

Report on AP/Honors Program at ASFG 2014-2015

Introduction

This is the 29th year that the American School Foundation of Guadalajara has offered Advanced Placement classes. The program prepares students for the rigor of university level study by offering college-level classes, taught by highly trained ASFG teachers. Students enrolled in these classes take the AP exam in May and receive credit from many universities with a passing score of three or higher.

Results

A. Participation

The AP program serves a significant proportion of our students; in 2014-2015, 125 students took at least one AP exam, up from 118 students the year prior. This represents the involvement of 49.4% of all grade 10-12 students (253) in the AP program, up from 47% the year prior.

In total, students took 230 AP exams, 215 of which were taken after students completed one of the 14 corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG, or in a few cases, after receiving tutoring from an ASFG teacher. This number is up from 212 total exams taken last year, 198 of which were taken after students completed one of 13 corresponding AP courses. The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.84, up from 1.81 the year prior.

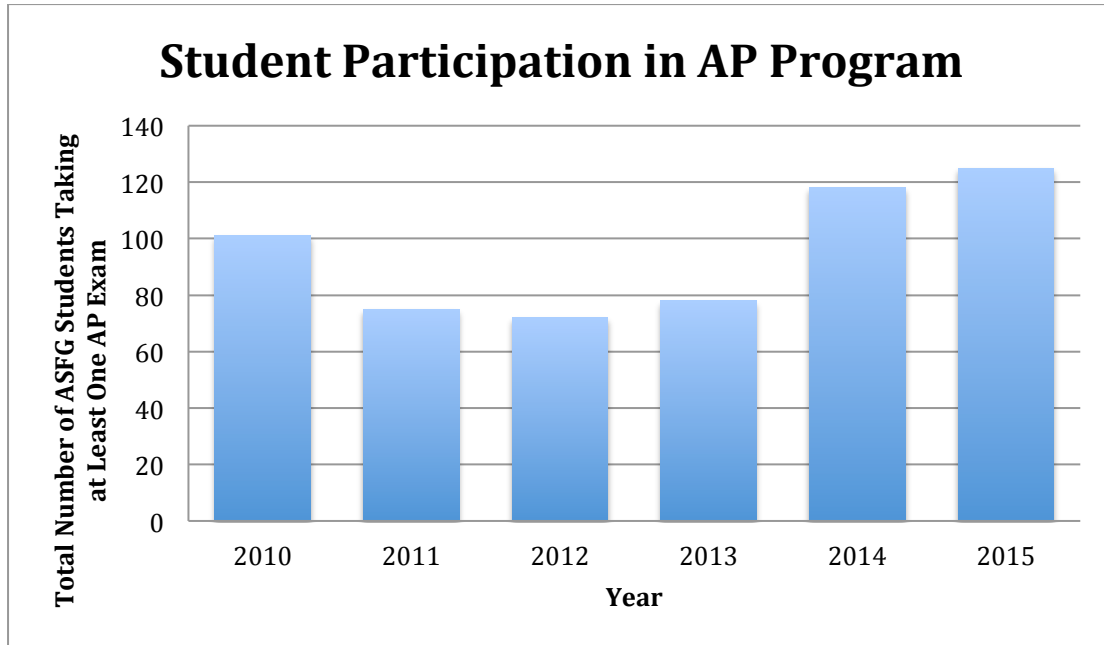
50% of ASFG seniors passed at least one AP exam, up from 49.1% the year prior. According to *The 10th Annual AP Report to the Nation*, Maryland continues to be the highest ranked U.S. state with 29.6% of the graduating class of 2014 passing at least one AP exam (College Board, 2014).

The courses offered in 2014-2015 were Studio Art, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Comparative Government and Politics, US History, World History, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, Physics C Mechanics, Physics I, French Language and Culture, and Spanish Literature and Culture.

Student Participation in AP Program

School Year	Number of students taking at least one AP exam out of total number of students grades 10th-12th	Percentage
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2013-2014	118 out of 251	47%
2014-2015	125 out of 253	49.4%



AP Exams

School Year	Total number of AP Exams	Number of exams for which students received lessons from ASFG teacher	Number of courses offered	Average number of exams per student
2013-2014	212	198	13	1.81
2014-2015	230	215	14	1.84

Note: There were 15 exams for which students did not receive instruction from an ASFG teacher. These exams were in the areas of US Government (2 exam), Calculus BC (1 exam), Biology (1 exam), Chemistry (1 exam), and Spanish Language and Culture (10 exams).

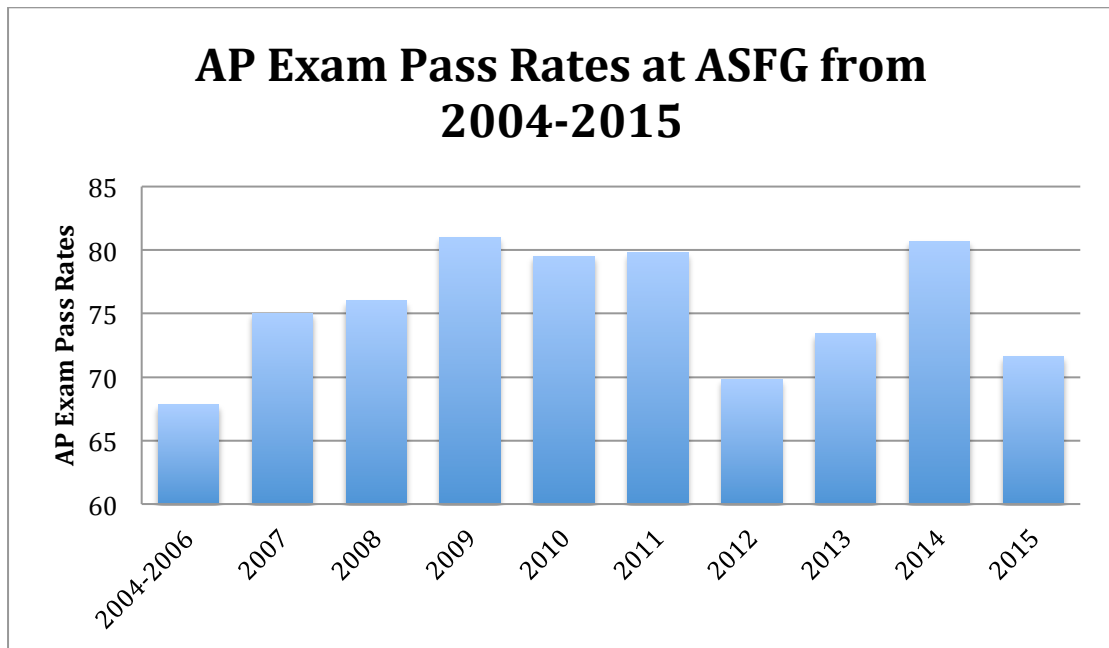
B. Pass Rates and Mean Scores

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	41	49	64	55	6	215
Percentage of total	19.06	22.79	29.76	25.59	2.8	100

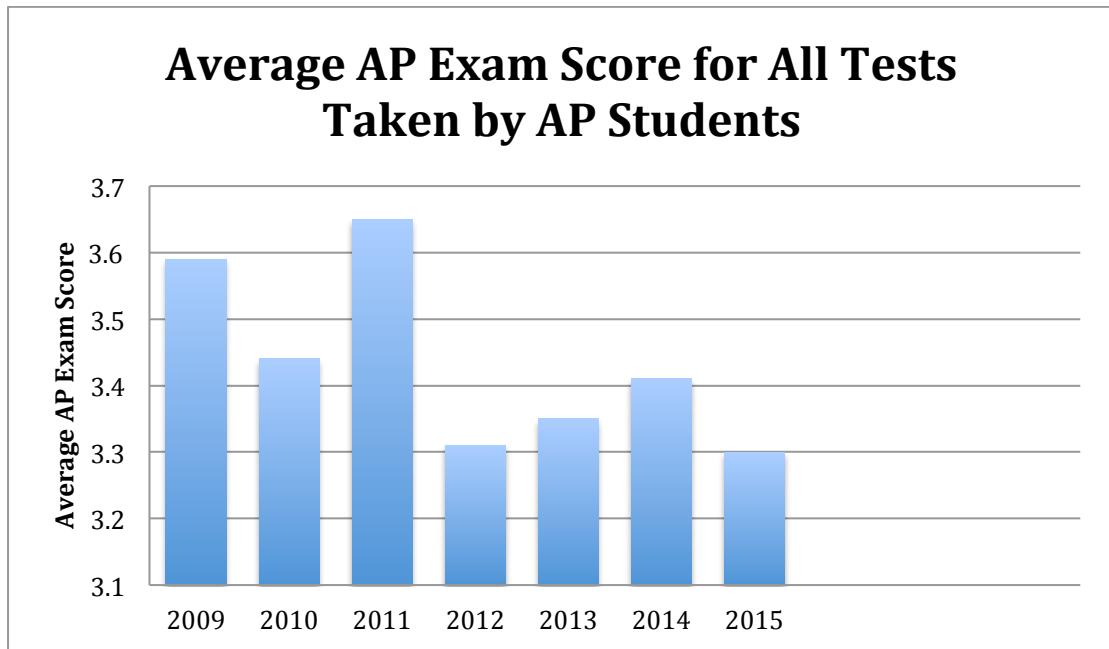
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Note: This table only considers students who took a course given by an ASFG teacher.

Out of 215 exams administered from which students took classes from an ASFG teacher, the resulting pass rate was of 71.62% (154 exams passed out of 215 exams administered). This is a decreased of 9.09% compared to last year's pass rate of 80.7%.



The average AP exam score for all tests taken by AP students for which they received instruction from an ASFG teacher went down from a 3.41 in 2014 to a 3.3 in 2015.



C. School Totals by Score and Course

The table (CollegeBoard, School Summary by Student Demographics, 2015) shows the total of AP exams taken by ASFG students and their scores by course. Consider that this table does not exclude the scores of students that did not receive instruction from an ASFG teacher. These exams were in the areas of US Government (2 exam with a scorer of 3 and 1), Calculus BC (1 exam with a score of 1), Biology (1 exam with a score of 1), Chemistry (1 exam with a score of 1), and Spanish Language and Culture (10 exams with a score of 5).

As can be seen from the table the passing scores in the different courses are: Art (5/5 students), English Lang/Comp (10/20), English Lit/Comp (7/11), Comp Gov. (4/10), US History (30/38), World History (23/42), AP Calculus AB (7/8), Biology (9/16), Chemistry (9/9 students), Physics C (5/5), Physics 1 (18/24), Spanish Literature (21/21 students), and French Language (6/6 students),

School Totals by Score

Score	Stu Art ZD	Stu Art Draw	Eng Lang Comp	Eng Lit Comp	Comp Gov Pol	US Gov Pol	US Hist	Worl Hist	Calc AB	Calc BC	Biol	Chem	Phys C: Mech	Phys 1	Fren Lang	Span Lang	Span Lit	Total Exams	% of Total Exams
5			2	3			4	2	3		1	3	2	2		10	19	51	22.2
4	3	1	1	1	2		13	5	2		2	4	1	8	4		2	49	21.3
3	1		7	3	2	1	13	16	2		6	2	2	8	2			65	28.3
2			10	4	6		6	18	1		5			5				55	23.9
1						1	2	1		1	3	1		1				10	4.3
Total	4	1	20	11	10	2	38	42	8	1	17	10	5	24	6	10	21	230	100.0

Not seen on this chart but also interesting to highlight from the College Board Score Summary is that 31 students got a 5, 42 students got a 4, 58 students got a 3, 48 students a 2 and 6 students got a score of 1.

The following chart shows how we are doing compared to other schools in Mexico and all over the world. Compared to five years ago we have increased the number of students by 66.7%, number of exams by 49.35%, and increased the total of AP students with scores 3+ by 56.45%.

Our percentage of AP students with a score 3+ has always been above the percentage in Mexico and globally for the last five years.

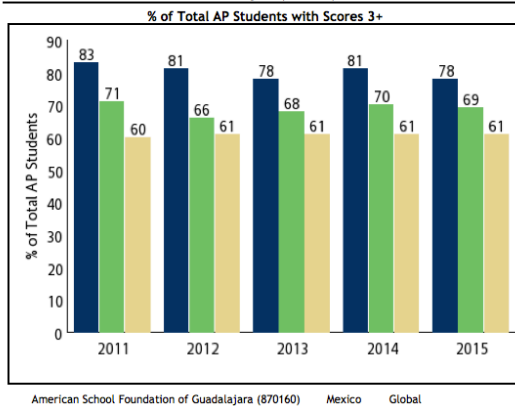
AP Five-Year School Score Summary (2015)

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This report shows five years of data at the school, country and global levels. On the first page, a graph illustrates the year-over-year change in the percentage of AP students with scores of 3 or higher, next to a table that provides the overall total exams, total unique students and both the number and percentage of AP students with one or more scores of 3 or higher. On subsequent pages, the report provides subject-specific summary data by year: total exams, total exams by score and mean score.

Data Updated Jul 20, 2015, Report Run Aug 10, 2015

American School Foundation of Guadalajara (870160)



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
American School Foundation of Guadalajara (870160)					
Total AP Students	75	73	78	118	125
Number of Exams	154	135	153	212	230
AP Students with Scores 3+	62	59	61	96	97
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	82.7	80.8	78.2	81.4	77.6
Mexico					
Total AP Students	647	748	885	968	985
Number of Exams	1,040	1,149	1,411	1,526	1,569
AP Students with Scores 3+	460	491	604	676	675
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	71.1	65.6	68.2	69.8	68.5
Global					
Total AP Students	1,982,133	2,106,843	2,225,625	2,352,026	2,494,711
Number of Exams	3,475,395	3,714,079	3,955,410	4,199,454	4,509,817
AP Students with Scores 3+	1,193,662	1,295,051	1,354,800	1,442,136	1,513,353
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	60.2	61.5	60.9	61.3	60.7

D. AP Scholar Awards 2015

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college level achievement through AP courses and exams.

1. AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher in three or more AP exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	1	3	6	10	3.36
2014	0	7	5	12	3.44
2015	0	11	4	15	3.45

During the last three years there has been an increase in total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award and in the score average.

2. AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and score of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	4	1	5	3.80
2014	0	3	5	8	3.59
2015	0	2	4	6	3.97

Even though the total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award with Honors has decreased there has been an increase in the score average.

3. AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Year	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total	Score Average
2013	0	3	5	8	4.58
2014	0	6	6	12	4.08
2015	0	9	6	15	4.21

During the last three years there has been an increase in the total number of students receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award and an increase in the score average.

E. Magic Number

Exams passed to number of high school students grades 10-12

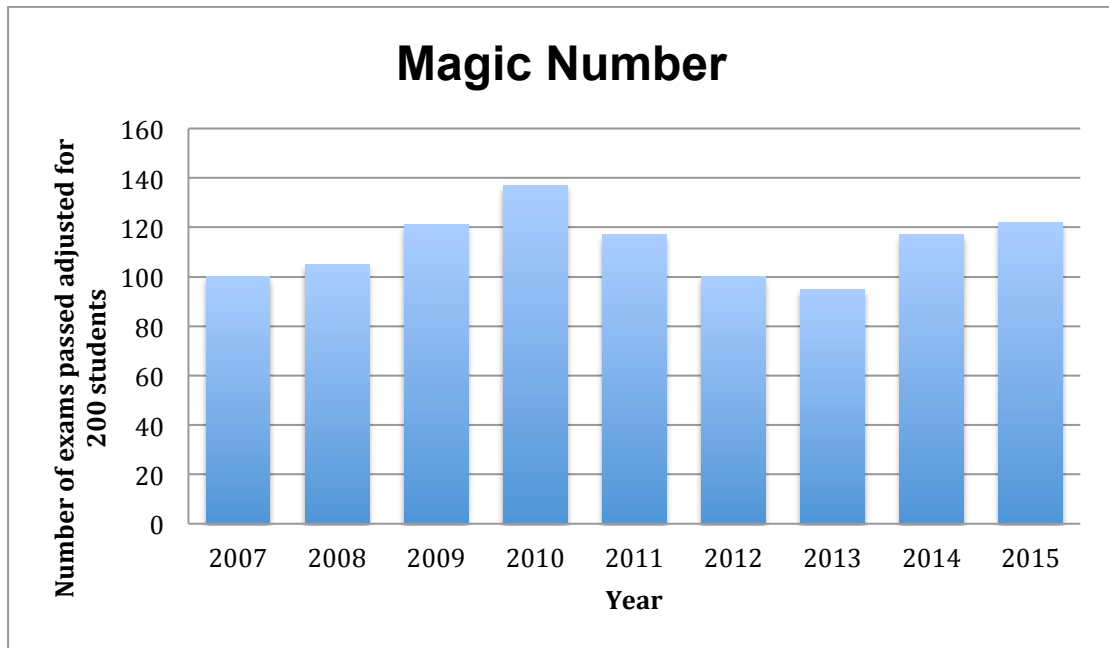
The magic number refers to the total number of AP exams passed each year as compared to a fixed, enrollment-adjusted potential of 200 students in grade 10-12. This measure accounts for variations in high school enrollment. In addition, it is in accordance with the high school's philosophy of increasing participation while maintain a rigorous classroom environment. This is because it is possible to improve both pass rates and mean scores solely by increasing the selectivity of the application process. In 2015 the Magic Number was 122 exams passed per a student body of 200, up by 5 from 2014's magic number of 117.

To reach the magic number of 122:

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of high school students grades 10-12}} = \frac{x}{200}$$

$$\frac{154}{253} = \frac{x}{200}$$

x= 122 exams passed per a student body of 200



Exams passed to number of exams administered

Another interesting magic number that could be included is the ratio between the number of AP students passing exams to exams administered and compare it with a fixed of 200 exams administered.

$$\frac{\text{Total \# of AP students passing exams passed (instruction by ASFG teacher)}}{\text{Total number of exams administered (instruction by ASFG teacher)}} = \frac{x}{200}$$

$$\frac{120}{215} = \frac{x}{200}$$

This will give a total of 112 students passing AP exams out of a fixed number of 200 exams administered. This will tell us about the pass rates no matter how many exams are taken and passed by our AP students and therefore, help us analyze the increase in pass rates.

Highlights

A. Year 2014-2015

- Slight increase of AP students from 118 in 2013-2014 to 125 in 2014-2015

- This change jumped the Magic Number from 117 in 2014 to 122 in 2015.
- The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.84, up from 1.81 the year prior.
- The average AP exam score for all tests taken by AP students for which they received instruction from an ASFG teacher went down from a 3.41 in 2014 to a 3.3 in 2015. Lowest score since 2009.
- Teachers have been encouraging students to challenge themselves by taking AP Courses. For example US History, World History, Physics (greatest number of students in physics) and AP Calculus (3/8 had never taken an honors math course before).
- Compared to five years ago we have increased the number of students by 66.7%, number of exams by 49.35%, and increased the total of AP students with scores 3+ by 56.45%.
- AP teachers leaving: Ross Freshwater, Nayelli Oregel
- Relevant topics to reflect:
 - a. Time for teachers to give feedback to students
 - b. AP workshops for all new teachers
 - c. AP workshops on a rotating basis for veteran teachers
 - d. Increase pass rates
 - e. Congruency between AP scores and course grades.
 - f. ASFG students taking AP exams without taking the course and teachers not knowing. (Serious case this year with a student taking AP Chemistry, AP Calculus BC, Biology, US Government and Politics and receiving a one in all exams)

B. Year 2015-2016

- AP teachers and courses

Science:

Rhett Butler - AP Physics 3rd period (11 students)

Rob Patrick - AP Biology 1st period (10 students)

AP Psychology 5th period (12 students) (new)

US Social Studies:

Esme Hanke - AP World History 1st & 5th periods (25 students) (new)

Isaias Torres - AP US History 2nd & 3rd periods (23 students) (new)

Liam O'Hara - AP Economics 1st & 5th periods (38 students)

Michael Hogan - AP Capstone 1st period (18 students) (new course)

English:

Suzanne Curtis - AP English Literature 2nd period (15 students)

Andrew Plonka - AP English Language 4th period (15 students) (new)

FAT:

Jodi Peterson - AP Studio Art - 4th period (8 students)

Spanish:

Lourdes Govea - AP Spanish Literature - 7th period (21 students)

Manuel Villa - AP Spanish Language - 7th period (6 students) (new)

Math:

Lety Garcia - AP Calculus AB - 6th period (17 students)

Languages:

Fabiola Lira – AP French – after school (5 students) (new)

- Rhett and Lety are doing a research on the relevance for college admissions in the congruency of course grades versus AP scores at ASFG.
- Students have included in AP contract if they will be taking AP exams for which they are not receiving instruction by an AP teacher.
- Number of AP students: 119
- Number of AP exams: 219

Conclusion

It was a good year for AP exams, number of students participating and the scores increased. Although there is still room for growth in two different ways: a) for courses that have already grown in the number of students, passing rates must increase also; and b) in courses that have a small number of students we need to invite more students to be challenged but maintaining the same rigor and high standards of the courses. In other words, we should continue to focus of participation and performance.

Dr. Freshwater left leaving this legacy of expansion of the AP program as can be seen in courses like US History and World History. Now it is our duty to honor that legacy but also increase our pass rates. Keeping up with these two goals in mind requires commitment from teachers and along this line it also requires time. To prepare students for success teachers need time to provide quality feedback.

The Academic Stress Management Policy is still in place, requiring any student that wishes to partake in more than two Honors or AP courses to engage in a review process in which teacher input is gathered by counselor, Serena Millstone, to provide a holistic reflection on each student's academic abilities, preferences, and overall well-being.

In conclusion, all AP teachers along with the students work hard to maintain the high expectations of an AP course, to keep up with the standards and academic goals required by the College Board and The American School Foundation of Guadalajara.

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October 13, 2015