

AP Biology vs. Honors Biology Expectations Form 2022 - 23

Tesla STEM High School offers **two options** for students to complete their biology graduation

requirement in the 10th grade: **AP or Honors**. In the past, students have **mistakenly believed** that their 9th grade experience with AP Computer Science Principles (an introductory course) is comparable to the rigors of AP Biology. This is *not* the case: **new content is introduced in AP Biology every single day**. Going far beyond memorization, AP Biology **requires students to constantly problem-solve based on thorough comprehension of the material and application of complex concepts**. More than any other course, we have found that **success in AP Biology is highly dependent on a student's ability to articulate their purpose and self-motivation** for taking the AP version.

Please carefully read through the following and consider **which option sounds most like you** or your student:

AP BIOLOGY

Excellent reasons to register for AP Biology:

- I **love** biology. I am excited to immerse myself in **college-level** readings, lab work and reports, and a **fast-paced** testing schedule.
- I am highly **self-motivated** and have a handle on my **time-management**; thus, I can commit **at least one hour of homework per night** for this class alone, **not including additional study time** for labs and tests.
- I am **purposefully seeking maximum rigor** in biology & I **have time in my schedule to do well** in it.
- I am prepared to complete the required **25 to 30-hour-long summer assignment**.
- I am seeking **college credit**; this is only earned through AP by scoring a 4-5/5 on the **AP Exam** in the spring.
- I'm seriously **considering a career that requires a strong background in biology**.

Not-so-excellent reasons to register for AP Biology:

- It will look good on my transcript, although I'm not very interested in biology and/or I am hoping to take other rigorous courses this year that better fit my academic plan (e.g. AP Computer Science A, Engineering , etc.)
- All my friends are taking it!
- I'm feeling pressured.

HONORS BIOLOGY (Now offers option to earn college credit!)

Excellent reasons to register for Honors Biology:

- I want a **rigorous biology course** with a recognized honors designation.
- I'm up for challenging coursework and substantial homework, but **biology is not my primary focus**, and I would **prefer to have more time to focus on other classes and/or my extracurricular commitments**.
- I am seeking **college credit**; this may be earned via the Honors Biology **dual-enrollment** option (Bellevue College, BIO 160) and is based on several assessments and assignments throughout the year rather than one cumulative test.

❖ *I acknowledge that I have carefully read and considered the information regarding AP vs. Honors Biology and will use it to guide my choice on the Course Selection Form.*

❖ *I understand that I cannot request to change into or out of AP/Honors Biology after June 17th, 2022.*

Student name (Print)

and

Signature

Date

SIGN AND TURN IN WITH YOUR COURSE SELECTION FORM BY 01/26/22

Parent name (Print) *and* *Signature* *Date*