

Palomar College
2025/2026 Advanced Placement (AP) Guide

AP credit may be used to meet the Associate Degree GE, Palomar major course work, and Cal-GETC where the exam is approved. Each CSU/UC campus will determine how it will apply examinations toward units and coursework in the major and G.E. (if not certified prior to transfer)

NOTE: Palomar College external exam policy for local associate degree and general education aligns with that of the CSU external exam policy. Please reference the CSU external exam policy for exam effective dates.

[CSU External Exam Policy](#)

NE: no course equivalency NA: not applicable See footnotes for details

AP Exam	Score	Palomar Equivalent	Palomar Units	Palomar GE Units	Palomar GE Area	CSU Admission Units	CSU GE Units	CSU GE Area/AHI	UC Admission Units	Cal-GETC Units	Cal-GETC Area
African American Studies	3	NE	3	0	N/A	3	0	NA	2.6	0	NA
Art History	3	ART 100	6	3	3	6	3	3A or 3B	5.3	3	3A or 3B
Biology	3	BIOL 100	6	4	5	6	4	5B+5C	5.3	4	5B+5C
Calculus AB*	3	MATH 140	3	3	2	3 ¹	3	2	2.6 ²	3	2
Calculus BC*	3	MATH 140 + MATH 141	6	3	2	6 ¹	3	2	5.3 ²	3	2
Calculus BC/AB*	3	MATH 140	3	3	2	3 ¹	3	2	2.6 ²	3	2
Chemistry	3	CHEM 110 + CHEM 110L	6	4	5	6	4 ³	5A+5C	5.3	4	5A+5C
Chinese Language & Culture	3	CHIN 201	6	3	3	6	3	3B	5.3	3	3B
Comparative Government & Politics	3	POSC 103	3	3	4	3	3	4	2.6	3	4
Computer Science A	3	CSCI 114	3	0	NA	3 ¹	0	NA	5.3 ⁵	0	NA
Computer Science Principles ¹⁹	3	CSCI 112	6	3	2	6 ¹	3	2	5.3	0	NA
English Language & Composition	3	ENGL C1000	6	3	1A	6	3	1A	5.3 ⁶	3	1A
English Language (Historical Exam)	3	NE	6	3	1A	6	3	1A	0	0	NA
English Literature & Composition ¹⁸	3	ENGL C1000 + ENG 205	6	6	1A+3B	6	6	1A+3B	5.3 ⁶	3	1A or 3B
English Literature (Historical Exam)	3	NE	6	6	1A+3B	6	6	1A+3B	0	0	NA

AP Exam	Score	Palomar Equivalent	Palomar Units	Palomar GE Units	Palomar GE Area	CSU Admission Units	CSU GE Units	CSU GE Area/AHI	UC Admission Units	Cal-GETC Units	Cal-GETC Area
Environmental Science	3	NE	4	4	5	4	4	5A+5C ⁷	2.6	3 ⁸	5A+5C
European History	3	NE	6	3	3 or 4	6	3	3B or 4	5.3	3	3B or 4
European History	4 or 5	HIST 106	6	3	3 or 4	6	3	3B or 4	5.3	3	3B or 4
French Language & Culture	3	FREN 201	6	3	3	6	3 ⁹	3B	5.3	3	3B
German Language & Culture	3	GERM 201	6	3	3	6	3 ⁹	3B	5.3	3	3B
Human Geography	3	GEOG 105	3	3	4	3	3	4	2.6	3	4
Italian Language & Culture	3	ITAL 201	6	3	3	6	3	3B	5.3	3	3B
Japanese Language & Culture	3	JAPN 201	6	3	3	6	3	3B	5.3	3	3B
Latin	3	NE	6	3	3	6	3	3B	5.3	3	3B
Macroeconomics	3	ECON 101	3	3	4	3	3	4	2.6	3	4
Microeconomics	3	ECON 102	3	3	4	3	3	4	2.6	3	4
Music Theory	3	MUS 103	6	3	3	6	0	NA	5.3	0	NA
Physics 1: Algebra based	3	NE	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	5.3 ¹¹	4	5A+5C
Physics 1: Algebra based	4	PHYS 120	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	5.3 ¹¹	4	5A+5C
Physics 2: Algebra based	3	NE	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	5.3 ¹¹	4	5A+5C
Physics 2: Algebra based	5	PHYS 121	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	5.3 ¹¹	4	5A+5C
Physics C: Mechanics ⁸	3	NE	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	2.6 ¹¹	3	5A+5C
Physics C: Mechanics ⁸	4	PHYS 200	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	2.6 ¹¹	3	5A+5C
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism ⁸	3	NE	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	2.6 ¹¹	3	5A+5C
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism ⁸	5	PHYS 201	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5	4 ¹⁰	4 ¹⁰	5A+5C	2.6 ¹¹	3	5A+5C
PreCalculus	3	NE	3	3	2	3	3	2	0	0	NA
Psychology	3	PSYC C1000	3	3	4	3	3	4	2.6	3	4
Seminar	3	NE	3	0	NA	3	0	NA	0	0	NA

AP Exam	Score	Palomar Equivalent	Palomar Units	Palomar GE Units	Palomar GE Area	CSU Admission Units	CSU GE Units	CSU GE Area/AHI	UC Admission Units	Cal-GETC Units	Cal-GETC Area
Spanish Language & Culture	3	SPAN 201	6	3	3	6	3 ¹²	3B	5.3	3	3B
Spanish Language (Historical Exam)	3	NE	6	3	3	6	3	3B	0	0	NE
Spanish Literature & Culture	3	SPAN 202	6	3	3	6	3 ¹³	3B	5.3	3	3B
Spanish Literature (Historical Exam)	3	NE	6	3	3	6	3	3B	0	NE	NE
Statistics	3	STAT C1000	3	3	2	3	3	2	2.6	3	2
2-D Art and Design	3	NE	3	0	NA	3	0	NA	5.3 ¹⁴	0	NA
3-D Art and Design	3	NE	3	0	NA	3	0	NA	5.3 ¹⁴	0	NA
Drawing	3	NE	3	0	NA	3	0	NA	5.3 ¹⁴	0	NA
US Government & Politics ¹⁵	3	NE	3	3	4+US-2 ¹⁶	3	3	4+US-2 ¹⁶	2.6	3	4
US History ¹⁵	3	NE	6	3	(3 or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	6	3	(3B or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	5.3	3	3B or 4
US History ¹⁵	4	HIST 101 or HIST 102	6	3	(3 or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	6	3	(3B or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	5.3	3	3B or 4
US History ¹⁵	5	HIST 101 + HIST 102	6	3	(3 or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	6	3	(3B or 4)+ US-1 ¹⁷	5.3	3	3B or 4
World History Modern	3	NE	3	3	3 or 4	3	3	3B or 4	5.3	3	3B or 4
World History Modern	4 or 5	HIST 108	3	3	3 or 4	3	3	3B or 4	5.3	3	3B or 4

*The maximum credit toward the associate degree is 6.0 units combined.

¹ For the CSU, if a student passes more than one AP exam in calculus or computer science, only one examination may be applied to the baccalaureate.

² UC limitations include a maximum of 8 quarter/5.3 semester units for both Calculus AB and BC.

³ Prior to Fall 2009, the CSU awarded 6 units toward 5A+5C.

⁴ Students who completed the exam prior to Fall 2009 may apply 6 units to 5A+5C.

⁵ Prior to Fall 2018, The UC awarded 1.3 semester units.

⁶ The UC unit limitations include 5.3 semester/8 quarter units for English Language & Composition and English Literature and Composition combined.

⁷ Tests prior to Fall 2009 may apply either to 5A+5C or 5B+5C of GE. Fall of 2009 or later, those credits may only apply to 5A+5C.

⁸ Environmental Science, Physics C: Mechanics, and Physics C: Electricity/Magnetism earn 3 semester/4 quarter units to Cal-GETC certification.

⁹ The CSU awarded 6 units toward CSU GE 3B prior to Fall 2009.

¹⁰ For Palomar College associate degrees and CSU transfer units, if a student passes more than one AP exam in physics, only six units of credit may be applied to the associate or CSU transfer, and only four units of credit may be applied toward Palomar and/or CSU GE.

¹¹ The UC limits all AP Physics exams to a maximum of 5.3 semester units/8 quarter units combined.

¹² The CSU awarded 6 units toward 3B up until Spring 2014.

¹³ The CSU awarded 6 units toward 3B up until Spring 2013.

¹⁴ UC credit limitations for all three exams is 5.3 semester/8 quarter units combined.

¹⁵ US Government & Politics and US History exams in combination with POSC 120 or any other US-3 approved course will fulfill AHI.

¹⁶ For AHI, students must complete any US-1 and US-3 course with a "C" or better.

¹⁷ For AHI, students need to complete POSC 102 or any approved US-2 and US-3 course.

¹⁸ English Literature and Composition Palomar equivalent, units, and GE are retroactive to spring 2015, per the CSU external exam policy.

¹⁹ Computer Science Principles degree units and GE effective F16.