



# AP Capstone™

Discovery, Research, Distinction





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.

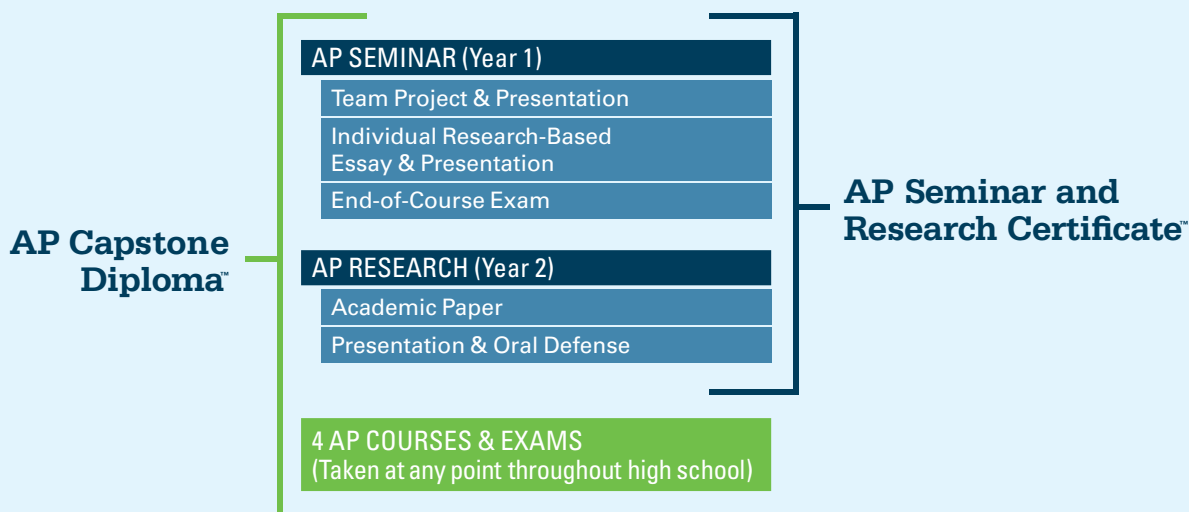
During the course, you'll complete a team project, an individual paper and presentation, and take a written end-of-course exam. Your AP Seminar Exam score will be based on all three assessments using the usual 1–5 AP scoring scale.

### 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.



# Support from Colleges

AP Capstone launched in fall 2014 and is supported by an increasing number of colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

See the current list of institutions supporting AP Capstone at [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone).

Here's what they've said about the program:

**“The AP Capstone program will help students to develop critical thinking skills that allow them to think independently, to analyze issues from different perspectives, to communicate clearly, and to conduct independent research. These are exactly the types of skills that they will be expected to utilize in college, and the AP Capstone program will give them a terrific head start.”**

—Zina L. Evans, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost, University of Florida

**“[AP Seminar and AP Research] are terrific classes that prepare students to think in nonformulaic ways.”**

—Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**“Through this program, you get students turned on to higher education in a way they are not currently, and they enter university with a different kind of attitude.”**

—Susan Roth, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University, AP Capstone Curriculum Advisory Committee

**“AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond: effective communication, original research, collaboration, and critical thinking. We want them to come in ready to analyze issues from multiple perspectives, integrating disparate ideas and comfortable with innovation, so they can make real contributions when they get here.”**

—Ken O'Donnell, Senior Director, Student Engagement, California State University, Office of the Chancellor

# What Students Say

**“You become a better thinker — a more objective, critical thinker ... I’m critically analyzing what other people are saying, and I’m more respectful of other people’s opinions.”**

—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

**“The expectations in the [AP Seminar] course are a lot higher. We are expected to be more responsible and more attentive about what is going on in the world around us.”**

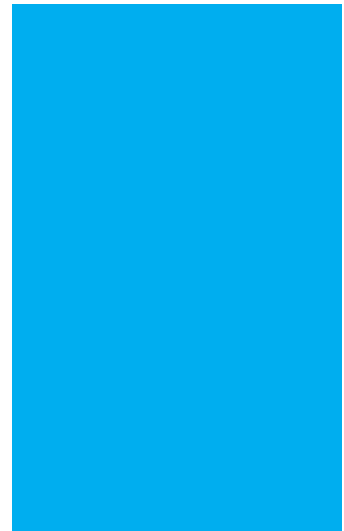
—Sophomore, North Miami Beach High School, Miami, FL

**“We get a topic, and we dive deep into it, looking at not just the facts but different perspectives, which ones are strongest, which ones are missing something ... [It] ... teaches us to learn and think, and prepares us for college and life in a way that no other class does.”**

—Senior, North Central High School, Spokane, WA

**“[I’ve gained] confidence ... I speak more now. In this environment, your opinion is needed. You feel part of a family.”**

—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY





**At the University of Washington, we are very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the [AP Capstone] program. Students who successfully participate in the AP Capstone program learn how to read and assess sources critically, distill and synthesize conclusions based on evidence, and effectively communicate their conclusions to others. This developed skill of critical reading, thinking, and communicating is precisely what leads to high achievement and outcomes in college.”**

— Philip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington



**How wonderful it is for a high school student to have the opportunity to have an experience with individualized research that’s very parallel to what college students do at the end of their undergraduate experience.”**

— Teresa Reed, Professor of Music and Associate Dean, Henry Kendall College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tulsa

For more information, visit  
[www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)  
and talk to your school counselor.

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