

## Apex Learning Curriculum and Research

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Apex Learning offers a full catalog of Florida courses for grades 9-12. Developed using backward design, the learning objectives in Apex Learning instructional content guide the development of courses through innovative and engaging instruction and tightly integrated assessments. As a WebbAlign DOK Partner, Apex Learning understands the need to deconstruct standards during the development process in order to ensure the rigor of each standard is met through the appropriate depth of instruction and that courses align with the Florida standards. More information on Apex Learning curriculum and research practices can be found at <https://www.apexlearning.com/digital-curriculum/courses>

### Best-Practices Used

Apex Learning digital curriculum is based on time-tested pedagogical principles:

- Create an anticipatory set for the student;
- Provide focused instruction using teaching strategies such as guided-inquiry and direct instruction;
- Engage students in practice and application exercises to clarify and deepen conceptual understanding and mastery of skills;
- Assess student progress throughout the instruction with formative assessments that provide feedback to both students and teachers;
- Remediate where necessary; and
- Provide summative assessment with both objective (computer-scored) and open-ended (teacher-scored) instruments at the end of each unit and semester.

### Content Review

Apex Learning digital curriculum undergoes review by an in-house team of experienced instructional designers on a periodic basis. Our content development team monitors changes to state and national standards, as well as end-of-course and AP exams. Changes to standards and exams influence the development of new curriculum as well as enhancements to existing content. Annually, instructional designers evaluate Apex Learning curriculum based on data pertaining to effectiveness, including client feedback that is logged and tracked by our client services team.

As a vendor-hosted solution, updates and enhancements to Comprehensive Courses are immediately available to all users and are provided at no additional cost. The Apex Learning client services team ensures that users are aware of updates and enhancements through announcements in the LMS, email-based outreach, and updated articles, videos, and orientation materials available via the integrated online help center.

### NCAA Approval

More than 120 Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses are approved by the NCAA as meeting the requirements for establishing the initial-eligibility certification status for high school student-athletes wishing to compete in college.

For a full list of the approved Apex Learning courses, visit the NCAA website and enter Apex Learning as the school name: <https://web1.ncaa.org/hportal/exec/hsAction?hsActionSubmit=searchHighSchool>.

## Efficacy

Apex Learning delivers increased graduation rates, greater success on high-stakes exams, and more students *Really Ready* for college, work, and life. We have evidence—independent and district-level, from anecdotal to quasi-experimental—that prove that with the help of Apex Learning, students succeed. Results can be found at <https://www.apexlearning.com/results>

## Program Accessibility

Apex Learning content and assessments are reviewed frequently to ensure they are accurate, free of bias, and accessible for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency. Content is compliant with the American Disabilities Act. By providing opt-in supports and scaffolds to meet each student at their individual level of academic readiness and develop their capacities, students with disabilities and limited English proficiency are empowered to master rigorous, standards-based content.

Accommodations within Comprehensive Courses include:

- Audio assistance for instructional text, in which instructional text is read aloud by professional voice actors.
- Transcripts in English for all video, audio, and media clips.
- Extensive scaffolding, including:
  - **Key Terms Assist:** This opt-in support provides a pop up window with definitions, pronunciations, and examples for students if they place their cursor on bolded key terms.
  - **Reading Support Cards:** This opt-in support provides students with strategies for reading and understanding the text on the page. In some cases, this card can help students complete practice exercises.
  - **Rediscover Support Cards:** This opt-in support provides students with reminders and prerequisite knowledge related to the lesson. Students can use this card to get extra help or review concepts previously learned.
  - **Check it Out Support Cards:** This opt-in support provides students with real-world information related to lesson concepts. These cards are designed to help students make connections between lesson content and their lives.
  - **Frequent Self-Checks:** Students are provided with frequent opportunities, as often as once every page or two in study activities, where students interact with course content to assess understanding of the content just covered.
  - **Study Guides:** Study sheets that guide student comprehension of study activities.
  - **Reading Guides:** Study sheets that guide student comprehension of reading activities.
  - **Assessment:** Both computer scored and teacher scored assessments are available at the unit and semester levels. In computer-scored assessments, students answer multiple choice items. In teacher-scored assessments, students construct responses to prompts. These teacher-scored assessments can be given to students as oral assessments or can easily be translated into a student's native language.

## Virtual Courses offered by Florida School Districts

General information under Section 1003.498 (2), Florida Statutes (F.S), provide districts the option to choose to purchase online courses from providers approved by the Department or may choose other providers through a district vetting process. Districts are responsible for ensuring alignment to state standards and national standards for quality online courses.

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/virtual-edu/district-resources/dis-virtual-course-offerings.stml>

## Florida Course Provider Disclosure Statement

Section 1003.499, Florida Statutes (F.S) pertains to districts intending to use approved online course offerings **AND** certified instructional staff of an approved course provider. As an approved Florida Course Provider, Apex Learning is required to provide the following information:

### Apex Learning Virtual School Contact Information

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#### For Parents

For parents or those interested in online learning options, visit [Apex Learning Virtual School](#), call (855) 550-2547, or [email](#).

#### Technical Support

For information about registration, enrollment, or resolving technical issues, [contact support](#) or call (800) 453-1454, option 2. You can also email [support@apexlearning.com](mailto:support@apexlearning.com)

**Hours:** Monday – Friday 5:00am – 7:00pm PT

#### Contacting Your Instructor

Students are welcomed by their instructors immediately upon enrollment. Teachers send welcome emails and post welcome announcements in which they share contact information, office hours, personal bios and tips for success. Apex Learning instructors support students working with Apex Learning digital curriculum by engaging in regular communication and synchronous and asynchronous interaction via a variety of technologies, such as phone, email, online text and video chat, discussion boards, recorded presentations and desktop sharing.

**Hours of Availability for Instructors:** Office hours vary for instructors. Immediately upon enrollment, a student's instructor will contact them and provide information about their specific set of office hours and how to most effectively reach them (phone, email, online text and video chat, and discussion boards). Apex Learning Virtual School instructors are required to provide a response and/or feedback to a student's inquiries within one school day. For additional assistance students can contact Apex Learning Support at (800) 453-1454 Mondays through Fridays from 5:00am – 7:00pm PT.

#### Administrative Staff Information

##### Erica Carlson

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1215 Fourth Ave, Suite 1500, Seattle, WA 98161  
Phone: (855) 550-2547

### Apex Learning Virtual School Course and Instructor Information

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#### Certification status and physical location of all instructional personnel:

- English courses: Active (California)

- Math Courses: Active (Florida) and Active (Washington)
- Science
  - AP Biology, Biology, Environmental Science: Active (Florida)
  - AP Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics: Active (Ohio)
- Social Studies Courses: Active (Florida)
- AP Spanish Language & Culture: Active (Florida)

**Hours and times of availability of instructional personnel:** Instructors notify students of hours and times of availability once a student enrolls in a course. Instructors host regular office hours via GoToMeeting and host live mini-lessons to support remediation. Apex Learning instructors are also available through phone, email, online text and video chat, discussion boards, recorded presentations and desktop sharing. Apex Learning instructors are expected to provide feedback on assignments within three school days of when the assignment was submitted and respond to all other student inquiries within one school day.

**Average student-teacher ratios for each course:** 30:1

**Teacher load (number of students assigned to a teacher):**

- Part-time teachers: 75 students
- Full-time teachers: 200 students

### Student completion and successful completion rates\* for 2015-16 school year

Course	Completion Rate	Successful Completion Rate*
English 9	85%	64%
English 10	81%	70%
English 11	78%	65%
English 12	85%	67%
AP English Language & Composition	89%	84%
AP English Literature & Composition	88%	87%
Algebra I	85%	63%
Geometry	91%	82%
Algebra II	88%	76%
AP Calculus AB	81%	72%
AP Statistics	86%	73%
AP Biology	78%	63%
AP Chemistry	83%	67%
Florida Biology	85%	70%
Chemistry Core	85%	63%
Physics Core	86%	58%

<b>Environmental Science</b>	No data – new course	No data – new course
<b>AP Macroeconomics</b>	85%	80%
<b>AP Microeconomics</b>	89%	82%
<b>AP U.S. Government &amp; Politics</b>	81%	83%
<b>AP U.S. History</b>	84%	79%
<b>U.S. Government and Politics Core</b>	87%	73%
<b>U.S. History since the Civil War Core</b>	87%	78%
<b>World History Core</b>	81%	57%
<b>Florida Economics with Financial Literacy</b>	No data	No data
<b>AP Spanish Language</b>	84%	85%
<b>AP Psychology</b>	91%	90%

\*Successful completion is defined as students who receive a 60% or higher for the course

## Apex Learning Virtual School Performance Accountability Information

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### Student and course performance accountability:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Average Final Exam Score</b>
<b>English 9</b>	76.9%
<b>English 10</b>	73.9%
<b>English 11</b>	71.4%
<b>English 12</b>	69%
<b>AP English Language &amp; Composition</b>	69.2%
<b>AP English Literature &amp; Composition</b>	68.5%
<b>AP Calculus AB</b>	77%
<b>AP Statistics</b>	73.6%
<b>AP Biology</b>	79.9%
<b>AP Chemistry</b>	79.8%
<b>Chemistry Core</b>	82.4%
<b>Physics Core</b>	86.4%
<b>Environmental Science</b>	No data – new course
<b>AP Macroeconomics</b>	62.5%
<b>AP Microeconomics</b>	77.7%
<b>AP U.S. Government &amp; Politics</b>	68%

<b>AP U.S. History</b>	79.2%
<b>U.S. Government and Politics Core</b>	85%
<b>World History Core</b>	76.6%
<b>Florida Economics with Financial Literacy</b>	No data
<b>AP Spanish Language</b>	80.75%
<b>AP Psychology</b>	86.7%

## Educator Performance Accountability:

Student learning and academic growth are at the forefront of our priorities. This requires that we have an effective teacher in every classroom and effective instructional leadership within the school. All Teachers are reviewed regularly on the following key objectives.

### Objective 1. Performance/Professional Expectations

- grades student work in a timely manner
- provides detailed formative feedback on student work
- monitors student performance and suggests methods for improvement
- conducts office hours to provide instructional support to students
- attends faculty and team meetings
- stays current with educational trends
- maintains teacher certification

### Objective 2. Professional Growth

- *Teacher development of **two personal goals**. These goals may be linked to PD opportunities or connected to their departmental team.*

### Objective 3 - Professional Development

Through internal and external opportunities, ALVS teachers are encouraged to strengthen their skills as online teachers through participating in 3 Professional Development opportunities per year. Professional development may be from internally and or external opportunities.

#### **Professional Development:**

- *enhances an educator's knowledge and skills in specific areas;*
- *emphasizes collegial and collaborative dialogue;*
- *encourages risk-taking, creativity, and experimentation*

### Objective 4 – Student-Centered Communication

- Communicates effectively (student-focused) with Students, Parents, Mentors, and Administration
- Monitors tone of communications to be clear and professional
- Presents subject-matter expertise and demonstrates best practices
- Utilizes different methods of communication to reach all types of learners (email, phone, Collaborate, Skype, Zoom, etc.)

### Objective 5 – Student Success (Student passing)

- Examination of teacher's overall student averages for School Year.

## Non-Sectarian and Anti-Discrimination Policies

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Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses, enrollment policies, and employment practices and operations each reflect both the non-sectarian and anti-discrimination policies of the company.

**Courses:** Apex learning courses reflects the diverse and multicultural population of students who use it, including those of different religions. This includes:

- The diversity of the American people and the relationships among different groups.
- The roles of religion, race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the history of the United States.
- Diverse individual and collective expressions through literature, art, philosophy, music, theater, and film throughout U.S. history.
- Diversity in popular culture and the dimensions of cultural conflict within American society.

Course content is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it is accurate and reflective of a changing world. Internal and industry standards for bias and sensitivity are employed in the course design process to ensure content is appropriate and accessible to students in all regions and of all religions.

**Enrollment policies:** When students enroll in Apex Learning courses, they must agree to the Apex Learning [Student Code of Conduct](#), which includes the following language regarding anti-discrimination and non-sectarian policies:

- You agree to abide by these guidelines:
  - Avoid sarcasm and slang. Swear words are unacceptable.
  - Never use derogatory comments, including those regarding race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, political persuasion, body type, physical or mental health, or access issues.
  - Never use insults, threats or attacks of any kind against another person.
  - Focus your responses on the questions or issues being discussed, not on the individuals involved.
  - Be constructive with your criticism, not hurtful.
  - Review your messages before sending them. Remove easily misinterpreted language and proofread for typos.
  - Respect other people's privacy and never reveal email addresses.

**Employment Practices and Operations:** *(Taken from the Apex Learning Employee Handbook)* Apex Learning is an equal opportunity employer. We believe every employee has the right to work in an environment that is free from all forms of unlawful discrimination. Consistent with applicable laws, Apex Learning makes all decisions involving any aspect of the employment relationship without regard to race, color, sex, creed, religion, age, marital status, national origin, citizenship, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other status or characteristic protected by local, state, or federal law. Discrimination and/or harassment based on any of those factors are inconsistent with our philosophy of doing business and will not be tolerated. This policy of non-discrimination applies to all aspects of recruiting and employment, including compensation, benefits, advancement, transfers, and reductions in force.

## Statewide Assessment Program

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In accordance with our agreement with the Florida State Department of Education, all Florida students enrolled in Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses are required to participate in Florida's Statewide Assessment Program, including the following courses with end-of-course exams:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Florida Biology
- U.S. History since the Civil War

Apex Learning does not administer these exams, but will work with school partners to ensure sufficient information is provided to students and parents. Students should coordinate testing location and dates/times with schools and districts. For more information on the Florida Statewide Assessment Program, please see any of the links below:

[Florida Statewide Assessment Program 2016-17 Schedule](#)

[Florida Department of Education K-12 Student Assessment Information](#)

[Florida End-of-Course Assessment Information](#)

[Information for Florida Families](#)