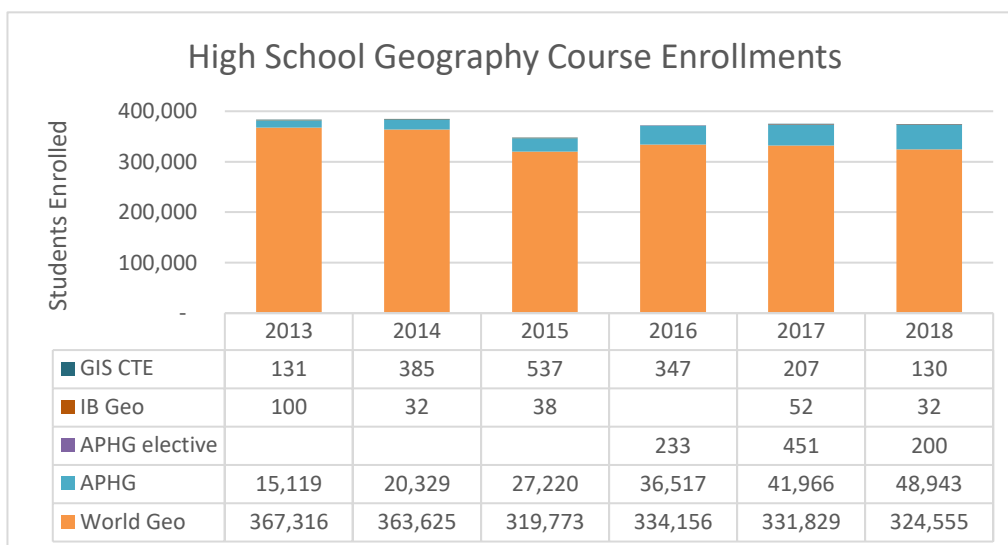


# Clarifying High School Geography Options in Texas

*This document is an overview of high school geography course options in Texas.*

**The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education recommends offering World Geography Studies or Pre-AP World Geography in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the half credit AP Human Geography (Elective) in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This provides the students with a full year of geography in 9<sup>th</sup> grade with which to build up for a later AP coursework.**



**2018 Clarification:** A student can earn one of the social studies credits required for high school graduation by earning a **half credit of AP Human Geography and a half credit of World Geography Studies**. The combination of the two courses that the student completes must satisfy all the TEKS specified in 19 TAC §113.43 World Geography Studies. A student's academic achievement record (transcript) should indicate that the student earned one-half credit of World Geography Studies and one-half credit of the one-credit version of the AP Human Geography course, both of which can be applied to the state graduation requirement. Note that two different PEIMS codes would be used in this case. [Learn more.](#)

[Learn more](#) about the **College Board Pre-AP World History and Geography and AP World History** changes.

## World Geography Studies

PEIMS 03320100

This is a **one credit course** that includes all of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for World Geography Studies. Students who take this course are still able to take the one-half credit AP Human Geography (Elective) course.

In World Geography Studies, students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present with emphasis on contemporary issues. A significant portion of the course centers around physical and social processes, including environmental, economic systems, cultural patterns, and political processes. Students use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions. ([TEKS 113.43](#))

## Pre-AP World Geography

PEIMS 03320100

This is a **one credit course** that includes all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for World Geography Studies. Students who take this course are still able to take the one-half credit AP course.

Pre-AP Geography is an advanced course, teaching student's strategies and techniques that will make them successful at the AP and College level. Numerous writing and reading assignments, research projects, and independent projects are required of the Pre-AP student.

## AP Human Geography (Wrld Geog)

PEIMS A3360100

This is a **one credit** version of AP Human Geography that includes all of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for World Geography Studies and the syllabus is approved by the College Board.\* This course has all of the same criteria as the AP Human Geography (Elective) course, may be taken as a substitute for World Geography Studies or Pre-AP World Geography but **not** in addition to it.

AP Human Geography (Wrld Geog) is a two semester college-level course designed to fulfill the curriculum expectations of the TEKS and College Board. This course includes numerous writing and reading assignments as well as research and independent projects. The course requires college level work, effort, maturity, and discipline. Academic expectations are high and the course is challenging.

The course focuses on the processes and cause and effect relationships of human populations. Emphasis throughout the course is on the spatial distribution, differences in scale and cultural determinants influenced by global interaction and integration. Major themes that transcend the course of study at multiple levels of scale include globalization, diffusion, assimilation, acculturation, integration and interaction. The course provides a systematic study of human geography in a prescribed set of topics.

## AP Human Geography (Elective)

PEIMS A3360200

This is a **half credit** version of the AP Human Geography syllabus approved by the College Board. Students **cannot** earn credit for both AP Human Geography (Wrld Geog) and AP Human Geography (Elective). This course may be taken in addition to World Geography Studies and Pre-AP World Geography.

AP Human Geography is a semester course designed to fulfill the curriculum expectations of a one semester university human geography course. This course includes numerous writing and reading assignments as well as research and independent projects. The course requires college level work, effort, maturity, and discipline. Academic expectations are high and the course is challenging.

As with the AP Human Geography (Wrld Geog) course, this course focuses on the processes and cause and effect relationships of human populations. Emphasis throughout the course is on the spatial distribution, differences in scale and cultural determinants influenced by global interaction and integration. Major themes that transcend the course of study at multiple levels of scale include globalization, diffusion, assimilation, acculturation, integration and interaction. The course provides a systematic study of human geography in a prescribed set of topics.

## College Board Information on the Appropriate Grade Levels for AP Courses and AP Score Distributions\*\*

- **Appropriate Grade Levels for AP Courses**  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/Appropriate-Grade-Levels-for-AP-Courses.pdf>  
*Educators should be mindful of the following when considering offering AP to younger students. **AP courses are rarely offered in 9th grade, and exam results show that, for the most part, 9th grade students are not sufficiently prepared to participate in a college-level course.** Therefore, the College Board believes these students would be better served by coursework focusing on the academic building blocks necessary for later, successful enrollment in college-level courses.*
- **AP Student Score Distributions** These reports include detailed information about which AP scores were earned. <https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap>
- **AP Score Distributions for Specific Student Grade-Level Groups**  
<https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap>
- **AP Score Distributions By State** The following reports detail exam performance for students in the United States and Canada, as well as for each state in total and by ethnic group. The link is to the Texas report.  
<https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap>
- **AP Human Geography two-page course description.** This is a AP College Board summary overview of the course, goals, topics, assessment format, and sample questions.  
<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-course-overviews/ap-human-geography-course-overview.pdf>
- **AP Course Audit: AP Human Geography.** This page includes information for the teacher, including a sample syllabus and curricular/resource requirements.  
[http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/courses/human\\_geography.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/courses/human_geography.html)

\*For more information on the TEKS in APHG courses, review the [APHG Update – Clarification from TEA on APHG](#) and TEKS from Spring 2015.

\*\* (Above APHG reports are from <https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data>, accessed 2016.09.29)