

Each year I ask my students to provide advice to future students. Once again, I am publishing their advice, along with the associated AP Exam scores. For what it is worth, most students didn't complete the assignment. This is the best I can do right now. All grammatical and spelling errors are [sic].

AP Score	Advice
1	My greatest advice is to pay attention in class and to not fall asleep. Listening to Dr. Gottfried's lectures is very helpful in being successful in his class. The mastering biology assignments throughout the year were also very helpful. The fly lab and the data analysis labs were also very helpful. The meal worm respiration lab was a time waster because it seemed like it was already common sense what was going on. Boseman biology, crash course biology, and khan academy were very helpful. I would say that the best way to study was through the barrons book.
1	My advice to students incoming for 2017-2018 AP Biology is that, students must understand that it is rigorous work and not something to take lightly. Biology within itself is a subject that may be difficult for some so, AP Biology is a lot harder than regular Biology. The challenges students will face are: challenging assignments, difficult exams and a lot of studying to be done. The labs were very helpful because it will aid you to understand for future assignments and exams that you will be having. The FRQ's that you will be having are difficult, although some may be easy due to studying or the question itself, but they are challenging questions that you must be specific about and show all work. The most helpful websites are: mastering biology and quizlet; they are helpful for exams and lab reports. The review book for biology also helped out when studying for exams or FRQ's because of the amount of useful information it had. The AP exam is rigorous and in order to pass with a 4 or 5 you MUST study a lot from the websites I mentioned before, also there was a total of 8 FRQ's last time so studying previous FRQ's is always helpful because they can be similar to the past. All in all AP Biology must be taken seriously and if failing or barely passing, then one should consider switching out since day by day it will get more and more challenging.
2	In this class if you always pay attention and are engaged with Dr.G's lectures then you'll learn a lot more than you think. The labs are very helpful in understanding the material. The workload can be overwhelming at times but getting all the assignments in on time and done well goes a long way to improve your grade.
2	SIMPLE. DO THE HOMEWORK, the homework nearly teaches you everything you need to know. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO READ THE BOOK LIKE ME. also listen to Dr.G in class which will make the home work that much easier
2	Best advice i can give to the students coming into AP Biology is to have fun when trying to learn the information in the course. I personally enjoyed attending class and enjoyed listening to Gottfried's lectures because of the jokes and stories he tells. I also think looking up song parodies is the best thing and its easier to memorize certain concepts. Although I used the Barron's Review Book, I also used the Barron's flash cards to review and try to memorize terminologies because thats what most of the course is about. Mostly learning the terms in the biology course so the flash cards to me were very useful. Another helpful tool was the website Getafive.com, it helped me review the different chapters within the lectures, there was questions that really helped in order to retain information. So hopefully it reflects on my score.
2	When taking Dr. Gottfrieds AP Biology class, although it seems very hard and like a lot of work, it really isn't. As long as you turn everything in on time and try to pay attention in class you will do fine in passing the class. The AP test and studying for such is a bit different. The work done in class is meant to help you study, but it can't do all the studying for you so you definitely have to take time on the side to study yourself. I'll be honest I didn't study a whole lot but I would try my best to at least go on Quizlet and study the terms I know I knew nothing about and watch tons of videos, made by different people, on topics that I was lost on, which actually did help me, or even use Khan Academy. You have to search around through different materials to find one that helps you best.
2	First of don't copy the homework or get the answers from the internet, even if you are just trying to wing it. Unless, you are getting the answers and trying to understand why that is the answer. All

	<p>homework(s) mean something, it is not just a grade that a teacher gives to reach the satisfactory amount of grade per quarter.</p> <p>Also, get the Barons book in the beginning of the year, don't make the same mistake as me and get it the week before the exam. You have to keep in mind that if you have other AP exams you need time to prepare for them as well. Maybe, try doing 1-2 chapters of the Barons once a month so you would not have to rush it and spend loads of time on completing it all at once. After, you are done with the Barons, when the exam is gonna start within a month just start going over of what you have done, through out the Barons try to highlight the main parts of the chapter so when you are going over it, it would be a whole lot easier to catch your eye.</p>
2	<p>Honestly the best thing to do in this class is to pay attention when Dr. Gottfried is lecturing EVERY DAY. I made the mistake of falling asleep. Don't make that mistake! If you fall asleep even for one day, you will miss material that's necessary for other chapters/concepts and you will be LOST. The labs that he does are super fun and are probably the best part of the class (except for the jokes). Don't be scared to talk to him and ask questions. Even if it's not about bio, he's really interesting to talk to.</p> <p>Don't google the mastering bio questions, but, if you do, make sure you go back and review the answers.</p> <p>Don't think the bio test is a "thinking test". That's a lie... it's all concepts from the class.</p> <p>LASTLY, if you are a senior taking this class.... good luck.</p>
2	<p>USE ONLINE RESOURCES!! Doing a couples tests through review books showed me after the test that they weren't similar at all. However, one of the best things you can do is study past FRQs. Doing this was very helpful to me and the studying of FRQs was much more accurate than studying the multiple choice practice questions. I felt as though a lot of the questions were common-sense and having general knowledge about biology in general will be extremely helpful. Another thing to practice is time-management. A lot of my friends told me that they didn't finish some of the FRQs. It is important to practice the test by using the time period as well. DOING ALL OF THE LABS ENSURES A GOOD GRADE IN CLASS! DO EVERY LAB! Mastering bio was also very helpful for review and for knowledge of the class during the process of the year.</p>
2	<p>While signing up for this course you may have thought this would be an easy course it's biology how hard can it be trust me it's hard but if you stay awake and pay attention to Dr.gottfried analogys you'll have a higher percentage of passing not just the class but the ap test. I suggest getting a review book early like around February and actually start studying it's really compact so the later you start the more you will regret it. I suggest taking statistics and psychology with biology as they will compliment each other or if you have taken them even better this year frqs were free points for the statistic kids. Falling asleep in this class would be really tempting I know I slept often but if you do fall to temptation try to keep one ear open believe it or not you might still learn something and at the end of the day if you don't pass the ap test don't feel discouraged or down just know that you learn valuable life lessons that you can't learn from a textbook. Oh one more thing if you ever plan on traveling ask Dr.gottfried to go to as he has most likely been there I'm serious he's been almost everywhere and knows more than what tourists know when coming he knows more than the travel guide.</p>
2	<p>If you stay on track by reading the assigned chapter and studying often, you should be able to remain successful. Always do the assignments and lab reports, even if they seem boring and unimportant, for if you don't your grade WILL suffer. Read from different sources such as Khan Academy, Openstax Biology, and Boundless Biology. Watch Crash Course videos after you've read and are somewhat familiar with the material. Invest your time and money into a review book like Cliff Notes. Barron, from what I've heard, is not very helpful. Do learn how to decipher graphs, design experiments, go over foundational material, and stay on top of studying and completing assignments.</p>
3	<p>Actually do the masteringbio. Do not copy labs, do them yourself.</p>
3	<p>Biggest advice I can give to next year's class is to perfect their studying habits. To not procrastinate and leave studying till the very last minute. To study material before class so that in class, they're knowledgeable enough on the subject to ask important questions.</p>

3	<p>To be successful in AP Bio you MUST stay on top of your work. Falling behind is not an option in any AP class but especially so in Bio. Dr. G is very good about keeping you up to date and giving you assignments early so as long as you stay attentive and focus on the end result you will be successful. The test has been restructured to be less memory based and more understanding, so if you are a slow reader start working on that now. Look at the practice tests early on in the year so you know what you are dealing with. Dr. G will do many hands on activities and labs which if you work to understand you can get a major understanding of the topic it is covering which will help you in the long run. Ultimately it is up to you and your choices, you can choose to work hard and learn the major concepts to help you on the test or you can choose to not do that, but I will tell you, you will build a relationship with Dr. G and ultimately it is he who will have to deal with the consequences of your actions.</p>
3	<p>My main advice to next year's class is learn how to manage your time. AP exams come faster than you think and before you know it, it's the night before and you're desperately trying to learn the difference between hypotonic and hypertonic. It's tempting to leave things for last minute, but time is so valuable, so stop saying "I'll do it tomorrow" because sooner or later you're going to run out of time. If you manage your time well, this class won't seem as overwhelming (this also applies to pretty much everything in your life).</p> <p>My next piece of advice is don't sleep during Dr. Gottfried's powerpoints. I know it's tempting because the lights are dim and Dr. Gottfried's voice is like a soft lullaby slowly guiding you to dreamland (totally), but, sorry, drooling all over your desk won't help you understand anything any better. And when the time comes that you need to know certain information, you'll wish you taped your eyes open and listened to every word.</p> <p>Now onto the subject of studying for the actual AP test. If you're like me, you can spend an hour reading one page (or sentence) over and over again and still not understand what it's saying. So for those of you who would rather organize Dr. Gottfried's desk (an impossible task) than read a review book, I recommend "getafive.com". An entire year of AP Biology stuffed into eight hours' worth of videos taught by a man who strangely seems to hate his job more than you hate school (wow, and you thought no one had the capacity to feel the hatred you feel towards school). However, a forewarning: DO NOT leave all 107 videos for the night before. Trust me, after five hours of looking into the same teacher's sweet dead eyes through a computer screen, AP Chemistry doesn't seem so bad after all. Of course, studying from a book does work for some people, and from what I read, the first three pages of the Barron's review book are pretty solid.</p>
3	<p>Review Dr. Gottfried's OneNote pages! They give every ounce of information you could possibly wish for when you're reviewing the chapter the night before the exam.</p> <p>If you focus on completing the lab and doing it correctly, you will understand the subject a lot easier. Do it; don't copy from other students. An A on a lab will not outweigh an F on an exam.</p> <p>If you actually pay attention to the stuff on Mastering Biology, you'll learn a lot.</p>
3	<p>As someone who consistently got bad grades in AP Bio and still doesn't know how well they did on the final exam, I feel like I am in no place to be telling next year's students what study habits they should be following. However, if by some stroke of luck I pass the exam with a decent score then I'm glad to share whatever tips I have. If you find biology to be a boring subject or in my case, have a hard time concentrating on a text book or other normal study material, then I strongly suggest visiting the Crash Course YouTube channel. Now, I realize that Crash Course may seem like more of a last minute review rather than an actual way of studying new material, but I found it to be one of the few ways of learning certain modules that I either didn't understand or wasn't paying attention to in class. Although it is a little fast pace, there is a certain level of entertainment that makes listening to the more tedious information easier. This next tip should be obvious, but so many people including myself still struggle to avoid it. I am referring to procrastination. Not only for homework in general, but for studying as well. It is terrible to convince yourself you still have enough time for everything and is one of the reasons I lack confidence about my score. Also it is best to focus on what you have no clue with first instead of starting from the beginning, because although you may have a planned out study schedule in your head it may not work out the way you want to. So try to save as much time as possible. As for advice I have for when you're taking the test, I think it is really important to be calm since a lot of the questions required some analytical thinking. Studying the</p>

	<p>material can go a long way but many of the questions could not be answered without really understanding either a graph or situation. In fact i'd go as far as to say that you could answer some of the test with only little knowledge of biology if you were really good at analyzation.</p>
3	<p>Many people don't take AP Bio as seriously as they should, and I think this is the first problem with AP Bio. From the beginning, it is so important to just pay attention during lectures and do homework yourself (yes, actually do it). I definitely feel as if i didn't take enough advantage from the lectures and because of this, when the time for the test came, i had to study more because i didn't have a good base knowledge. If you pay attention in class and have good reading comprehension skills, the test should not be too difficult for you in my opinion. However, if you don't pay attention in class, you're going to have to do the biology learning part of the work on your own and that makes it a little more difficult. Also, Dr. G is an amazing teacher and even if i didn't fully take advantage of all of the tools he gave us, i was still able to learn so much so please take advantage of all the information he knows and is willing to teach you as this year i learned not many teachers have as much expertise as he does so utilize it as much as you can. i can't stress enough, do the homework, it actually helps. yes, you can get lazy, but do it!! (and on time)!!!</p>
3	<p>Try to thoroughly comprehend the material rather than just absorbing general concepts. Test yourself periodically on the material by clicking the "Study Area" section in Mastering Biology, picking a chapter, and navigating to the "Cumulative Test" section.</p>
3	<p>This advice is only good for lazy students. It's easy to go into a year and tell yourself that you're going to be dedicated and do all of your work, but the reality is you won't. Everyone knows that the mastering biology is all on quizlet, doing it all will likely get anyone a 4 or 5. It also helps to turn in all assignments on time, because turning it in late really isn't worth it. Even if you don't take the advice, showing up to class and listening to the lectures is enough to get yourself by, but putting in even a little bit of work can get you so much farther.</p>
4	<p>First of all, I would recommend to all of the next year students to pay a lot of attention to what Dr. Gottfried says. He is a very knowledgeable man that has more than Biology to offer. Not to mention, I will really recommend getting a review book early in the year; cramming all of the concepts and information is too much even if it is two weeks before the test. In my opinion, the Barron's content was very useful due to how straightforward it was. Sadly, the multiple choice and FRQs in the Barron's book were based on what you read and not questions similar to the actual AP test. Above all, take Mastering Biology seriously, don't take the shortcuts because nothing will be learned.</p>
4	<p>Dear future AP Bio student,</p> <p>This class is great and you won't regret signing up for it. With tips and advice, do the Mastering Biology, don't just copy. Trust me it's worth it, I never really understood what I was doing sometimes with it but the next day in class with the lesson Dr, Gottfried would teach made it all clear and connected it well. Also, always listen to Dr. Gottfried, if he tells you to do something, DO IT. Take his advice seriously, he is filled with many years or experience and wisdom. Study for his tests! I found that reading the textbook while taking notes is a good method. Also, you should watch the crash course videos that correlate with the chapters on the test (crash course isn't helpful if you use it alone). Those really long filling in form assignments may seem dumb and a waste of time, but if you take the time to actually go through it and learn they are so helpful you won't even realize it. As for the AP test I have no idea what I got so I can only give you the advice to not start studying a week before the exam, big mistake. Also do not use the Barrons book, its horrible and a nightmare the sample questions it gives you aren't even close to actual AP Bio exam questions. It totally makes things more complicated and less straight to the point than it should be, I recommend the Princeton Review book. Crash course is once again a really good aid if you use it correctly, as in do not just watch it, take notes. Do not only watch crash course try to read too, crash course is for review, you can't review something you have not learned. Get a 5 is also a good resource. You'll most likely do great in this class if you stay on top of work and don't copy homework like 90% of the time.</p>