



Question, Explore, Connect



What Is the AP Capstone™ Program?

AP Capstone™ is an innovative diploma program that helps you stand out in the college admission process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in life.

Two new courses — AP® Seminar and AP Research — allow you to immerse yourself in topics that matter to you while developing the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants. This challenging program helps you deepen your passion for learning, gives you greater confidence in your academic skills, and provides a broader perspective on your world.



Collaborate, Investigate, Communicate

How AP Capstone Works

Students typically take AP Seminar in the 10th or 11th grade, followed by AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Alternatively, the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**, signifying attainment of college-level academic and research skills, is awarded for scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams only.

Here's what you can expect:

Year One | AP® Seminar

In the first year, you'll develop and strengthen your analytic and inquiry skills, exploring deeply topics and issues chosen by you and/or your teacher. You'll learn to consider an issue from multiple perspectives, evaluate the strength of an argument, and make logical, fact-based decisions. For example, you might explore the question of whether national security is more important than a citizen's right to privacy, or whether genetic engineering is beneficial to society.

During the course, you'll complete a team project, an individual paper and presentation, and take a written end-of-course exam. Your AP Seminar Exam score will be based on all three assessments using the usual 1–5 AP scoring scale.

Year Two | AP Research

In this course, you'll complete an independent research project on a topic of interest to you. For example, you can:

- Dig deeper into a topic you studied in an AP course
- Work across academic areas on an interdisciplinary topic
- Study a new area of interest, perhaps one you'd like to study in college

At the end of the research project, you'll submit an academic thesis paper of about 5,000 words, present your findings, and orally defend your work. Your AP Research score will be based on your paper, the presentation, and the oral defense, using the 1–5 AP scoring scale.

