4. How should I decide whether to use AP credit to fulfill a requirement?

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 adviser 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.

To view a list of the current accepted AP and IB scores by university, please see the following link: http://courses.cornell.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=6726. Note: Our majors (NS, HBHS, and GPHS) do not accept Biology AP score 4. Only Biology AP score 5 can be used to place out of one introductory biology lecture course (BIOG 1440, BIOG 1350, or BIOEE 1610/1780)

Please keep in mind that you are allowed 15 credits from AP/pre-college and In Absentia combined. In Absentia credit comes from credit taken at another institution after you’ve matriculated to Cornell.
Major specific guideline/rule:

Chemistry: Do not recommend to use AP toward chemistry. Most students take Introductory Chemistry to become familiar with the material covered and pace of chemistry at Cornell. But if desired, students with AP score 5 in chemistry may apply it toward the first part of introductory chemistry requirement, CHEM 2070.

Biology: Student with AP 5 may apply AP biology credit to the part of introductory biology requirement (up to 3 credits).

- 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 continuing with the second lecture. A student who earns a B or higher and feels confident in second lecture’s subject matter can decide to discontinue with the sequence.

- If students take second lecture of introductory biology, they will forfeit all AP credits.

- If students decide not to take second lecture of biology after BIOG 1500 plus one lecture is taken, 3 advanced placement credits will be given for second lecture of introductory biology.

- Exam Scores 4 and lower: Students receive no advanced placement credits. Must take introductory biology at Cornell.