

# AP CALCULUS OR AP STATISTICS

## Which Course Should You Take?

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- ❖ What math courses will I take in college?
  - In college, most students are required to take at least one mathematics course. About half of the colleges and universities require a calculus course, and the other half require a statistics course.
- ❖ What credit or placement will I get for my AP math class?
  - Each college and university has a policy about credit and/or placement awarded for specific AP exams. At most schools that give credit, earning a “passing” score on the AP Calculus or AP Statistics exams results in one (or two – see below) semester of college credit. The key might be which math course you will need in your major. Check the web sites of colleges and universities you are interested in to see the minimum AP score required for credit at that institution. For example, at UIUC, see [http://admissions.illinois.edu/academics/placement\\_AP.html](http://admissions.illinois.edu/academics/placement_AP.html)
- ❖ What college major do I plan to pursue?
  - If you plan to pursue a degree in mathematics, the sciences or engineering, you will be expected to take calculus in college. If you plan to major in English, history, the social sciences, fine arts or foreign languages, then you are more likely to need a statistics course. Business majors will probably need to take both calculus and statistics. You want to choose a course that sets you up well for your college math requirements.
- ❖ What is the difference between AP Calculus AB and BC?
  - AP Calculus is offered at two levels, called AB and BC. AB Calculus is the equivalent of one semester of college calculus. BC Calculus is the equivalent of two semesters of college calculus. Both courses are taught and tested at the same level. The difference is BC Calculus covers more material than AB Calculus.
- ❖ What is the difference between AP Calculus and AP Statistics?

### AP Calculus

Graphical, numerical and algebraic  
Builds on precalculus concepts  
Computational proficiency helps  
Emphasizes techniques and applications  
TI-83/84/89/NSpire (CAS or non-CAS)

### AP Statistics

Collecting and analyzing data  
Computation de-emphasized  
Focus on communication and interpretation  
Students learn to write using technical language  
Design experiments and surveys  
Computer and TI-83/84/NSpire

ONE POSSIBILITY: Take both calculus and statistics!