

## COMMON AP QUESTIONS

### Withholding AP Grades

It isn't likely that any AP grade you submit, no matter how low, will hurt you. One reason is that timing is on your side; AP grades are released long after college admissions decisions are made. Another reason is that colleges and universities recognize that applicants with AP experience are much better prepared for the demands of college courses. Therefore, submitting all evidence of your college-level work is generally to your advantage.

However, if you want to withhold a grade, a signature is required in order to process the request, so write to the AP Program and include:

1. *your full name, home address, gender, birth date, and AP number(s)*
2. *the year(s) that you took AP Exams*
3. *the name, city, and state of the college you specified*
4. *the name(s) of the exam(s) for which you want a grade withheld. (All your grades will still appear on the reports sent to you and your high school.)*
5. *a check for the exact amount due made out to "AP Exams." For each grade withheld from a given college, there is a \$5 fee.*

Because AP grades are released in July, your **request for changes in reporting must be received by June 15**. After that date, you may have a grade withheld only on a report for a college you did not previously indicate. The "hold" is permanent for both the designated grade and the college until you **notify us in writing to release the hold**. There's no fee to release the hold, but if you later request that the college receive your grade, the regular grade report service fee of \$13 is charged.

### Canceling AP Grades

You may cancel an AP grade permanently (e.g., you'll never, ever see the grade and it's deleted from your record forever) only if your **request is received by June 15 of the year in which the exam was taken**. The full exam fee is still charged for the canceled grade. There is no fee for canceling a grade, but a signature is required to process the request. Write to the AP Program and include:

1. *your full name, home address, sex, and birth date*
2. *your AP number*
3. *the name, city, and state of the school you attend*
4. *the name(s) of the exam(s) for which you want a grade canceled.*

To expedite your request, complete the [AP Grade Cancellation Form](#) and fax or mail it to AP Services. Remember that this form must be **received** by AP Services no later than June 15.

If "Getting Your AP Grades" hasn't provided you with, "All you ever wanted to know about getting, sending, not getting, and not sending AP grades," send for the current edition of AP Bulletin for Students & Parents by writing to:

AP Order Services  
Dept. E-22  
P.O. Box 6670  
Princeton NJ 08541-6670

or by calling AP Order Services at 609-771-7243. If that doesn't do it, you can [e-mail](#) us.

### AP Students: What About Guessing?

#### Will I lose points if I answer a multiple-choice question wrong? Should I guess?

The answer to the first question is "yes," but not as much as you might think. Your score on the multiple-choice section is based on the number of questions you answer correctly minus a fraction of the number of questions you answer incorrectly. (One-fourth of a point is subtracted for a wrong answer in questions with five answer choices, and one-third of a point in questions with four answer choices.)

The answer to the second question is a conditional "yes." Random guessing is unlikely to raise or lower your grade if you are unsure about the answer to a question, because of the formula (described above) used to deduct points for wrong answers. However, if you have SOME knowledge of the question, and can eliminate one or more answer choices, informed guessing from among the remaining choices is usually to your advantage.

### **Taking an AP Exam Twice**

Students may repeat an exam in a subsequent year. In such cases, both grades will be reported unless a student requests that one be withheld. (The student pays a \$10 service charge each time a grade is withheld from an AP Grade Report sent to a college or university.) If a student takes an AP exam twice during their high school years, both scores will appear on the transcript that the College Board sends to colleges. The student does have the option of having the lower grade withheld (SEE ABOVE). Also, when calculating the AP Scholar awards, **both** grades will be counted in averaging the cumulative AP score, and there is no way to withhold the lower grade from that average. Asked if AP had any recommendation about the advisability of taking an exam twice, the AP representative said, "It is up to the individual student. We really cannot say." They did say that it is perfectly acceptable to take it twice, but would not say if it is advisable.

### **AP Scholar Awards**

The College Board grants several awards to students for their performance on the AP tests. Students scoring 3 or higher on three or more AP exams for full-year courses are recognized as AP Scholars. Students scoring 3 or higher on four or more AP exams for full-year courses with an average exam score of at least 3.25 are recognized as AP Scholars with Honor. Students scoring 3 or higher on five or more AP exams for full-year courses with an average exam score of at least 3.5 are recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction.