

# The Advanced Placement (AP) Program

A Rigorous and Balanced Path to University



The journey to a top-tier university is not necessarily a straight path for students. To be as competitive as possible, many students choose an advanced course load that demonstrates their academic prowess, willingness to work hard, and ability to rise to challenges.

That advanced course load can, however, look and feel different depending on the choice between Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB).

Sacred Heart School of Halifax strategically offers the AP Program. We believe this tailored approach – one where students can pick and choose the subject areas they are most interested in or plan on focusing on in university – offers a more direct and advantageous path to university. Unlike the IB Program, where students must take the same six advanced courses in each of their Grade 11 and 12 years, our students can choose only the ones they want. And that means a more balanced, flexible, and focused educational journey.

## Here's why that matters.

**Focus** - Many students know their strengths and the program they're interested in pursuing after high school. By choosing to focus only on those areas, students can excel without the distraction and pressure of other advanced-level classes that are of less interest or don't match their strengths.

**Choice** - Throughout Grades 10-12, Sacred Heart students can choose to take as few or as many AP classes as they like. This includes independent study, taking an AP course outside their regularly scheduled classes. They can also choose not to take an AP exam if they don't feel ready. This ability to choose empowers our students to dictate their path and workload.



**Balance** - Not having to take an entire year of advanced courses means students have more balance, both academically and socially. It also means they have time for the many co and extracurricular opportunities we offer at Sacred Heart. As students face more and more intense pressure, this balance is proving to be a better indicator of success and happiness.

**University Credit** - Most universities will give students with a score of four or five on an AP exam a first-year university credit in that subject. They can then use that credit to move more quickly toward a degree, take a lighter course load in the first year, or repeat the class to increase their chances of early success.

**Global Recognition** - AP is widely recognized globally at top colleges and universities and is considered on the same level as the IB Program.

**Scholarship Advantage** - Universities recognize the rigour of the AP Program and, as a result, students have priority consideration for university scholarships.



**Sacred Heart School of Halifax** is proud to be on the AP School Honour Roll for ensuring excellence in delivering AP courses for our students that are connected to college outcomes.