORE scores are three (3) points higher than the ACT Standard (10-12th grade placed students)
3. Maintain an A or B average in the previous subject matter course. For example, a student will need to maintain an A or B average in Biology and Chemistry to be placed in an Honors or AP® Physics course.
AND
4. Teacher recommendation (if not already an Honor student in subject area of courses)

Students who take an Honors or AP® course will be expected to complete all of the requirements within the course in order to receive Honors or AP® credit. Students who are enrolled in either course and obtain a grade lower than a B will lose the option to take an Honors or AP® class the following semester, but may be reconsidered if they meet the criterion again in a later semester.