DNS ADVISING NOTES:  
Using AP Credits to Meet Requirements

1. You may earn credit toward your college and/or major requirements by the scores you achieved on the Advanced Placement (AP) tests. The equivalency of AP scores to Cornell credits is summarized in the Cornell University Courses of Study. Having AP credits gives students flexibility in developing their Cornell programs. By meeting some basic course requirements with AP credits, students can take more electives, have more time to get involved in research, graduate early, or free up a semester to study abroad. Check college limits on the use of AP credits.

2. To receive AP credit, you must arrange to have your scores sent to your college registrar. After the registrar receives your AP scores, Just the Facts will include them. The registrar will make a preliminary decision about how your AP credits apply to your intended degree program. You may need to meet with your college registrar at some future time to adjust how the AP credits are applied to your degree requirements. You can change how you use your AP credits as your degree plans change.

3. Students vary in how they choose to apply their AP credits towards their degree requirements. You are in charge of how you use your AP credits, and you will need to meet with your faculty advisor and college registrar to discuss how you wish to apply your AP credits toward your degree requirements. Career interests, areas of interest outside your major, study abroad plans, and graduation timelines will determine the best way for you to use your AP credits. You can take some time in getting it figured out.

Once you have chosen your major and understand the course requirements, you will be in a better position to make final decisions. In general, you can use AP credits in subjects that are elective for your major (such as history or language) and for which you do not plan to pursue advanced study. For courses that are important in your major or career goal (such as chemistry, biology, and math), you may choose NOT to use your AP credits. Some students forfeit their AP credits and take the introductory course at Cornell because they want to have a thorough review at the introductory college level in preparation for advanced courses. Students who skip the introductory math and science because they have AP credits rarely take sophomore level math and science courses as freshmen. Instead they take introductory courses in other subjects that will apply to their degree requirements.

4. **Chemistry** Students with AP credit in chemistry may apply it toward the introductory chemistry requirement. However, most of our students take Introductory Chemistry to become familiar with the material covered and pace of chemistry at Cornell.

5. **Biology** Students with AP score 5 may apply AP biology credit toward a part of the introductory biology requirements.

**Exam Score 5:**  
Students with AP score 5 are required to take BIOG 1500 and one lecture course. If students earn a B- or lower in those courses, we strongly recommend to continue with the second semester. A student who earns a B or higher and feels confident in second semester’s subject matter can decide to discontinue with the sequence.
- If students take second semester of introductory biology, they will forfeit all AP credits.
• If students decide not to take second semester of biology, they will receive remaining credits from AP credits.
• If BIOG 1500 plus one lecture are taken and decide not to take the second lecture, 3 advanced placement credits will be given for second semester of intro. Biology.
• **Exam Scores 4 and lower:** Students receive no advanced placement credits. Should take introductory biology at Cornell.

**Introductory Biology Requirement: Lecture and Lab, total 8-9 cr.**

- BLOG 1500 Investigative Lab (F/S, 2 cr) **AND**
- Choose **two out of three** options from the following list:
  1. BIOMG 1350 Cell and Development Biology (F/S, 3 cr)
  2. BLOG 1440 Comparative Physiology (F/S, 3 cr) **OR**
     - BLOG 1445 Comparative Physiology, Individualized Instruction (F/S, 4 cr)
  3. BIOEE 1610 Ecology and the Environment (F/S, 3 cr) **OR**
     - BIOEE 1780 Evolution and Diversity (F/S, 3 cr)

*Cannot take both to fulfill this requirement*

6. **Premed Considerations** Pre-med students should follow the recommendations of the Cornell Health Careers Advising Program when considering AP credit. Medical schools vary in their acceptance of AP credit for introductory biology courses. Students should check the specific requirements in medical school catalogs. Some students may wish to take part of the biology introductory sequence - including the laboratory courses - at Cornell to prepare for upper level courses or the medical school admissions tests.

Freshmen who are using AP biology credit toward the requirements should NOT take advanced biology courses in the freshman year. These students may take other courses in math, psychology or courses to fulfill college distribution requirements.