

The Impact of the Advanced Placement Policy on Academic Outcomes

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- The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) implemented the Advanced Placement (AP) policy in FY2009-10. The policy was formulated with collaboration between OBR and public institutions of higher education in Ohio, in response to Ohio Revised Code 3333.163, passed in 2007.
 - Revised Code 3333.163 mandated adoption of standards by Ohio public institutions of higher education in awarding credit to students with passing scores in AP tests.
- **Fundamental underpinning of the AP policy:**
 - Learning outcomes associated with AP test-scores of 3, 4, 5 are equivalent to learning outcomes associated with the corresponding college courses.
- **AP Policy directive (*Directive 2008-010*) from summer 2009 specified to institutions:**
 - To award college credit for scores of 3 or higher in AP tests.
 - To count credits granted for AP tests towards graduation.
 - To allow credits granted for AP tests to transfer among public institutions.
- ***Directive 2008-010* also specified a review of the AP policy within three years of implementation.**
 - Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) has completed the review.
 - The review asked: How does the AP policy influence academic outcomes?
 - The review used data on freshman students from FY2007-08 through FY2010-11 at 4-year university main campuses to answer the question.
- **What are the results of the review?**
 - The review finds the AP policy does not have adverse effects on indicators of academic outcome including grade point average (GPA), the proportion of completed hours, or the number of attempted hours.
 - The results demonstrate that learning outcomes are the same whether students receive college credit for AP test scores of 3, 4, and 5, or if they complete the corresponding courses.
- **What do the results mean for the AP policy?**
 - **The AP policy is beneficial for Ohio.**
 - Students with passing scores in AP tests receive college credit. As a result, they have an opportunity for saving resources, both time and money, but without compromising academic standards.

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