

Report on AP/Honors Program at ASFG 2015-2016

Introduction

This is the 30th 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 2015-2016, 119 students took at least one AP exam, down from 125 students the year prior. This represents the involvement of 46.85% of all grade 10-12 students (254) in the AP program, down from 49.4% the year prior.

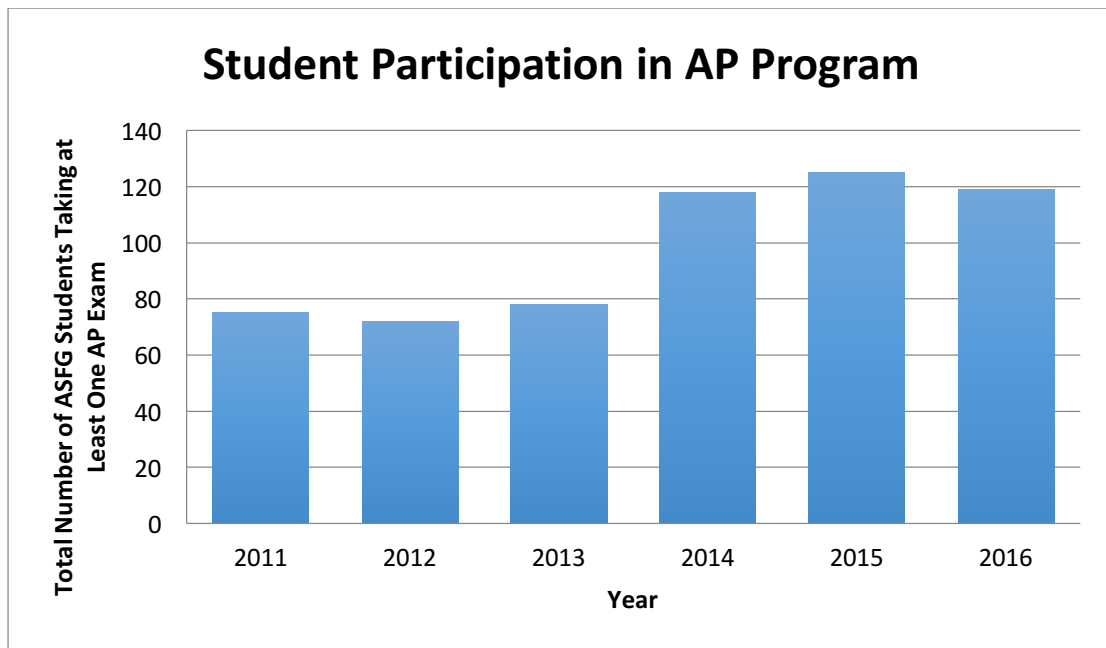
In total, students took 233 AP exams, 221 of which were taken after students completed one of the 15 corresponding AP courses offered at ASFG, or in a few cases, after receiving tutoring from an ASFG teacher. This number is up from 230 total exams taken last year, 115 of which were taken after students completed one of 14 corresponding AP courses. The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.96, up from 1.84 the year prior.

The courses offered in 2015-2016 were Studio Art 2D-design, Studio Art: Drawing, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, US History, World History, Calculus AB/BC, Biology, Psychology, Physics C Electricity and Magnetism, Physics 2, French

Language and Culture, Macroeconomics, Seminar, 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
2013-2014	118 out of 251	47%
2014-2015	125 out of 253	49.4%
2015-2016	119 out of 254	46.85%



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
2015-2016	233	221	15	1.96

Note: In 2016 there were 12 exams for which students did not receive instruction from an ASFG teacher. These exams were in the areas of Physics C Mechanics (1 exam), US History (1 exam) and Spanish Language and Culture (10 exams).

B. Pass Rates and Mean Scores

2014-2015

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

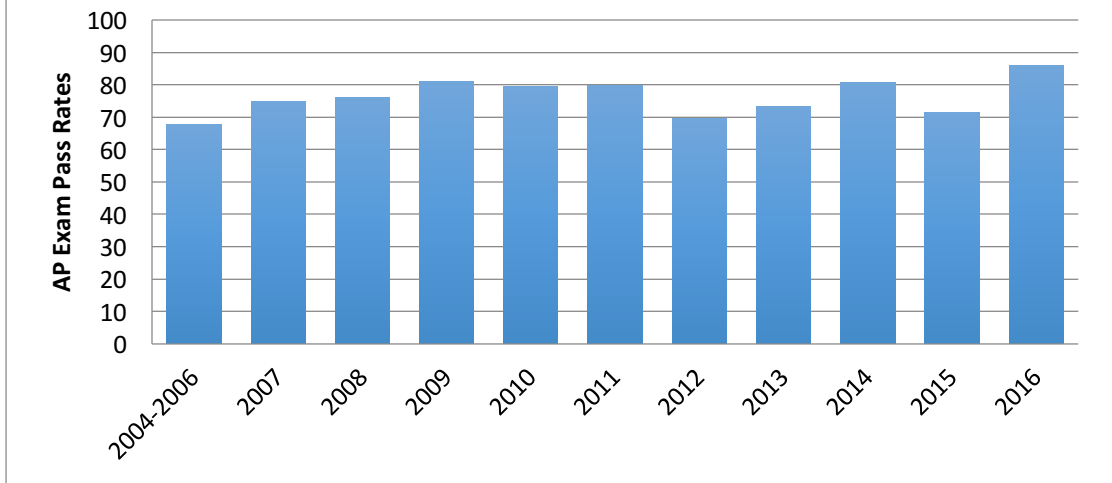
2015-2016

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	62	65	63	25	6	221
Percentage of total exams	28.1	29.4	28.5	11.3	2.7	100

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

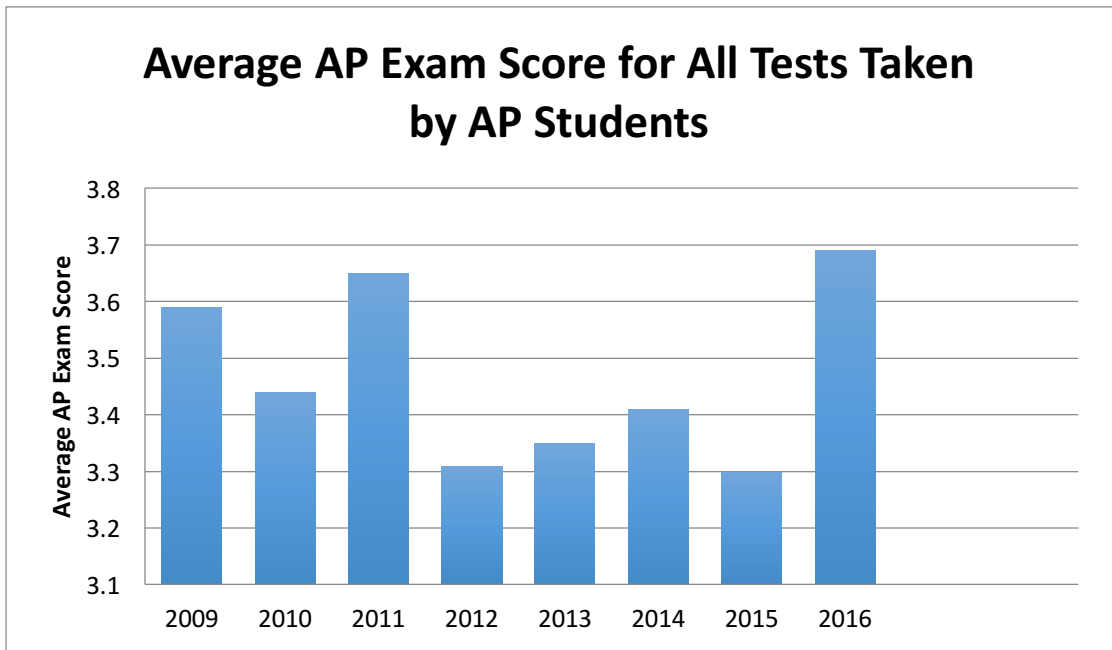
Out of 221 exams administered from which students took classes from an ASFG teacher, the resulting pass rate was of 86% (190 exams passed out of 221 exams administered). This is an increase of 14.38% compared to last year's pass rate of 71.62%.

AP Exam Pass Rates at ASFG from 2004-2015



The average AP exam score for all tests taken by AP students for which they received instruction from an ASFG teacher went up from a 3.3 in 2015 to a 3.69 in 2016.

Average AP Exam Score for All Tests Taken by AP Students



C. School Totals by Score and Course

The table below shows the total of AP exams taken by ASFG students and their scores by course. These students took the course with an ASFG teacher.

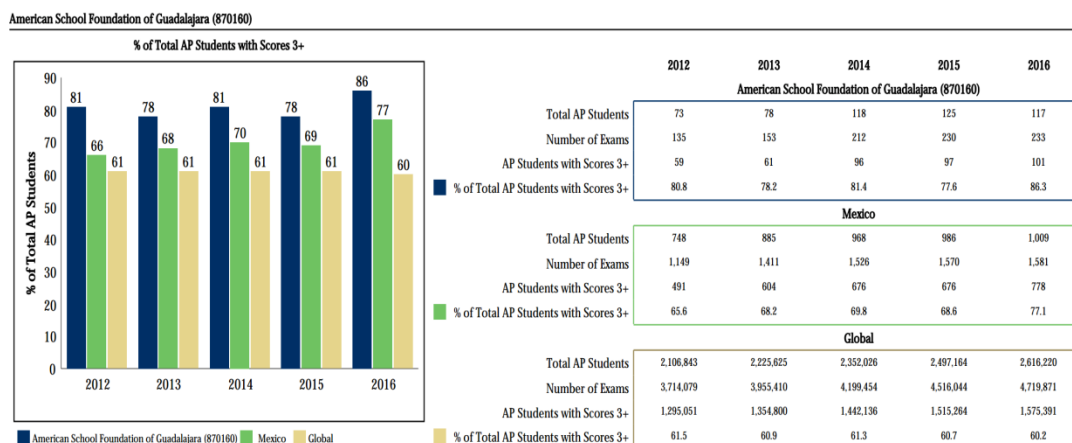
Course Name	5	4	3	2	1	Total exams passed	Passing rate per course
Biology	1	1	4	3	0	6/9	67%
AP Calculus AB/BC	10	4	2	0	0	16/16	100%
English Language and Composition	4	9	2	0	0	15/15	100%
English Literature and Composition	1	2	10	2	0	13/15	87%
French Language and Culture	1	2	0	0	0	3/3	100%
Macroeconomics	6	16	4	6	4	26/36	72%
Physics 2	2	5	3	1	0	10/11	91%
Physics C	0	1	1	0	0	2/2	100%
Psychology	3	0	5	2	2	8/12	67%
Spanish Language and Culture	14	5	1	0	0	20/20	100%
Seminar	3	3	11	0	0	17/17	100%
Spanish Literature and Culture	14	5	1	0	0	20/20	100%
Studio Art 2D Design	1	0	2	2	0	3/5	60%
Studio Art Drawing	0	0	4	0	0	4/4	100%
US History	7	10	3	3	0	20/23	87%
World History	1	6	11	6	0	18/24	75%
Totals	62	65	63	25	6	190/221	86%

As can be observed from the table above, this year, there were eight courses had a 100% passing rate: Calculus AB/BC, English Language and Composition, French, Physics C, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, Seminar, and Studio Art Drawing.

Also, worthy of note, 28% of the students got a 5, 29.4% got a 4, and 28.5% got a 3. Meaning that 86% of the students that took an AP exam passed with a score of 3 or higher.

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 60.27%, number of exams by 72.59%, and increased the total of AP students with scores 3+ by 71.18%.

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



D. AP Scholar Awards 2016

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college level achievement through AP courses and exams. This year there were a total of 54 scholars recognized with an average score of 3.78.

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
2016	0	7	11	18	3.28

During the last three years there has been an increase in total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award although this year's score average decreased from 3.45 to 3.28.

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
2016	0	8	7	15	3.78

The total number of students receiving the AP Scholar Award with Honors increased 150% compared to last year.

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
2016	0	5	16	21	4.04

During the last three years there has been an increase in the total number of students receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award maintaining a score average greater than 4.

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 grades 10th through 12th. 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.

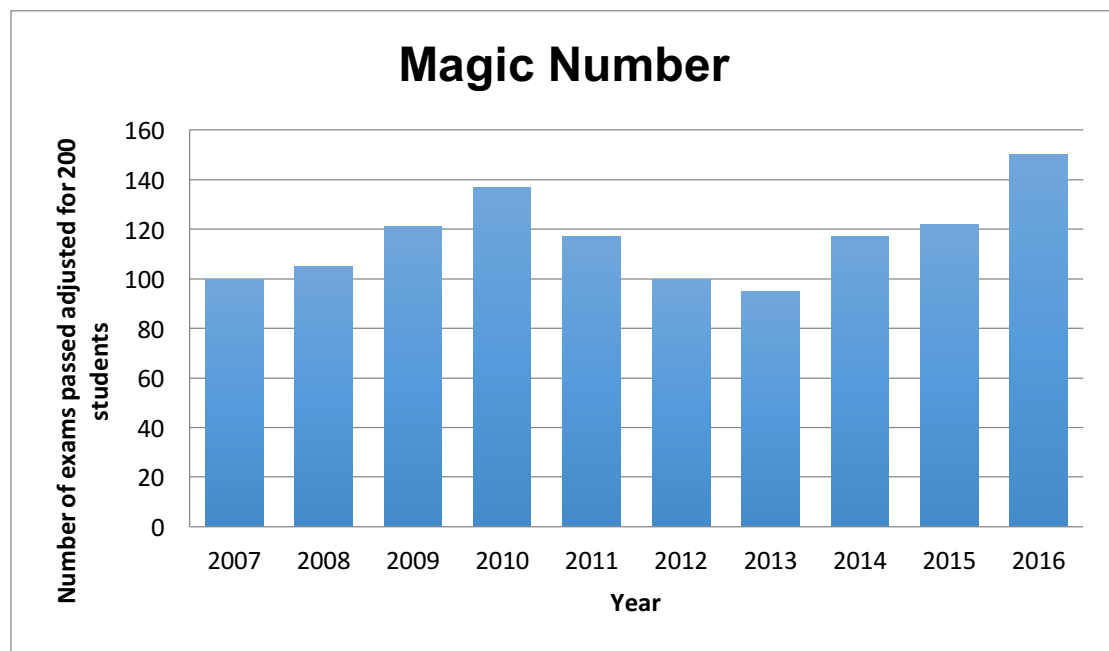
In 2016 the Magic Number was 150 exams passed per student body of 200, up by 28 from 2015's magic number of 122.

To reach the magic number of 122:

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

$$\frac{190}{254} = \frac{x}{200}$$

x= 150 exams passed per a student body of 200



It can be observed from the table that the magic number increased by 22.95%. This being the highest magic number ever reached since 2007.

Exams passed to number of exams administered

Another interesting number that could be examined is the ratio between the number of AP exams passed to exams administered and compare it with a fixed of 200 exams administered.

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

$$\frac{190}{221} = \frac{x}{200}$$

This will give a total of 172 AP exams passed out of a fixed number of 200 exams administered.

Highlights

A. Year 2015-2016

- Decrease of AP students from 125 in 2014-2015 to 119 in 2015-2016
- Increase of the Magic Number from 122 in 2015 to 150 in 2016. Highest ever since 2007.
- Eight AP courses had 100% passing rates.
- The average number of exams taken by each ASFG AP student was 1.96, up from 1.84 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 up from a 3.3 in 2015 to a 3.69 in 2016.
- AP Scholar awards keep on increasing as can be seen from the charts presented above.
- Teachers have been encouraging students to challenge themselves by taking AP Courses. For example:
 - Five of the Calculus AB students had never taken an honors math course before and they got a passing score. Two of the AP Calculus students took Calculus BC receiving a score of 5.
 - AP Seminar was taught for the first time and all the students passed the course.
- Compared to five years ago we have increased the number of students by 60.27%, number of exams by 72.59%, and increased the total of AP students with scores 3+ by 71.18%.

- AP teachers that left ASFG in 2016: Esmé Hancke, Andrew Plonka.
- 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.

B. Year 2015-2016 expected number of students and courses.

Course	Numbers of students	Teacher
AP Biology	6	R. Patrick
AP Calculus	12	L. Garcia
AP Chemistry	8	M. Rivas
AP English Language	8	A. Surzyn
AP English Literature	9	S. Curtis
AP French	2	F. Lira
AP Macro	33	L. O'Hara
AP Micro	22	L. O'Hara
AP Physics I	17	R. Butler
AP Psychology	7	R. Patrick
AP Research	13	M. Hogan
AP Seminar	14	M. Hogan
AP Span Lit	32	L. Govea
AP Studio Art	10	J. Peterson
AP US History	6	I. Torres
AP World History	19	C. Hopper
<i># of registered students for exams</i>	218	
Same Macro/micro students	-22	
<i>Total # of registered students for exams</i>	196	

Conclusion

It was an excellent year for AP exams, although the number of students participating decreased by six students, the magic number increased by 28 (from 122 to 150). Also, out of 221 exams that were administered, 86% of them had a score of 3 or higher. On the other hand, eight of the 16 courses offered had a 100% passing rate. This had never been seen before in the history of ASFG.

Nonetheless, 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 on participation and performance.

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.

Ma. Leticia Garcia Rosas, Ed. D.
AP and Honors Head
October 11, 2016