



AP Online Initiative, UC College Preparatory Program

What is the AP Online Initiative?

The statewide UC College Preparatory (UCCP) program offers online college preparatory courses to high school students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to become competitive for admission to the University of California. The AP Online Initiative extends this curriculum to include honors and advanced placement (AP) courses.

This initiative will support the Governor's plan "to make at least one AP class available to every student in California by this fall," and "ensure that at least four core AP classes will be available to every high school student" a year later.

What is being proposed in the Governor's budget?

The Governor's January budget includes a \$3 million augmentation (\$7 million total) to:

- ▶ Develop five high-quality, online, multimedia AP courses in high-demand subject areas needed by students. A number of AP-level courses will be made available in fall 2000; additional subjects are planned in 2001. Courses available statewide by fall 2001 will include calculus, biology, English composition, chemistry, and physics.
- ▶ Develop the basic infrastructure needed to deliver the courses

in partnership with California high schools. Course-delivery costs include teacher training specific to the UC-developed AP courses, basic recordkeeping systems for student enrollment and assessment, the central technical infrastructure (e.g., servers and networks) needed to distribute online courses, and administration of the program.

- ▶ In partnership with the California Department of Education, individual high schools, and UC and CSU campuses, develop "tele-mentoring" assistance for students. For example, advanced undergraduate and graduate college students will be hired to provide online curricular and technical support to high school students enrolled in these courses.

- ▶ Keep the subject matter and the course technology up-to-date by renewing AP courses on an average of every three years.

How will courses be developed?

Recognizing the high cost of designing/building new courses, the UCCP approach is to *acquire* or *adapt* "best practices" college preparatory courses wherever possible and to *create* new courses only when such curriculum does not exist.

- ▶ To develop AP/honors curriculum where none exists, UC is putting together a team for each subject consisting of

pedagogy experts (e.g., UC faculty, high school teachers, educational consultants), design professionals (e.g., script writers, graphics designers, production staff), and technical staff (e.g., Web specialists, programmers), along with staff who have expertise in testing and assessment.

- ▶ Where high-quality online, multimedia curriculum already exists, UC is partnering with existing development teams to adapt that curriculum to satisfy UC's admissions criteria, meeting the needs of California high schools and students.

Why is the AP Online Initiative important?

Taking advanced placement or honors courses during high school enables students to be more academically competitive during the UC admissions process. (Students who successfully complete AP or honors courses are assigned one bonus grade point per course.)

Currently, AP and honors courses may not be available statewide. Some schools offer many AP courses, while others offer none. Even at schools where they are available, the quality of such courses is uneven.

The AP Online Initiative addresses the critical need to provide access to higher education for all students in the State of California.