

# Build Students' College and Career Readiness Skills with AP Capstone



## About AP Capstone

The AP Capstone Diploma™ Program introduces students to solving real-world problems through academic research, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Offered in more than 2,000 high schools globally, AP Capstone™ provides a unique opportunity for students to explore their interests in a college-level course. The program prepares a diverse set of learners with the critical thinking skills needed for college-level work and career—plus the opportunity to earn awards, college credit, and to stand out in the college application process.

## AP Capstone Awards

The **AP Capstone Diploma** is awarded to students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP Seminar, AP Research, and on four additional AP<sup>®</sup> Exams.

The **AP Seminar and Research Certificate**™ is awarded to students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP Seminar and AP Research Exams only.



AP Capstone Diploma™

### AP Seminar

Year 1

Earn score of 3 or higher

### AP Research

Year 2

Earn score of 3 or higher

### 4 AP Exams

Throughout High School  
Earn score of 3 or higher



AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

## About the Courses

Students take two yearlong AP courses: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. School or district leaders must apply to offer these courses.

### AP Seminar

Students consider complex issues from multiple perspectives, evaluate sources for credibility and bias, and make evidence-based recommendations in teams and individually. Students often take AP Seminar in 10th grade to build foundational skills for future AP courses.

The AP Seminar Exam includes multimedia presentations, written essays, and a written end-of-course exam. AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research.

### AP Research

Students conduct an academic research project on a topic of personal interest. Research projects include a literature review, an appropriate research method, data collection, analysis, and discussion.

The AP Research Exam includes an academic paper, presentation, and oral defense. There is no end-of-course exam for AP Research.

To learn more and apply, visit [collegeboard.org/apcapstone](https://collegeboard.org/apcapstone).

# Three Steps to Build Your AP Capstone Diploma Program



## 1 Plan for the Course Sequence

The AP Capstone Diploma™ Program comprises two, yearlong project-based courses: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. AP Seminar is an introductory AP<sup>®</sup> class for grades 10 or 11, and serves as a prerequisite for AP Research, which is typically offered in grades 11 or 12.

These courses can be assigned to a variety of academic departments, allowing flexibility for any educator to become an AP Seminar or AP Research teacher. Teachers in each course typically have English/language arts, science, or social science certifications. There is no obligation for AP Seminar teachers to also teach AP Research.

For more information about resourcing your AP Capstone™ program, utilize the [AP Capstone Implementation Guide](#).

## 2 Apply to Participate

School or district leaders must complete a free, online application and be approved to join the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Once approved to participate in the program, schools are eligible to offer AP Seminar and AP Research courses. Applications must be submitted during the academic year prior to implementation and are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Apply now to participate at [collegeboard.org/apcapstone](https://collegeboard.org/apcapstone).

## 3 Register Teachers for Training

New AP Seminar and AP Research teachers at schools approved to offer these courses must complete summer professional learning prior to teaching their course.

AP Capstone training focuses on interdisciplinary learning and project-based approaches. It includes:

- A 5-day workshop led by a trained consultant
- Access to additional online professional learning updated annually
- Training in a virtual or in-person setting, hosted at select AP Summer Institutes

Private workshops are also available for districts with a large number of AP Seminar or AP Research teachers requiring training.

AP Capstone Scholarships are awarded to eligible teachers at schools where at least 50% of the student population qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. The scholarship covers the cost of the professional learning tuition.

Visit the [AP Capstone Professional Learning](#) page for scholarship application information and for approved schools to register for summer training. Registration launches annually in February.