

## Course Selection

## AP Course Strategy Framework

### *Pathway-Aligned Rigor Planning for College Admissions Success*

Course selection is one of the most powerful signals available to a college applicant. At Ivysion, we approach AP course strategy not as a checklist exercise but as a deliberate act of academic positioning. Each pathway below reflects the rigor expectations of selective colleges and universities — aligned to your intended area of study, your school's course offerings, and the narrative you are building across four years of high school.

### Pre-Medicine Pathway

#### CORE RIGOR PRIORITY

1. AP Chemistry
2. AP Biology
3. AP Calculus BC
4. AP Physics C or AP Physics 1
5. AP Statistics
6. AP Psychology

#### DEPTH SIGNAL EXPECTED

- Research experience and laboratory exposure
- HOSA membership and leadership
- Hospital or clinical volunteering
- Science competitions (Science Olympiad, USABO, etc.)

#### ULTRA-SELECTIVE TIER REQUIREMENTS

- Calculus BC completed by Junior Year
- AP Physics C completed before graduation

## Pre-Law & Public Policy Pathway

### CORE RIGOR PRIORITY

1. AP U.S. Government and Politics
2. AP U.S. History
3. AP English Language and Composition
4. AP Economics (Macro and Micro)
5. AP World History
6. AP Psychology

### DEPTH SIGNAL EXPECTED

- Competitive debate (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, or Public Forum)
- Model United Nations leadership
- Mock trial participation or leadership
- Policy internships or legislative research

### ULTRA-SELECTIVE TIER REQUIREMENTS

- Both AP English Language and AP English Literature
- Independent research paper or published writing



## Business & Finance Pathway

### CORE RIGOR PRIORITY

1. AP Calculus BC
2. AP Economics (Macro)
3. AP Economics (Micro)
4. AP Statistics
5. AP English Language and Composition
6. AP Computer Science A

### DEPTH SIGNAL EXPECTED

- Investment or finance club leadership
- Entrepreneurship initiative or student-run business
- DECA competition and achievement
- Financial modeling or data analysis project
- Industry internship or shadowing

### ULTRA-SELECTIVE TIER REQUIREMENTS

- Calculus BC completed by Junior Year
- Data-driven project or formal venture initiative

## Computer Science & Engineering Pathway

### CORE RIGOR PRIORITY

1. AP Calculus BC
2. AP Physics C
3. AP Computer Science A
4. AP Statistics
5. AP Chemistry
6. AP English Language and Composition

### DEPTH SIGNAL EXPECTED

- Hackathons and coding competitions
- Robotics team participation or leadership
- Math Olympiad or competition mathematics
- Published coding portfolio or GitHub presence
- Research project or university collaboration

### ULTRA-SELECTIVE TIER REQUIREMENTS

- AP Calculus BC and AP Physics C completed before Senior Year
- Independent technical project with measurable impact

## Social Sciences & Analytics Pathway

### CORE RIGOR PRIORITY

1. AP U.S. History
2. AP U.S. Government and Politics
3. AP Economics
4. AP Psychology
5. AP Statistics
6. AP English Language and Composition

### DEPTH SIGNAL EXPECTED

- Policy research or think-tank involvement
- Civic engagement and community leadership
- Data analysis or quantitative research project
- Social impact initiative or nonprofit work

### ULTRA-SELECTIVE TIER REQUIREMENTS

- Quantitative research project with documented methodology
- Published writing or formal policy presentation

**Alignment Over Volume:**

Rigor must directly align with your intended major. Admission committees evaluate course selection within the context of your academic narrative — not as an isolated checklist.

**School-Specific Ceiling:**

Taking the most challenging coursework available at your school carries greater weight than the total number of AP courses taken. Selective colleges evaluate rigor relative to your school's offerings.

**Depth Over Breadth:**

Depth of engagement and narrative coherence within your chosen pathway matter far more than simply accumulating courses. Your transcript should tell a clear, intentional story.

**Sequence and Timing:** Course sequencing — particularly for mathematics — signals readiness and commitment. Meeting or exceeding the ultra-selective tier benchmarks within your pathway strengthens your competitiveness at top-tier institutions.

*Strategy First. Execution Second.*