

The New Advanced Placement (AP) Law:
House Bill 1135 (**HB 1135**) became Public Law 91 (**PL 91**) on March 18, 2010

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. What does PL 91 do?

The new law requires all Indiana public colleges and universities (including all two and four year institutions and accompanying satellites) to award college credits that count towards a degree for Indiana secondary school students that earn a score of **3** or higher on College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) exams and matriculate to one of the public, higher education institutions.

Indiana public colleges and universities may require a score higher than **3** to award credits for a course that is a requirement for a student's major; if a university chooses to do so, it must still award a student elective credits that count towards his/her overall degree requirements to graduate from college.

For example, a student choosing to major in *Chemical Engineering* may be required to earn a score of **4** on the AP Chemistry exam in order to receive credits for the entry level Chemistry course required for *Chemical Engineering* majors. If this same student received a **3** on the AP Chemistry exam he/she might not receive credits for introductory Chemistry for *Chemical Engineering* majors, but he/she would be able to use that passing AP score to fulfill an elective course requirement and earn college credits to help complete his/her undergraduate degree.

2. So, as long as a student earns a 3 on an AP exam he/she will receive credits that count towards earning a degree at any Indiana two or four year public college or university?

Yes!

3. When does this law go into effect?

This new law will start affecting AP exams taken by Indiana students in May 2011, and thereafter.

4. What about the upcoming May 2010 exams?

This year's May 2010 exams are NOT subject to the new law. Students may still receive college credits for their 2010 AP exam scores, but any credits awarded will follow existing Indiana public colleges and universities' current rules, which differ vastly from institution to institution and subject to subject.

To find current Indiana colleges and universities' (both public and private) AP credit-by-exam policies click the following link and type in the name of the school for which you are interested:

<http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy/index.jsp>

5. If a student is already at an Indiana public college or university may he/she request credit under the soon-to-be new articulations for AP exams for which he/she earned a 3 while in high school?

No! There is no retroactivity intended under the new law. Only AP exams taken on or after May 2011 will qualify under the new articulation policy. Exams taken prior to that date are subject to the previous policies for granting credit for AP exam results articulated by each Indiana college or university.

6. When will the new AP credit-by-exam course articulations for Indiana public colleges and universities be available to the public?

Under PL 91, Indiana public colleges and universities must fully articulate the new credit-by-exam policy by March 2011 for each AP subject tested.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) are working with higher education institutions on the development of the new policy, and will help disseminate the new credit-by-exam AP policy to educational stakeholders throughout the state.

7. Where may I find the language of PL 91?

Click this link: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2010/HE/HE1135.1.html>

8. Should I start informing students, parents, teachers and other educational stakeholders of the new AP law?

Absolutely! The General Assembly and the Governor passed this law with the intent that it would serve as a greater incentive for Hoosier students to **take and pass rigorous AP courses**. Indiana legislators want to ensure that students who exhibit mastery over college-level material are effectively rewarded with college credits if he/she chooses to attend an Indiana public college or university.

Students (along with parents and teachers) may henceforth rest assured their hard work and demonstrated success will receive its due credit.

IDOE strongly encourages school officials to make students, parents, teachers and other community stakeholders aware of the new AP law as student curricular decisions are being made for the next school year and beyond.

If you have any other questions please contact me.

Thanks,

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