



# AP Capstone™

Discovery, Research, Distinction



## Question, Explore, Connect



## What is the AP Capstone™ Program?

The AP Capstone™ program is a two-course sequence of AP Seminar and AP Research that allows you to explore real-world issues while developing the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges look for in an applicant.

AP Capstone can help you build a solid academic foundation, stand out in the college admission process, and study issues and topics that interest you.



# How AP Capstone Works

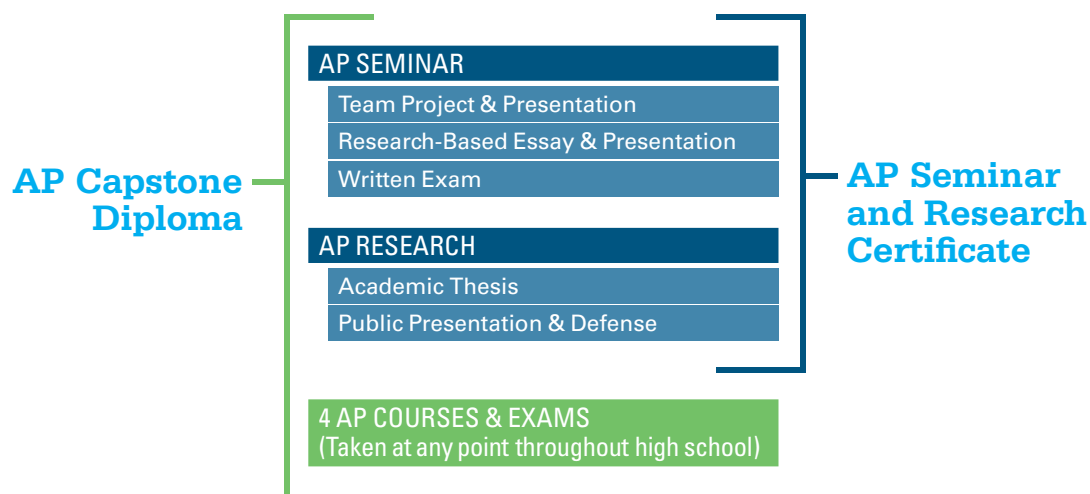
Students typically take AP Seminar in the 10th or 11th grade, followed by AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams and on four additional AP® Exams of their choosing will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**. This signifies their outstanding academic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

Alternatively, students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams only will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™** signifying their attainment of college-level academic and research skills.

## AP Seminar

In the first year, you'll develop and strengthen your analytic and inquiry skills, exploring deeply two to four relevant 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 final exam. Your AP Seminar Exam score will be based on all three components and will be reported on the standard 1–5 AP scoring scale.



## AP Research

In this course, you'll work on 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 paper of about 5,000 words and defend your work through a presentation. Your AP Research Exam score will be based on your paper, the presentation, and the defense and will be reported on the standard 1–5 AP scoring scale.

# Support from Colleges

AP Capstone is launching in fall 2014 building on a successful pilot program being conducted in 17 high schools in the U.S. and around the world and supported by over 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. See the full list of institutions supporting the pilot at [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone).

**“AP Seminar and AP Research are terrific classes that prepare students to think in non-formulaic 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



Collaborate, Investigate, Communicate

## What Students Say

Nearly 90% of students who participated in the pilot program would recommend the program to other students. Here's what they say about the experience:

**“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

**“[In college interviews], it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific, and colleges see that you have an interest.”**

—Senior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

**“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

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

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