

**COLLEGE BOARD**  
**CHARGE TO THE SCIENCE ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Purposes

1. To provide a liaison between members of their disciplines and the College Board generally and the Office of Academic Initiatives in particular, in order that (a) the concerns and expertise of K-12 and post-secondary faculty be represented in the activities of the College Board and (b) members of the disciplines become better informed about the programs of the College Board.
2. To advise the College Board on what constitutes science academic preparation needed for college, including thinking and reasoning skills. This includes curricular and instructional approaches to achieving this, so colleges can build on this preparation. This preparation must include skills and learning strategies to enhance opportunities for all students to connect with college success.

Current Action Items:

- The committee will produce a draft framework document that will provide this information.
  - The committee will consult and advise on curricular materials needed for the current redesign work funded by the National Science Foundation.
3. To advise the College Board on an effective and comprehensive set of examinations in their disciplines and across disciplines for use in preparation for college and in college selection, placement, credit and exemption. Every effort should be made to achieve coherence between the science and mathematical programs.

Current Action Items:

- To identify areas where a new exam may be needed.
4. To advise the College Board on the appropriateness of its existing examinations to the curriculum and course patterns commonly found in secondary schools and institutions of higher education. Every effort should be made to achieve coherence between the science and mathematical programs.

Current Action Items:

- The committee will refer to the Math Framework document as they develop the science framework.
- The committee will review changes to the course descriptions in the AP sciences before they are made public.
- The committee will consult on and be represented in the current redesign work funded by the National Science Foundation.

5. To advise the College Board on the content and procedural features of the continuing professional development experiences of teachers within and across the science disciplines as well as within the domain of pedagogy.

Current Action Items:

- Particularly as the programs become more interdisciplinary, the committee will suggest the development of materials that will form the basis of workshops and materials for classroom use.
  - The committee will consult and advise on the professional development practices and materials needed for the current redesign work funded by the National Science Foundation.
6. To review and suggest revision to non-test publications related to the sciences *before* they are released.

Current Action Items:

- A list of available materials related to the sciences, including professional development materials, will be submitted to the committee. Committee members will choose to be first or second reviewers on these materials.
  - In the future, materials will be submitted to the committee for review in adequate time for changes to be made *before* publication.
  - The committee will align wording of documents common to all disciplines such as the AP Audit and the course guide for each scientific discipline.
7. To recommend research, validity studies, curriculum surveys or other data-gathering activities which will aid in improving the examinations; help institutions make better use of the examinations and score reports; or contribute to the College Board, the professions, and the public an understanding of current best practices in the subject.

Current Action Items:

- The committee will be informed of the results of the Conley study and consulted on next steps.
  - The committee will be advised of course and exam updates suggested by the Conley study and will be represented on the redesign committees.
  - The committee will receive regular and timely updates from Research and Psychometrics.
8. To assist the College Board in carrying out its mission of preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity by contributing to the continuing national discussion of educational standards and the means of achieving those standards for all students. To use the interdisciplinary vision of the committee to identify overarching themes and provide a unification of the fields of science from K-12 through post-secondary levels.

Current Action Items:

- The Science Academic Advisory Committee will submit a presentation proposal annually, to either the Forum or the AP National Conference.
9. To recommend that the College Board form a committee to consider commonalities in topics such as writing, critical thinking and reasoning to ensure integration of those skills across the all disciplines.