

Dear future and current AP Statistics students,

Welcome to AP Statistics! In this letter I will be going over the misconceptions, do's and don'ts, need-to-knows, and other information that may be helpful for you as you take this course.

For some background knowledge, I earned a B in this class first semester and an A second semester. I also took this class as an elective, rather than as a replacement for a math class.

Misconceptions:

AP Statistics = an easy A / AP: While for some, AP Statistics may be "an easy A" or "an easy AP class"; for others, it's a rude awakening. Yes, statistics may come easier to some people; but for other people, that just means you have to put in a little bit more time and effort to get the grade you want. I was fooled into believing this, and as a result, I got a B first semester because I slacked off. But, going into second semester, I began doing what I knew I should've been doing first semester (homework, practice tests, studying, etc.), and I was rewarded with an A.

AP Statistics = the probability unit in middle/elementary school: Boy, is there so much more... While there is a probability unit in the AP Statistics course, it is only a mere fraction of the course. And unfortunately, the questions are way more complicated than, "What is the probability a six-sided dice will land on the number 6?"

AP Statistics = no more formulas / solving for x: As Donald Trump would say: Wroooooong. There are a ton of formulas for this course. On the AP exam there are three pages of formulas given to you, and even more that aren't. And yes, you'll be using these formulas to solve for "x", it's just not called "x".

Do's and Don'ts:

Want an A in this course?

DO:

- *Your homework* (even if you're not required to turn it in)
- *Read the textbook*
- *Take notes* in class and out of the textbook
- *The practice tests*
- *Engage in class* (ask questions, raise your hand, be present both mentally and physically, pay attention, etc.)
- *Study/look over your notes*
- *Learn your calculator syntax*

DON'T:

- *Be afraid to ask for help*
- *Be afraid to ask questions*
- *Show up without your calculator*
- *Do anything you know your not supposed to* (cheat, be on your phone, talk during lecture, etc.)

In Hindsight:

All-in-all, I wish I got that A first semester, because it is do-able! I wish I did my homework for every unit and I wish I engaged in class. I wish I had asked questions when I was confused. If I had done those things, I'm positive I would've gotten my A.

Miscellaneous Information:

- Mr. Sever wants to help you. But you have to help him, help you. *"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."*
- Vote to drop your two lowest FRQs *IMO*
- There are no curves or "grade inflators"
- It's very applicable in the real world and applies to many majors/professions

I hope you learn and retain the information, maybe even enjoy this course. Honestly speaking, this is one of the better classes I've taken in my high school career; and I don't regret taking this class at all.

Sincerely,

A 2018-2019 AP Statistics student

May 12, 2019

AP Statistics: Letter to a Future Student

A lot of people decide to take AP Stat because they're under the impression that it's an easy A. This is not the case. I and most other students in the class had to work hard to achieve and maintain a good grade. The most important thing you can do to help your grade is listening during class. All of the things that Mr. Sever talks about come up on quizzes, tests, or FRQs. The guided notes are also really helpful. If you follow along and use them for review and practice at home, a lot of test questions will be more familiar. When there's something that you don't understand, you should come in before school to work with Mr. Sever. He cares a lot about his students and will match your effort in order to help you become successful. Before taking this class, I wish I had known that I couldn't succeed without putting in extra effort. My initial study habits were insufficient in preparing me for quizzes and tests. Once I started to take the class more seriously, my grade instantly improved.

Dear AP Stat Student,

Hey! I'm here to tell you that you did not make a mistake in taking this class. It will be difficult at times of course, but I promise you can get through it. ALWAYS study for tests and quizzes and look over examples we do in class. Also make sure you take advantage of the projects and do them well! They can help raise your grade a lot. I wish I had known how important it is to understand all of the vocabulary for each unit, so make sure you do that also.

This is an interesting math class that actually applies to real life. Good luck you got this!

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dear AP Statistics students,

You should be looking forward to your year in AP Stat! The class is a very different math class than you are used to, but definitely in a good way! Mr. Sever is great, there are A LOT of yummy eating opportunities, and you get to work with your statistical soulmate!

This class is not easy, but is CERTAINLY doable if you work hard and pay attention! Here are a few pieces of advice I have if you want to get an A and make the most out of the class:

- 1) Read the textbook! It is a great resource and is extremely helpful in giving you a better understanding of the topics!
- 2) Pay attention in class
- 3) ASK QUESTIONS! Never hesitate to come in before school and ask questions on concepts or problems that you don't understand! Asking questions truly made a difference in my year and the grades I received.

These things are super helpful, and I highly encourage you to do them! I hope you have a great year in AP Stat!

Sincerely,

DEAR FUTURE AP STAT STUDENTS,

AP STAT WAS HARD BUT YOU CAN GET THROUGH IT IF YOU DO YOUR WORK OUTSIDE OF THE CLASS.

IT IS A LOT MORE WRITING AND INTERPRETING THAN ACTUAL MATH, WHICH I WAS NOT EXPECTING.

YOU NEED TO LEARN A LOT OF STUFF ON YOUR OWN OUTSIDE OF CLASS WITH THE TEXTBOOK. ALWAYS DO THE GUIDED NOTES AND THE PRACTICE TESTS BEFORE THE FRQ AND TEST; THEY WILL HELP A LOT. GOOD LUCK! THE CLASS CAN GET A LITTLE BORING BUT THE WORK CAN BE INTERESTING.

Sincerely,
past stat student

Letter to a future AP Stat student

Dear future student,

I am here to inform you that you are in for a fun yet informational class by taking stat. Although most people take this class because they think it is the easy option over AP Calc, stat is not as easy as you think.

This class will be easy for you if you pay attention in class, take good notes, and DO THE HOMEWORK. Make sure that you put in hard work because it is an AP class.

Dear future AP Statistics students,

Let's get one thing clear. AP Stats is not an easy AP class. Now that we have that out of the way, you should know it's not terrible either. Although not easy, I personally ended up liking Statistics a lot. You might struggle at first, but that's because statistics requires a certain way of thinking. Once you get into the statistical mindset, you'll start doing better.

OK, so, moving on to y'all's teacher, Mr. Sever. I don't really know how my classmates may feel, but I'm very grateful that I had Mr. Sever this year. He's been doing this for a while and has even graded AP tests before, so he knows what he's doing. You can tell that he really cares about his students, which I'm super grateful for. He's super patient with students, even when he definitely has many reasons not to be. (Seriously Mr. Sever, bless you for putting up with us).

Listen to what Mr. Sever says. Like I said, he knows what he's doing. Now, personally, I do better without mandatory homework, because I get more time to study the way that works for me. Good news is, once your grade is higher than an 85, he doesn't make you do it. But if extra practice helps you then definitely do the homework.

Anyway, AP Statistics is as fun as you allow it to be, so have fun, do your best, and please behave for Mr. Sever! He's super awesome so don't take advantage of his kindness. ☺ -

Dear Stat Student,

Personally, I really liked stat. I thought it was a fun class and made me consider going into a college major on it. That being said, I actually had to work to keep an A on both semesters.

It is definitely possible to do well, but you need to actually work to do so. Sever is a good teacher, but class at times can be very boring and repetitive.

Honestly, just grind through though because not every class is going to be interesting all the time.

I highly suggest paying attention in class and making sure you understand each unit because they all kind of play on each other. I didn't totally know the first unit on significance tests which hurt me the rest of the semester because I was all on sig. tests. It's not an extremely hard class, it's like any other AP where you have to work to do well. I would really recommend a TI-84 plus CE for the class because the calculator part is much more explanatory and easier to use than an older calculator. Good luck!

To next year's stat class,

I went into statistics thinking it would be an easy class that I didn't have to study for and could just breeze through it the whole year. I believed this because I did very well in Calc AB last year and several of my friends that were seniors at the time told me it was. I got a nice slap in the face (metaphorically, of course) when we had our first quiz. It then hit me that what we'd be doing was going to be different from what I was used to. It wasn't a lot of calculation math but it was a bunch of conceptualization. You have to really know and understand what you're looking at and cannot just rely on formulas and your calculator. Also Mr. Sever is a good teacher if you actually pay attention like you're supposed to. He gives you the same respect that you give. I haven't done as well as I've wanted to in the class, but that's because I didn't put in the amount of effort I should've. So to really just summarize everything I'm saying, respect your teacher and pay attention in class, study and put a good effort into your work, and don't have any premonitions about the class.

Future AP STATS Students,

The undeniable key to being successful in this class is to PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS. The textbook and guided notes are helpful, but nothing will benefit you as much as actively listening, doing practice problems as Mr. Sever does them, asking questions, and participating in class. In this class you have the choice to not pay attention. That is simply a factor of being an AP student; many AP classes don't require turning in classwork. But, I will tell you now, if you choose to not pay attention in class or just do the work at home, you will not be as successful as you could be. The in class problems and simulations give you an opportunity to really comprehend what you are learning and why it works that way. AP stats isn't always easy. Some concepts may be hard to grasp, and it certainly isn't just an "easy to be lazy" alternative to AP calc, but with work and effort you will be successful. Grasp onto the concepts you understand the best and try to notice how every new unit and concept connects to one another, because that will benefit you greatly for the AP test. Good luck! - An AP STATS graduate.

I came into this course as a junior hearing it was an "easy AP". Some of that aspect was true, but I would say it's not just a class where you can just sit and do nothing and get an A. You have to work hard for your grade, but it's definitely a class you can get an A in.

I struggled in the beginning because I failed the first test, and I was scared this was how it was going to be for the rest of the year. But it got better; the rest of the tests I scored A's and high B's. I eventually ended up with an A in the class.

My advice is to just don't miss class and pay attention. The lectures get boring sometimes, but it's important to listen in order to do well. There are rarely "break days", everyday you keep learning. To study for tests, do the practice tests. They are extremely helpful. To be honest, I opened my textbook maybe a total of 4 times. I didn't really use it until studying for finals, and even then I just skimmed chapter summaries and put it away.

Sever is probably the best AP teacher I've had. He knows what he's doing, and he grades extremely fast. He's efficient, and as long as you do as he says, you will be fine. He's always there to help you out.

I hope this was somewhat helpful, and good luck!

Letter

5/7/18

AP stat was a very interesting experience for me. Overall, I enjoyed the class, the people, and the teacher most of all. Sever is genuinely one of the best, caring, people I've ever met. But, I won't lie to you, the class is hard as can be! I struggled so much in this class. My grade was always border-line, and the nights before tests usually ended up in tears. My advice to you is not to fool around in class. I am the person to not pay attention 100% in the class, then go home and try to learn myself all of it. You cannot do that in stat. Pay attention to Sever, no matter how boring it can get. I ~~joined~~^{took} AP Stat because I genuinely thought it would be easy. I always had A's in math and thought statistics is basically just writing. It doesn't even have much writing. Everything has to be written in a certain way. There is only one correct way to write it, so remember to always use Sever's wording. When Sever teaches you how to check your assumptions, pay attention, because you do that for almost every problem for the rest of the

year. I wish I would've known that it was this hard. I am not going to sugar coat anything. I definitely struggled and feared ~~the~~ tests and quizzes. But, at the end of the day everything worked out. Our final replaced our lowest test grade both semesters, which REALLY saved me.

Sever is such a sweet human being and really worked with me and cared about me. I am glad I took this class, because I learned a lot. It taught me how to work hard. Thank you Mr. Sever and thank you AP STAT! ♡

Love,

Dear future stat student,

You are most likely taking other rigorous classes this year. However, I advise you to not let this class be on the back burner. You have to keep up with assignments and try to read the textbook for sections you are confused on. The class can get pretty boring, so you should probably bring some type of snack to class. Ask questions if you need help and *come to his class during 90*. It helps so much. Try to memorize the stuff you have to do on the calculator because you will need it all year. Mr. Sever really has our best interest in mind, so he will be there to help you through. Also, he gives some pretty dang good life advice. Take a deep breath. You've got this.