

Dear Future AP Bio Student,

This course aligns very nicely with Human Anatomy and Physiology. If you are taking both simultaneously, don't be discouraged! There are times when you will feel discouraged and overwhelmed, but you will ultimately have a better understanding of the concepts.

This course is HARD! If you are someone who usually understands things right away, doesn't have to study, and never asks questions, this class is going to be a bit of a surprise for you. You will have to pay attention throughout ALL of class, you will have to STUDY, and you will need to ASK QUESTIONS! Make sure you utilize class time, your teacher, and any times they offer review sessions/ test corrections/ additional help.

Cram your darn BILL as full as you can. You can carry it with you anywhere, you can use it to review, and you can use it on tests, it's a win, win, win! Don't skimp on BILL assignments or your notes, even if they aren't graded. It's easy (and tempting) to fall behind on them, but the work and time you put into your BILL will pay off on tests and the AP Exam.

Make **all** your test corrections! ALL. OF. THEM. First of all, it will save your grade. These tests are hard and you probably won't get an A on all of them, which can be kind of frustrating if you are someone who usually does well on tests. Don't beat yourself up; figure out what studying tactics worked and what ones didn't, figure out if you spent enough time or need to spend more, and then make your test corrections and get your points back! Secondly, test corrections are a great opportunity to clarify your understanding (or misunderstanding) of the concepts. The information you learn and relearn from test corrections will stick with you.

Biology is interconnected. Everything you learn relates to something else you have learned or will learn and contributes to your ultimate understanding of the course. Don't slack on certain units, it will come back to haunt you.

Most of all, you got this. You are smart enough, dedicated enough, and persistent enough to be successful in this course, and if you put in the work, you will be!

Best,

Anna Ayres

Dear AP Bio student,

This is one of the first classes that caught me by surprise. I took this class my junior year. It was the most difficult years of my life. The most useful advice I can give you is stay on top of things. Grade wise, it's easier to go down than to go up. Take advantage of extra credit opportunities. Write everything down even if you think you know it in your Bill since you get to use it on the tests.

Do your test corrections as early as possible. They take a lot longer than you think. This class is hard as a junior. Even if you are a straight A student, this class will be a wake up call. Try not to stress about it though. 😊 Good Luck! (without Mrs. Riedel!)

Sincerely, ME

Dear future AP Biology students,

Make sure you study for all of the tests, and not just the night before.

Also, be sure to make test

corrections because they help you to better understand the topic and boost your grade. Keep your Bill organized so it's easier to find what you need faster.

AP Bio is a very interesting class and it covers a lot of information. Sometimes it can get confusing and become frustrating, just ask questions!

- Holly Munsterman

Dear Upcoming AP Bio Students,

The class is definitely challenging and time consuming, but you can do it! My advice for you is to take time as often as you can to go through the materials again and make sure you fully understand what the teacher is talking about. Don't be afraid to ask questions if something you are reading isn't clear. I also advise you to try explaining the topic to someone else to help figure out what is actually happening to see if you fully understand the subject. Remember to try to do all your homework on time or else you will end up being behind and getting more confused. DO ALL THE TEST CORRECTIONS! You never know when your grade will need the extra few points.

P.S. Yes the final exam is hard, good luck!

↳ Practice writing TROs on your own!!

- Former AP Bio Student
Ashlyn Borate

Dear AP Biology Students,

The best tactic is to keep your BILL organized and use it to study. Your BILL is your Bio Bible. Paying attention in class is a good idea. Watching review videos on youtube helps you understand the concepts. Make review packets for each chapter recapping the important information. You can also take the practice tests for each chapter in your textbook. On the tests read the question first, then decide what it is asking, make an answer that you think it is, and then find the answer in the given options. Don't get caught up in the extra wording.

Good Luck,

Kalli Kuebler

Dear AP students,

I would advise you to make test corrections on all of your tests, and take your time to understand the questions and why the right answer is correct. It not only bumps up your test grade, but also helps you understand questions you didn't know to get ready for the AP exam. I would also

advise you to do all of your BILL assignments with purpose.

You get ^{as much} out ~~of it~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ put in on researching the topics. (sorry I just took the AP exam this morning LOL)

~~This~~ This class is definitely challenging and difficult, but you can do it! We all got through it and if you don't get college credit, it still gives your GPA a bump up!

- KYLIE TUCKER

2018

Dear future AP Bio students,

Everything you need to know for the tests are in your BILL and the review packets. The days you take notes out them in your BILL. Tape/write in extra notes or worksheets. Make a folder in your BILL to put the review and other worksheets in. At the end of the year I started studying with note cards I made. I found that this was the best way for me to study. I also used the review powerpoints. The homework is easy if you just try and put effort into it. Always do test corrections, they are worth it.

Good luck,
Piper Schultz

Dear Student,

AP Bio is a tough, but fun class. Make sure to stay caught up and don't get behind on daily work. Also, use your BILL! It is so helpful. Add notes, diagrams and drawings to it to help you better understand topics. You will do just fine in this class. Good luck!
Best wishes to you!

Dear AP Bio Student,

So if you're taking this class, I hope you like biology or are interested in how the body works because if you do it will be one of the most interesting and worthwhile classes you've ever taken. If you don't like a lot of things associated with science, I'm gonna tell ya it won't be the easiest thing because it requires a lot of work and studying, which is easier to force yourself to do when you kind of care about what you have to study; however, you can get through the year without liking science and still learn about yourself and what you need to do to study and be prepared for a college-level class. Whether you like science or not and whether school comes easy to you or not, this class will take work. That means doing things like homework and projects and watching videos before the last minute if you want to learn to content right the first time and it means studying for the tests earlier than the day before you take it (start like three days before and read Holtzclaw and Cliffnotes. Seriously.) because the tests are difficult and unlike other tests you've taken because you have to apply what you've learned not just recite memorized facts like "the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell", you need to know how to explain things like how photosynthesis is affected by say maybe a carbonated beverage being dumped on a plant. And the AP test. Yeah seriously start studying for that around like Easter break by going over first semester stuff just so you actually remembered that, yes, you did learn about lipids and steroids at one point. All that being said, this class is not impossible, so don't freak out and think that you can't do it because seriously if I can get through it you can, too. Just apply yourself and ask for help.

Good luck!

Dear poor, unfortunate soul,

Stop reading this and start studying. Seriously. Even if you get straight A's in all your other classes, you should study three times more for these tests. They are made to be challenging, and they are. I guarantee that you will get a C on most tests, probably lower. One time I got an A- on the first try for one test. That may not seem impressive right now, but trust me, by the end of the first semester I will be your idol.

For the AP Bio Exam at the end of the year, I would advise practicing FRQs. We don't do that many in class, and they are hard. So, if you want to do well in this class, basically eat, sleep, and breathe biology. (Just study.) Even though this class is hard, I loved it. Biology is what I want to study in college. I hope you love it as much as I do.

Sincerely,

Your Future Idol

Dear AP Bio Students,

The only reason I passed this class is because I sat next to Morgan Logue. No joke, it kinda sucks. If you take this class, make sure you pay attention and ask a lot of questions if you don't understand something. Sit next to a friend, but make sure they aren't a distraction. Otherwise you won't pass. If your friend sits an idiot, that helps too. Make sure you study for at least two days before the test. They are very hard. Also, do all of your assignments and turn them in. Sometimes, you're allowed to correct your assignments but not always. Try your best on everything because you will, no doubt, fail at least one assignment. It's inevitable. Sorry.

Sincerely,

Morgan Logue's friend

Dear future AP Bio Student,

I have been in AP Bio all year, my junior year, and let me give you a few pieces of advice.

Unless you are a perfect (and I mean P.E.R.F.E.C.T) student, you do NOT want to take this class during junior year. There is a big workload of seemingly easy worksheets, but you NEVER want to miss a day of class, or a day of H₂O.

I got sick for a week & a half during February, and that really screwed up all my grades.

Don't get sick, ever.

Don't lose motivation, ever.

Good luck :)

-me

P.S. Okay, the homework & stuff is difficult, but classwork especially with friends, is fun. Too bad you don't get Mrs. Riedell though. She's amazing.

Dear Future ^{AP} Bio Student,

Congrats on your choice to take AP Biology. The class will challenge you, and it will most likely give you some stress. This isn't Honors Bio; you can't take a nap and expect to get it down. It will take time and self-motivation to do well on the chapter tests. Mrs. Riedell/Mrs. Tucker can't make you study. It's in your hands.

Sincerely,

Former AP Bio Student

To Future AP Biology students,

The biggest tip I have for this class is to study, study, study! You will learn so much in class, but it is your job to read the textbooks without being asked. At the very least, study the review books (I like Holtzclaw) because it is a great way to learn the basic information without reading hundreds of pages from the bio textbook.

Make sure you keep up to date on your homework and assignments, otherwise it will become overwhelming if you fall behind. In biology, you need to know more than the facts, you need to be able to apply your knowledge to real life situations. Also, DON'T STUDY THE NIGHT BEFORE A UNIT TEST, it doesn't work. It takes time to get used to the tests, but it will get easier throughout the year. A great way to get points back is to do test corrections, which I highly recommend.

Have fun with AP Biology and best of luck,

A former AP bio student

Dear New AP Bio Student,

I took AP Biology last year. So I have some advice for you. At first, I was very engaged in the class. When you get your BILL and you want it to be perfect, it is easy to pay attention. But overtime as I was too tired to do all my homework or I did it but did not do it well. This is not something you should do. Make sure to do your bio homework right when you have time. The ideal time is during your free period and make sure you give it your full focus. Watch all the videos. Take notes in class instead of paying attention but then letting your mind wander. It is really interesting to learn the connections from Bio and apply them to your life!

Good Luck,

Autumn Wieczorek Class of 2018

Dear Future AP Bio Students,

Taking AP Bio will be one of your best decisions. It is a great class and always a ton of fun. A few words of advice I wish someone would have told me includes the need for taking time on tests. It is important to study a lot before each test, but also to slow down and read each question carefully while taking the tests. It is also important to not fall behind on homework and assignments. There are a lot, but its 100% worth it in order to learn the mass of information needed. Overall, make sure you take this class seriously, but also have fun. This was one of my all-time favorite classes in high school. Have fun!

- A past AP Bio student

5-16-18

Dear Future AP Biology Students,

AP Biology, being an AP course, is naturally intended to be a challenging class. This class is intense but rewarding and fun, especially if you enjoy and are curious about science. The homework assignments aren't very hard, but they're very useful! There are a lot of assignments, but Mrs. Riedell gives you plenty of time to ask questions and complete them. On that note, ask questions if you don't understand a concept! Even consulting a fellow AP Bio student is a good way to get help or help others.

For tests, I would suggest reading, or at least skimming the textbook chapters and using the 2 study books - Holtzclaw + Cliffnotes. The last 2 really help enforce the main concepts but can't replace what's in the textbook. Watching Youtube videos on the material was something I found to be helpful, too. Also, do the test corrections!! They can save lives.

For the AP Exam, **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE STUDYING!** It's never too early to start reviewing chapters from the beginning of the year. The released past FRQs on the College Board websites are also a very helpful resource. During the exam, or even chapter tests, don't expect to know all the answers; they're designed to evaluate your ability to connect ideas, not memorize facts. Trust yourself!

In all, have fun and learn some biology! It'll be a great year and experience!

Best of Luck!

Dear future AP Bio student:

Hi. So you decided to take AP Bio! I'm so proud. It's pretty fun, but I'm not going to lie, it is quite a challenge. Here's some tips for your year:

1. Pay attention in class - don't be spaced and unfocused like I was. I missed out on lots of good content
 2. Study hard for unit tests - if you study a lot for each unit until you really understand it, you will be very prepared for the AP test.
 3. Do all your test corrections - not only did test corrections save my grade, but they also improved my test-taking skills and my understanding of the material
 4. I liked using Holtzclaw review, Albert.io, and Mrs. Riedell's powerpoints for review
 5. Go in for help for concepts you don't get right away
 6. Find strategies that work for you!
- Good luck in AP Bio, I know you will do great and learn lots!

AP Bio Students:

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck.

DON'T OVERCOMPLICATE IT! Use

your BILL! You don't get it on the

AP test, so take advantage of it while you can. Actually watch the video notes.

Don't just copy your friend's notes. It

may be inconvenient at the moment, but

definitely worth it in the long run.

-Braydon Mallett

Kobe Ischen

Former AP Bio Student

Dear future AP Biology students,

If you don't clearly understand a subject in this class, simply ask questions. Doing your daily work and labs properly will help you in the long run in this class. This class is not about knowing basic facts, you will have to apply your knowledge to real life situations and concepts. Don't stress on the amount of homework, which consists mainly of answering handouts in your BILL. Doing your homework ahead of the due date will help you understand the matter at hand. As a senior, I didn't use my time management with test corrections, which you will be able to do after each test no matter your score. Your free period, if you have one, can be fun and all but you might have to use that time to do test corrections. Now with the AP test, make sure you start studying about a month in advance to give you time to find out what you need to look more in to. **USE YOUR RESOURCES!** This class covers a whole entire book into a year, most tests will cover more than one chapter. I wish the best of luck in the crazy adventure of what AP Biology truly is.

Dear AP Bio Student,

Good luck! If you haven't taken an AP class yet, this will be a big eye opener because I know it was for me. I never had to study much & easily got by with straight A's, so I didn't really figure I needed to study for the tests in this class. I advise you to study because if you don't like I really didn't, you will get a D like me! However, I learned from my mistake worked a lot harder. Even if you average a C on the tests, that is doable because she offers 1/2 credit back through test corrections. Don't stress out too much, just stay focused + try to enjoy it as much as you can.

Best Wishes

Dear Future Student,

My only advice for succeeding in this class is to not try cramming for the tests the night before. Studying for this class is not like other classes in school so do the homework on time and take time to study for the tests.

- Rhwani

Start the first unit off right. Get to know the basics of biology because that first unit really builds off the rest of the class.

Dear Ap Biology Student,

Always study! Even if you think you know what you are doing, you do not! Study groups are great for studying because it is a competition so you want to do better. Your bill will be your best friend, use it to study. Everything in your bill most likely will be on the test. Also the review packets that you get have everything on them for the test. Look at the review powerpoints because there is a chance that one of them will be on the test. Study the study books that you are given at the start of the year. Pay attention in class and take notes. We got to use our bills for the last 10 minutes of our test so it will benefit you to write in it.

Good Luck,
Drew Westerman

P.S. Always do test corrections and don't BS them.

To an AP Bio Student :

Ashley A

Use the Cliff's Notes book to prepare for tests. Be able to make connections between chapters. If you take the AP test, use Albert to practice, and practice writing FRQ and SAQs in a timely matter. Make sure you get the help you need in order to fully understand each unit, because everything is connected.

Dear future AP Bio student,

Last year the tests in this class were hard, so my biggest tip is to find what study tool works best for you. I definitely recommend the website @Albert.io, it really helped me prepare for chapter tests and the final AP Exam. Best of Luck!

Dear AP Bio Student,

This class was a bitch. I did not take the test because it wouldn't transfer to my college major. But, I probably wouldn't have taken the test anyway.

This class is hard. Like really hard. If you are not going to drop, you need to read like all of the textbooks you get. It might help. So yeah. Make sure you pay attention and study!

~ Fellow AP Bio Student

P.S watch the show AP Bio on NBC.
Hilarious!!