

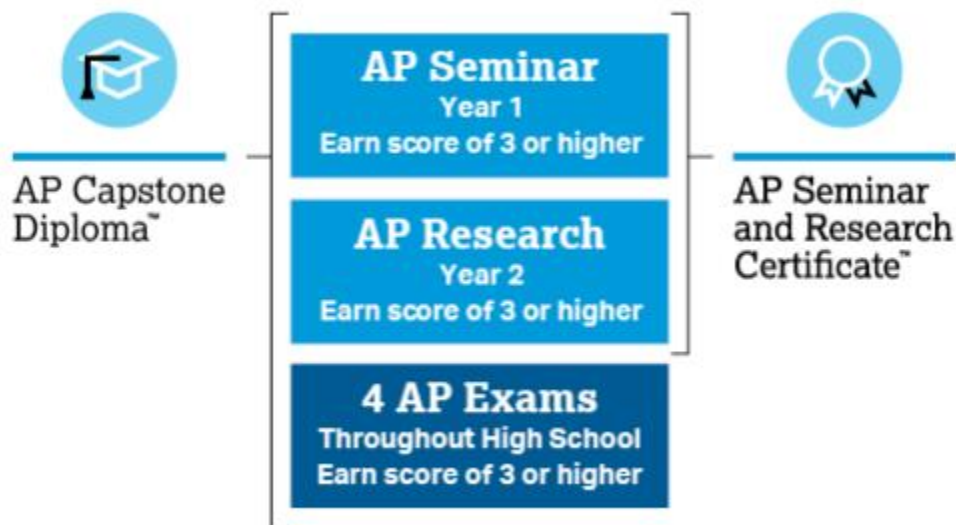
**AP Capstone™** is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.

Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.

**Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.**

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



The AP Capstone Diploma™ is increasingly recognized in admissions by higher education institutions around the world. Many colleges and universities offer credit and/or placement for a qualifying score in AP Seminar, AP Research, or both. Use the credit policy search tool on our AP Students site to find them:

# The Benefits of AP Capstone

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## **Participating in AP Capstone can help students:**

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

## **Offering the AP Capstone program gives school leaders and teachers:**

- Academic distinction, as the program is widely recognized for its skills focus and innovation.
- Flexible student-centered curricula with room for creativity and student input.
- Access to a weeklong, collaborative training event.

AP Capstone helps students develop key skills that they will use over and over in college: conducting research and communicating their results.

## Required Professional Development

All AP Seminar and AP Research teachers at approved schools must complete professional development consisting of:

- In-person training: Teachers must complete a five-day workshop the summer before their first year of teaching the course.
- Annual online rubric training: During the school year, teachers must also complete online training modules on scoring student work.

## **What is the AP Capstone™ Diploma program?**

AP Capstone™ is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone comprises two AP courses—[AP Seminar](#) and [AP Research](#)—and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

## **What is AP Seminar, and what is AP Research?**

AP Seminar is a yearlong course in which students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Students learn to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. During the course, students complete a team project and an individual paper and presentation, as well as take a written end-of-course exam. These components contribute to the overall AP Seminar score.

AP Research lets students deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of interest to them. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation to address a research question, documenting their process with a portfolio. The course ends with a 4,000- to 5,000-word academic paper and a presentation with an oral defense which contribute to the overall AP Research course. There is no end-of-course exam.

## **What kind of student should participate in AP Capstone?**

Students who are motivated and prepared for college-level coursework are best suited for the program. The program also benefits those students who may have an interest in or show potential for AP coursework but have not yet enrolled in AP courses. Students should demonstrate curiosity about real-world issues, a willingness to take intellectual risks, and a dedication to acquiring the skills that colleges and universities value—critical inquiry, analysis, and research.