

Students Advanced in Math by Two Years

A student who takes Algebra II as a 9th grader might not be aware of some of the situations that can arise from such a decision. It can bring forward some interesting challenges.

If a student takes Honors Algebra II as a 9th grader, they would then take Honors Trig/Honors Calculus as a 10th grader and AP Calculus BC as an 11th grader. Students are qualified to take AP Statistics anytime after Algebra II. If a student doubles up with the AP Statistics during their 10th or 11th grade years, then there would be no math course, on campus, for them to take their senior year. If they do not double up, then they could take AP Statistics their senior year.

At Arapahoe, we offer two types of AP Calculus. The first is AP Calculus AB where the A stands for Pre-Calculus and the B stands for first semester calculus. The second is AP Calculus BC where the B stands for first semester calculus and the C stands for second semester calculus. Some of these advanced students might choose to take AP Calculus AB during their 11th grade year and then take AP Calculus BC during their 12th grade year.

In AP Calculus BC, most of the students will be 12th graders. While the 11th graders are very extraordinary students among their peers, when compared to extraordinary 12th graders, they might not be at the top of the class. Sometimes they are the students who receive B's or even C's. This is still not a bad grade in AP Calculus BC, but might be a shock to a student who has always received an A. Approximately 20% of students enrolled in AP Calculus nationally choose BC calculus so the competition is keen.

In the end, it is not about a grade but more about what is appropriate for the student. Students need to be challenged, but also have the information to make informed decisions. This can be a very rewarding/rigorous path and as teachers we want the students to have the right perspective as they embark on this adventure.