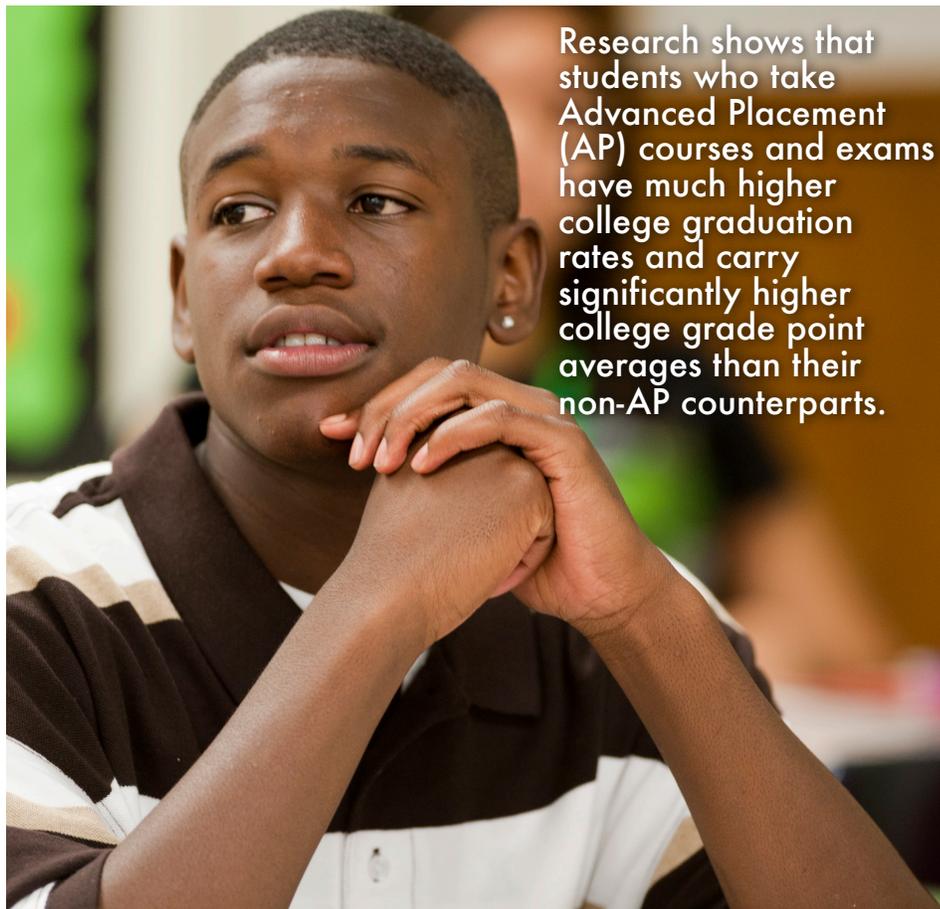


HMS ADVANCED PLACEMENT

AP



Research shows that students who take Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams have much higher college graduation rates and carry significantly higher college grade point averages than their non-AP counterparts.

Why Advanced Placement classes are right for your student

Perhaps our greatest challenge is to make sure that our graduates are prepared to succeed in college or the workplace. Many high school graduates are not prepared. Research shows that students who take Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams have much higher college graduation rates and carry significantly higher college grade points than their non-

AP counterparts. Our goal is to give as many students as possible the chance to take and successfully complete one or more AP courses. With 21 AP courses, Hobbs High School has the largest AP program in New Mexico. In contrast to many programs that only offer Advanced Placement courses to the “academically elite,” Hobbs’ AP courses are open to anyone willing to do the work. “We don’t believe in ‘gatekeepers,’ says Will Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and AP Coordinator. “We have true

open enrollment for all our AP classes.”

By the numbers

Nearly 19 percent of the HHS graduating class of 2010 earned at least one qualifying score on an AP Exam. That’s almost twice the New Mexico average and higher than both the Texas and national average.



Each year, *NEWSWEEK* picks the best high schools in the country based on how hard school staffs work to challenge students with Advanced Placement college-level courses and tests. Just over 1,600 schools—only 6 percent of all the public schools in the U.S.—made the list. For the seventh consecutive year, Hobbs High School made the list in 2010 - coming in at 679. HHS was the only New Mexico high school to break the top 1000 ranking.

<p>AP Courses available at Hobbs High School</p>	<p>Government/Politics Spanish Calculus BC European History Music Theory Environmental Science World History</p>	<p>Statistics English Literature Biology Physics B Chemistry Microeconomics</p>	<p>Computer Science Calculus AB US History Studio Art Physics C English Language Human Geography</p>
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National Recognition

In a district with high poverty rates and a large percentage of minority students, the Hobbs AP program has received national recognition. Hobbs High School won the College Board’s prestigious Inspiration Award in 2006, which was accompanied by a \$25,000 check. The Inspiration Award is given to only three high schools in the country each year in recognition of their outstanding AP programs, their commitment to providing opportunities for all students to participate in rigorous classes, and their commitment to excellence and equity.

In 2008, Hobbs High School received the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement in recognition of their leadership in Advanced

In 2008, 448 students took 804 AP exams. In 2010, 18.8% of graduating seniors had at least one qualifying score on an AP exam - almost twice the New Mexico average and higher than both the Texas average and the national average.

AP students can earn college credits based on their exam scores and Hobbs students can earn extra cash as well. Our student incentive program rewards students with cash for qualifying scores of 3, 4, or 5. Students who earn four scores of four also win a \$2,000 computer. At our annual AP banquet over \$30,000 in checks were given to students in August 2010.

“Despite a variety of complex challenges, high schools have set remarkably high expectations for their students and have provided the support and encouragement that is needed for their ultimate success,” College Board President Gaston Caperton said when he visited Hobbs. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, attended the Inspiration Award Ceremony in Hobbs and pointed to the Hobbs AP Program as a model for other high schools in New Mexico.

In order to insure student success in AP courses, the school district has implemented the Core Knowledge Program in all elementary schools to help level the playing field for under-prepared students. Pre-Advanced Placement courses such as Math and English Language Arts are offered in junior high.

Advanced Placement is part of the culture at Hobbs High. “The stereotypes have vanished and it’s not just the nerdy kids in AP classes anymore,” former class officer Megan Munoz said. ‘When I walk into class, there are football players, band members, track stars, and cheerleaders. I think it’s safe to say Hobbs High School exemplifies an equal opportunity learning environment.”



Sal Duate, a 2010 HHS graduate, receives a bonus check for earning a qualifying score on an AP exam from AP instructor Melissa Richards-Doss.

Placement participation and performance in math and science.

Over half of Hobbs students in grades seven through twelve participate in AP and Pre-AP classes.