

Questions Submitted	Time Stamp	Answers
If a student is interested in going pre-med in college, is there someone who can advise him on which science classes to take once requirements are met?	10:52	
Is it OK for a 9th grader to take two language courses?	12:24	
Summer opportunities that are available at Andover. Please provide any guidance on research opportunities.	14:00	
What choices do Lowerers have?	15:26	
Is it advantageous or detrimental for an upper to take two sciences Physics and Bio 500 or Physics and a language. The language requirement has already been met. We assume the GPA would likely be higher with one science vs. two.	17:14	
Is there any advising for Lowerers entering their Upper year so that they are sure that their course selection does not inadvertently reduce their college admissions appeal? In particular for language requirements.	19:52	
I want to best support my child in choosing the amount of classes she has to take. With being an athlete or by joining other activities, what is a good balance?	22:38	
Is my child's advisor knowledgeable in course selection for students with college and career goals related to physics/quantum physics. Does course advising now include course selection that makes sure he has the prerequisites for desired electives later?	24:52	
(For students considering Universities abroad that require AP exams) - Please discuss which courses are currently aligned for AP exams in the standard curricular sequence, and what students should expect in terms of additional or independent study.		
Can Chem 550 (not chem 580) cover AP chemistry? Can Bio 500 (not Bio580) cover AP bio?	28:04	
Based on what I've heard from my son, who is an Upper, the add/drop process requires a paper form signed by his advisor. This has slowed down the process for him because he had to wait a day to get the form back and turned in. Why isn't it done online?	31:17	
Since the grading system is different with some courses as pass fail how does that get translated for college application time.		
Regarding P/F, doesn't CCO let all colleges know that there are certain classes that are only P/F? So we should explain this as well on college apps?	32:19	
Big Picture Comment: PA strongly emphasizes student-led advocacy, but building those skills (especially in areas like math tracking that affect science pathways and opportunities to test out or appeal to department heads) requires time, guidance, and support. The perceived lack of parental involvement feels limiting, especially with high-stakes tracking decisions.	34:45	

Deeply concerned that there was no proactive discussion or advice for your 10th grader about AP exams. PA downplays APs in favor of its own advanced courses and “Andover commitments,” yet the 2025-2026 profile shows 155 Class of 2026 students took 601 exams, and 10th/11th graders are participating. This suggests many families seek external guidance. This data shows students do take APs when it aligns with their goals (often self-initiated or parent/outside-counselor driven). The gap between official messaging and reality feels inconsistent and inequitable if we have not hired an external college counselor to provide such discussion and advice (e.g., for credit, placement, or UC/CSU visibility).

With whom can my child speak to discuss AP test opportunities, given her courses?

How do we reach out to college counseling? I am the parent of a rising junior, so we haven't had any formal meetings. But I would like to discuss the AP issue and my child's course selections through a college application lens.

Follow-on to that question - how important are APs for US schools? My 10th grader has not taken any APs.

36:30

Is MTH630 "Honors Mathematics Seminar" a three-term commitment? If not, can student take only term 3 without taking term 1 or term 2 (of MTH630)?

40:18

Can students do MTH630 term 3 without doing MTH660 first? In the current course of study, for MTH630 term 1 and term2, the prerequisite is MTH590 or MTH595. But for term 3, the prerequisite is MTH650 AND MTH660. Thank you!

41:24

If a student is not clear on what they would like to do in college, how do you guide them for college application?

42:46

Reach out to CCO (college-counseling@andover.edu). There is also information on what to expect available on the website: <https://www.andover.edu/learning/college-counseling> & the videos that walk through the process on MediaSpace.

So college counseling will schedule appointments with students as well as be open during conference periods?

42:44 Yes

what year/grade students are supposed to finish what the school requires to graduate in general

42:57

for a rising 11th grader, what are the ways to determine what level physics to take?

43:23

For rising 10th graders, they probably know what they will be taking for math, english, language, and science each term. Will they know IN ADVANCE what they will be taking for PHR and in which term?

45:09

Many top universities require 3-4 year world language study, will the Level 1 taken in the middle school count? Will one term of social studies or philosophy in senior year (term 2 or 3) satisfy the core course requirement in college applications?

46:08

Is it necessary to take a science in 11th grade, if your child loves humanities and language and would like to do more of that?

42:30

Can you share an example of a student who explored a variety of academic opportunities during their career and became excited about something they wouldn't have anticipated as a new 9th grader coming in?

51:26

Is there a graph/flow sheet showing prerequisites for upper level courses?

54:02

<p>If the student didn't do as well as they wanted in a course (grade-wise), is there a way to retake the class (summer, in another school) to improve the grade on their record?</p>	<p>55:10</p>	
<p>Can you provide an overview of the college counseling process, what steps does PA help with and when? How much assistance do they get developing a college list tailored to major and student needs/preferences. Are there essay writing workshops or 1:1 assistance developing and editing?</p>		<p>Reach out to CCO (college-counseling@andover.edu). There is also information on what to expect available on the website: https://www.andover.edu/learning/college-counseling & the videos that walk through the process on MediaSpace.</p>
<p>My 9th grader will complete the Spanish 401, 402, 403 sequence this year. From a college admissions perspective, what are your thoughts on whether he should continue with more advanced Spanish courses (or perhaps take up a second language) versus taking other classes that may be more relevant to a potential college major (e.g., STEM)?</p>		<p>Feel free to reach out to CCO (college-counseling@andover.edu). There is also information on what to expect available on the website: https://www.andover.edu/learning/college-counseling</p>
<p>Can Latin 300 cover AP Latin? Thank you!</p>		<p>No, it will require at least some student self study. Refer to 28:32 when AP courses are discussed.</p>
<p>how our GPA system converts to typical 4.0 scale?</p>		<p>There is a calculator that is used for the student transcript.</p>
<p>Can you explain how the low pass policy is actually implemented if a student is taking a 6th course?</p>		<p>We have a deliberative body on campus called Advising Council that considers many different advising-related matters, including reviewing records at the midterm. We use the six-course load policy in the Course of Study as our guiding philosophy for this particular issue (low midterm grades for students in six-course loads). Here is the relevant part of the policy from the Cos, page 13: "A six-course load is conditional upon a satisfactory record at the midterm. Any student enrolled in six courses and earning a grade of Low Pass (LP) or Not Yet Passing (NYP) at the midterm will likely be required to drop a course. Thus, all students taking six courses must understand they may be required to drop a course after the midterm despite having done the work in that course for half of a term."</p>
<p>what are some of the examples of the constraints that a transfer student (10th grade or 11th grade) may have experienced in terms of electives and curriculum? How did they solve the issue?</p>		<p>Options for transfer students will vary quite a bit depending on their prior preparation and their placement in leveled subjects like language and math. We do have different graduation requirements for students who enter after grade 9 (you can find the specifics in the Course of Study, page 15). Some transfer students find that they have similar flexibility to our students who begin in 9th grade, but for students who want to focus in specific areas, it might be more difficult because they simply have fewer years available to them at Andover. One example of this might be chemistry: if you begin at PA in grade 11, it can be difficult to reach CHM610, which is the final offering in our chemistry department, because it typically requires two prior years of chemistry study. Likewise, students may find it harder to meet the prerequisites for advanced classes like Computer Science 600 or Art 600 if they begin later. Students can sometimes work with department chairs in the relevant departments to find solutions to these issues, but there is not always a solution to the issue. We encourage students to make a multi-year plan with their advisor early on in their PA career; forward planning can help students identify these potential issues and maximize the chances that they can solve them.</p>

<p>I understand that students need to take language up to 300 level. What if the student places into 200, so would they do 2 years of language only (200 in Grade 9 and 300 in Grade 10) ? And is it recommended to do only 2 years language? Any downside to that?</p>		<p>Students only need to complete the 300 level of a language in order to satisfy our requirement, but there are many reasons, among them intellectual enrichment, college preparation, and readiness for programs abroad, why students are encouraged to continue language study beyond the requirement. Most of our students will take a language for all four years at PA. However, there may be other subjects competing for a student's academic attention which might cause them to consider dropping a language later in their Andover career. In cases like these, we encourage students to seek advice from trusted adults on campus, including the college counseling office, to see what the best choice for the individual student might be.</p>
<p>My son plans to take Bio510 in upper year which limits 5 courses in total.. so he could only take advanced chem in senior.. do you think it matters to college admission whether when they take advanced science class?</p>		<p>Sent to CCO, will update with response and message family if contact information was provided.</p>
<p>Since PA courses are unweighted, how do you recommend students balance taking challenging courses while maintaining a strong GPA? How do colleges weigh course rigor compared to GPA itself?</p>		<p>Sent to CCO, will update with response and message family if contact information was provided.</p>
<p>How is PA's 6-scale GPA converted for college applications? Is it converted as a weighted GPA or an unweighted GPA?</p>		<p>Sent to CCO, will update with response and message family if contact information was provided.</p>
<p>how big of a role do senior-year classes matter to college admission?</p>		<p>Sent to CCO, will update with response and message family if contact information was provided.</p>