

Laguna Beach Unified School District Grade Weighting Practices



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

**PRESENTED BY DARLENE MESSINGER,
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The Issues



- **Uneven practices**
- **Artificial attraction to weighted vs. interest**
- **Aligning with college admission practices**

The Intent



- **Students take most rigorous courses available to them**
- **All Students are college and career ready**
- **Students are prepared for UC/CSU and private college admissions**

Academic Credit Task Force

Composition

Comprised of :

- parents
- teachers
- counselors
- principals
- administrators

Process

- Looked at current practice at LBHS
- Analyzed practices of local and like districts
- Examined UC/CSU and private college admissions practices

The Recommendation



- **Align with UC/CSU honors philosophy**
- **Create equal opportunities among foreign language, math, and arts courses**
- **Encourage students to participate in rigorous pathways**
- **Encourage students to pursue courses of interest**

The Rationale



- **UC College Admissions has specific criteria by subject area for identifying those courses recognized as Honors, thus, weighted**
 - **Example: UC a-g honors criteria for math courses:**
 - ✦ “Honors-level courses in mathematics must be at the mathematical analysis (pre-calculus) level or above. These courses should have three years of college-prep math as prerequisite work.”
 - **Example: UC a-g honors criteria for VPA courses:**
 - ✦ “Honors-level courses in the visual and performing arts (VPA) must have as a prerequisite at least one year of college-preparatory work in the discipline or comparable (alternative) experience that includes all five component strands of the Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards for Public Schools.”

***UC recognized “Honors” course GPAs are based on a 5 point scale**

The Common Application



- The Common Application is used by over 600 private colleges
- The School Report contains information about honors, ranking, and weighting practices
- Counselors select “most demanding” for students taking the most rigorous courses
- Students self report the type of course (AP, IB, honors, etc.) on the application
- An official transcript is sent with both the weighted and un-weighted GPA listed

How many courses does your school offer:
AP _____ IB _____ Honors _____

If school policy limits the number a student may take in a given year, please list the maximum allowed:
AP _____ IB _____ Honors _____

Is the applicant an IB Diploma candidate? Yes No

Are classes taken on a block schedule? Yes No

In comparison with other college preparatory students at your school, the applicant's course selection is:

- most demanding
- very demanding
- demanding
- average
- below average

Starting Point: H Spanish II or French II Class of 2019



Student #1 – Started high school in H Spanish II

Grd	Course	Mark	Weight	GPA (Language)
9	H Spanish II	A	5	5.00
10	H Spanish III	A	5	5.00
11	AP Spanish Lang	A	5	5.00
12	AP Spanish Lit	A	5	5.00

Student #2 – Started high school in French II

Grd	Course	Mark	Weight	GPA (Language)
9	French II	A	4	4.00
10	French III	A	4	4.00
11	French IV	A	4	4.00
12	AP French Lang	A	5	4.25

Students taking the Spanish pathway currently have 6 options for a weighted grade, whereas students taking French have 1 option for a weighted grade.

Starting Point: Geometry or Honors Algebra II Class of 2019

Student #1 – Started high school in Algebra

Grd	Course	Mark	Weight	GPA (math)
9	Algebra	A	4	4.00
10	Geometry	A	4	4.00
11	H Algebra II	A	4	4.00
12	AP Calculus AB	A	5	4.25

Student #2 – Started high school in Geometry

Grd	Course	Mark	Weight	GPA (math)
9	Geometry	A	4	4.00
10	H Algebra II	A	4	4.00
11	AP Calculus AB	A	5	4.33
12	AP Calculus BC	A	5	4.50

Student #3 – Started high school in H Algebra II

Grd	Course	Mark	Weight	GPA (math)
9	H Algebra II	A	4	4.00
10	H Pre-Calculus	A	5	4.50
11	AP Calculus AB	A	5	4.67
12	AP Calculus BC	A	5	4.75

Students on accelerated pathways have more opportunities to receive weighted credit. The number of opportunities corresponds to the amount of acceleration.

Outcome for current students



- **Class of 2016, 2017, and 2018**

- No changes

- **Class of 2019**

- Continue as in 2015-2016
(includes weighting
Honors Pre-Calculus)

Outcome for incoming 9th graders (Class of 2020)



- **Not eliminating any Honors courses**
- **Weighted Courses:**
 - All Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
 - Advanced Chemical Research
 - Honors Spanish V
 - Additional courses may be added

To sum it up...



**Staff recommends that the Board accepts
the recommendation of the Academic Credit
Task Force to align with the UC Honors
philosophy**