

Advanced Placement Exam Regulations for Students Matriculating in Fall 2025

| Bowdoin Department/Program (Subject Code) | Advanced Placement Exam | Minimum AP Score | General Credit | Potential for Major/Minor Credit | Equivalent Course | * Additional Information |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Art: Art History (ARTH) | Art History | 4 | n/a | No | n/a | Students may replace one introductory Art History course (numbered 1100-1999) with any upper-level course for the art history major and art history minor. No major/minor credit. |
| Art: Visual Arts (VART) | Studio Art: 2-D Design | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete VART 1101, <i>Drawing I</i> , VART 1201, <i>Printmaking I</i> , VART 1401, <i>Photography I</i> , or VART 1601, <i>Sculpture I</i> , with a minimum grade of B-. If a student has scores for more than one exam, only 1 total credit will be awarded. No major/minor credit. |
| | Studio Art: 3-D Design | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| | Studio Art: Drawing | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| Chemistry (CHEM) | Chemistry | 4 | 1* | Yes* | n/a | *Must complete one of the following courses with a minimum grade of C-: CHEM 2050, <i>Environmental Chemistry</i> , CHEM 2100, <i>Chemical Analysis</i> , CHEM 2250, <i>Organic Chemistry I</i> , CHEM 2400, <i>Inorganic Chemistry</i> , CHEM 2510, <i>Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics</i> , or CHEM 2520, <i>Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy</i> . Counts toward major/minor credit. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take CHEM 1091, <i>Introductory Chemistry and Quantitative Reasoning I</i> , CHEM 1092, <i>Introductory Chemistry and Quantitative Reasoning II</i> , CHEM 1101, <i>Introductory Chemistry I</i> , CHEM 1102, <i>Introductory Chemistry II</i> , or CHEM 1109, <i>General Chemistry</i> . Regardless of AP score, all students must take the placement exam. |
| Classics: Latin (LATN) | Latin | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete a 3000-level LATN course with a minimum grade of B-. Regardless of AP score, students should complete placement questionnaire. No major/minor credit. |
| Economics (ECON) | Microeconomics | 4 | 1* | No | ECON 1101 | *Eligible to receive credit for ECON 1101, <i>Principles of Microeconomics</i> . Credit will not be given if the student chooses to take ECON 1050, <i>Introductory Microeconomics and Quantitative Reasoning</i> , or ECON 1101. No major/minor credit. |
| | Macroeconomics | 4 | 1* | No | ECON 1102 | *Eligible to receive credit for ECON 1102, <i>Principles of Macroeconomics</i> . Credit will not be given if the student chooses to take ECON 1102. No major/minor credit. |
| | Statistics | 4 | n/a | Yes* | n/a | *Minors may use a minimum score of 4 on the AP exam to fulfill the statistics requirement of either minor and do not need to replace it with another course. |
| English (ENGL) | English Literature & Composition | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete an English course, not including ENGL 1060, <i>English Composition</i> , ENGL 1070, <i>The Art of Rhetoric and Composition</i> , or any creative writing course (ENGL 1200-1299 and ENGL 2850-2899) with a minimum grade of B- to receive the general credit. No major/minor credit. |
| Environmental Studies (ENVS) | Environmental Science | 5 | 1* | Yes* | n/a | *Must complete ENVS 2201, <i>Perspectives in Environmental Science</i> , with a minimum grade of B-. |
| German (GER) | German Language & Culture | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete a 3000-level GER course with a minimum grade of B-. Regardless of AP score, all students must take the placement exam. Normally, no major/minor credit. |
| Government and Legal Studies (GOV) | Government & Politics (U.S.) | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete a level B course, GOV 2000-2969, in the same subfield as the AP exam, with a minimum grade of B-. If a student has scores for more than one exam, only 1 total credit will be awarded. No major/minor credit. Applicable subfield course numbers: for American Politics (GOV 2000-2199, 2700-2799; for Comparative Politics (GOV 2300-2599). |
| | Government & Politics (Comparative) | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| History (HIST) | European History | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete a HIST 2000 level course or higher with a minimum grade of B. If a student has scores for more than one exam, only 1 total credit will be awarded. No major/minor credit. |
| | U.S. History | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| | World History (Modern) | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| Music (MUS) | Music Theory | 4 | 1* | Yes* | MUS 1401 | *Must take the music theory placement exam. Placement in MUS 2403, <i>Songwriting and Song Analysis</i> , results in one credit that is the equivalent of MUS 1401, <i>Introduction to Music Theory</i> . If a student earns a grade of C- or higher in MUS 2403, this credit can count towards the major. Placement into MUS 1401 or MUS 1051, <i>Fundamentals of Music</i> , results in no credit. |
| Neuroscience (NEUR) | Chemistry; Psychology | 4 | 0* | Yes* | n/a | *Majors who earn a general credit for their AP chemistry scores based on the department of chemistry's requirements, see above, may use that general credit to fulfill the introductory chemistry requirement of the neuroscience major and do not need to take an additional course to replace it. *Majors who earn placement into courses requiring PSYC 1101, <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> , as the prerequisite, based on the department of psychology's requirements, see below, must take a higher level course in psychology to replace the PSYC 1101 requirement of the neuroscience major. |
| Physics and Astronomy (PHYS) | Physics 1: Algebra Based | 4 | n/a | n/a | PHYS 1130 | *Majors are exempt from taking PHYS 1130, <i>Introductory Physics I</i> , and do not need to take an additional course to replace PHYS 1130. Minors are also exempt from taking PHYS 1130, but must take at least four Bowdoin Physics courses. |
| | Physics C: Mechanics | 4 | 1* | Yes* | PHYS 1130 | *Must complete PHYS 1140, <i>Introductory Physics II</i> , with a minimum grade of C- (not taken Credit/D/Fail) before the end of the student's junior year. Counts toward major. No credit will be given for students who elect to take PHYS 1130, <i>Introductory Physics I</i> . Majors are exempt from taking PHYS 1130 and do not need to take an additional course to replace PHYS 1130. Minors meeting the criteria are also exempt from taking PHYS 1130, but must take at least four Bowdoin Physics courses. |
| Psychology (PSYC) | Psychology | 4 | n/a | No | PSYC 1101 | No major/minor credit; students are considered to have met the prerequisite for courses requiring PSYC 1101, <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> , but majors/minors must take an additional PSYC course to replace PSYC 1101. |
| Romance Languages and Literatures: Francophone Studies (FRS) | French Language & Culture | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete FRS 2305, <i>Advanced French through Film</i> , or higher level FRS course, with a minimum grade of B-. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than FRS 2305. Regardless of AP score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit. |
| Romance Languages and Literatures: Hispanic Studies (HISP) | Spanish Language & Culture | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete HISP 2305, <i>Spanish Language, Cultures, and Politics</i> , or higher level HISP course with a minimum grade of B-. If a student has scores for more than one exam, only 1 total credit will be awarded. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than HISP 2305. Regardless of AP score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit. |
| | Spanish Literature & Culture | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | |
| Romance Languages and Literatures: Italian Studies (ITAL) | Italian Language & Culture | 4 | 1* | No | n/a | *Must complete ITAL 2305, <i>Advanced Italian I</i> , or higher level ITAL course with a minimum grade of B-. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than ITAL 2305. Regardless of AP score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit. |
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| AP Exams Bowdoin does NOT accept: | AP Exams used ONLY for course placement (no academic credit possible). | | | | | |
| English Language & Composition | Biology | | | | | |
| Human Geography | Calculus AB | | | | | |
| Physics 2: Algebra Based | Calculus BC | | | | | |
| Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism | Chinese Language & Culture | | | | | |
| Africana studies: the Africana studies department is reviewing the new AP exam and course design recommendations to determine if or how to grant credit. Decision expected by 2026. | Computer Science A | | | | | |
| | Computer Science Principles | | | | | |
| | Japanese Language & Culture | | | | | |
| | Statistics | | | | | |
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[These guidelines are for Bowdoin students matriculating in the fall 2025 semester only. More details can be found in the Bowdoin College Catalogue and Academic Handbook under each respective academic department/program.](#)

[Students who matriculated prior to fall 2025 should follow the guidelines established in the academic year they matriculated. Visit the Archive section of the Catalogue for past versions.](#)

Questions can be directed to registrar@bowdoin.edu or directly to the academic department/program.

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