

ROBERT H. TAI, ED. D.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Advanced Placement's Role in College Readiness

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Some Questions Considered

- What is the association between AP course-taking and college performance?
- What is the association between AP test performance and college course performance?
- Is weighting of high school GPA for AP course work misleading?
- Is participation in high school AP programs associated with long-range outcomes?

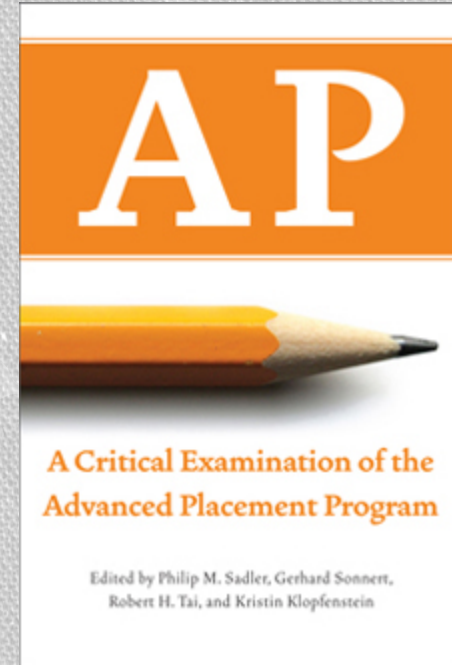
- Our research has primarily focused on the connection between high school AP program participation and introductory college course performance in science and mathematics.
- However, our work also includes an examination of some aspects of the background of AP program development and testing.

A quick example....

High School AP Program participation is associated with

- 2.24 times greater odds of earning degrees in Life Science among AP exam test takers in AP Biology
- And 4.12 times greater odds of earning degrees in physical sciences and engineering among test takers in AP Calculus.

Data from the National Educational
Longitudinal Study of 1988



Another quick example

- Our analysis found that of introductory college science students who reported receiving AP exam scores of 5, roughly 25% did not earn a grade of “A” when taking the respective introductory college course.
- These results were consistent across first semester, fall semester, introductory college biology, chemistry, and physics courses.
- Students in 67 college courses at 55 colleges and universities were surveyed.

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Thank you

Robert H. Tai, Ed.D.
rht6h@virginia.edu

