

AP Capstone Diploma

Our Why

Student feedback

- Student desire for additional AP opportunities (Sobrato & Live Oak)

Data

- Decline in AP enrollment at Live Oak over the last 3 years
 - Approximately 50% decline in the number of students taking at least 1 AP class

AP Capstone Diploma Program: What It Can Do for Students

What It Can Do for You

Participating in AP Capstone can help you:



Develop key skills you'll use in college and career



Become a self-confident, independent thinker and problem solver



Study topics you're passionate about, in depth



Earn academic awards recognized by colleges worldwide



Stand out in the college admission process



Earn college credit

AP Capstone Diploma: What is it?



AP Capstone ensures
that the diversity of each
classroom matches the
diversity of its school.

What It Is

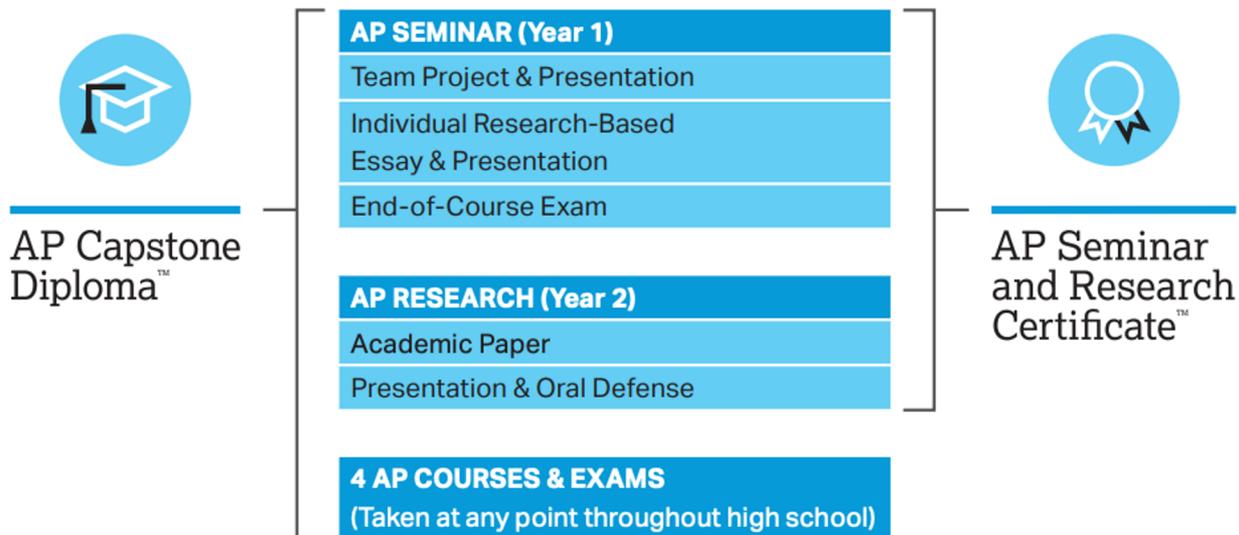
AP Capstone is not a course. It's a two-year program based on two AP courses—AP Seminar and AP Research. Other AP courses teach you, in depth, about a specific subject, like biology or U.S. history. AP Seminar and AP Research are different. They focus on helping you develop academic skills you can use in any discipline. These skills include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Critical thinking: View issues from multiple perspectives and create arguments based on evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Collaboration: Work alone, in a group, and with expert advisers to communicate your ideas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Conducting research: Explore various research methods and complete research projects on topics of your own choosing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Public speaking: Present and defend your work as a group and individually.

How It Works

If you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of your choice, you'll receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**.

If you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, you'll receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**.



Shifting from Content to Skills

- Created in response to college admissions leaders' request for an AP course that would help students develop skills of **collaboration, research, writing, and presentation.**
- Because there are already 36 other AP courses widely used for college credit—from Biology to U.S. History—admissions leaders wanted **AP Seminar to focus purely on skills needed in every college major, not the content of one specific college class.**

Curriculum & Course Skills

The AP Seminar curriculum is made up of five big ideas.

- Big Idea 1: Question and Explore
- Big Idea 2: Understand and Analyze
- Big Idea 3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
- Big Idea 4: Synthesize Ideas
- Big Idea 5: Team, Transform, and Transmit

Skill	Proficiencies
Analyze Sources and Evidence	Understand and Analyze Argument Identifying the main idea in arguments, analyzing the reasoning, and evaluating the validity of the conclusions Evaluate Sources and Evidence Evaluating the credibility and relevance of sources and the evidence they present
Construct an Evidence-Based Argument	Establish Argument Developing a well-reasoned argument clearly connecting the thesis, claims, and evidence Select and Use Evidence Strategically choosing evidence to effectively support claims
Understand Context and Perspective	Understand and Analyze Context Understanding the complexity of a problem or issue and connecting arguments to the broader context in which they are situated Understand and Analyze Perspective Comparing and interpreting multiple diverse perspectives on an issue to understand its complexity
Communicate (interpersonal and intrapersonal)	Engage Audience Choosing and employing effective written and oral communication techniques, considering audience, context, and purpose Apply Conventions Choosing and consistently applying an appropriate citation style and effective conventions of writing Collaborate Working constructively with others to accomplish a team goal or task Reflect Articulating challenges, successes, and moments of insight that occur throughout the inquiry process

Learning Objectives

- Situating — being aware of the context of one’s own as well as others’ perspectives, realizing that individual bias can lead to assumptions
- Choosing — making intentional and purposeful choices, realizing that choices have both intended and unintended consequences
- Defending — being able to explain and justify personal choices, logic, line of reasoning, and conclusions;
- Connecting — seeing intersections within and/or across concepts, disciplines, and cultures

AP Seminar Course Transferable Skills and Proficiencies

The AP Capstone reasoning processes are also embedded in the AP Seminar course transferable skills and proficiencies. The transferable skills and proficiencies are high-level descriptions of the understanding, knowledge, and skills that students should be able to apply in novel situations long after completing the AP Seminar course.

Transferable Skills	Analyze Sources and Evidence	Construct an Evidence-Based Argument	Understand Context and Perspective	Communicate (interpersonal and intrapersonal)
Reasoning Processes	<i>Situate</i> <i>Choose</i>	<i>Choose</i> <i>Connect</i> <i>Defend</i>	<i>Situate</i> <i>Connect</i>	<i>Situate</i> <i>Choose</i> <i>Defend</i>
Proficiencies	<p>UAA Understand and Analyze Argument Identifying the main idea in arguments, analyzing the reasoning, and evaluating the validity of the conclusions</p> <p>ESE Evaluate Sources and Evidence Evaluating the credibility and relevance of sources and the evidence they present</p>	<p>ESA Establish Argument Developing a well-reasoned argument clearly connecting the thesis, claims and evidence</p> <p>SUE Select and Use Evidence Strategically choosing evidence to effectively support claims</p>	<p>UAC Understand and Analyze Context Understanding the complexity of a problem or issue and connecting arguments to the broader context in which they are situated</p> <p>UAP Understand and Analyze Perspective Comparing and interpreting multiple diverse perspectives on an issue to understand its complexity</p>	<p>ENA Engage Audience Choosing and employing effective written and oral communication techniques, considering audience, context, and purpose</p> <p>APC Apply Conventions Choosing and consistently applying an appropriate citation style and effective conventions of writing</p> <p>COL Collaborate Working constructively with others to accomplish a team goal or task</p> <p>REF Reflect Articulating challenges, successes, and moments of insight that occur throughout the inquiry process</p>

AP Seminar Course Proposal (Year 1)

- **Course Name:** AP Seminar 1 / AP Seminar 2 (year long course)
 - **AP Seminar is the pre-requisite course for AP Research
- **Grade Level:** 10th (also 11th & 12th as a potential 'g')
- **A-G Subject Area:** English 10 (b) / College Prep Elective (g)
- A few local schools/districts that offer AP Seminar/Capstone
 - Santa Clara Unified School District
 - San Jose Unified School District
 - Palo Alto Unified School District
 - KIPP San Francisco College Prep - San Francisco
 - King City Joint Union High School - King City
 - Legend Prep Academy – Cupertino

Benefits of the AP Capstone Program (AP Seminar)

Increased student opportunities: Additional AP option for 10th graders with minimal impact to their student schedule

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS): Great course option for our AP potential students (especially those entering 10th grade) to AP coursework

College Applications - Students taking AP Seminar (and the AP Capstone Diploma) can declare themselves AP Capstone Candidates on their college applications

Promotes additional AP/Honors/Challenging coursework in 11th and 12th grade

Fits with current curriculum and allows for more flexibility to layer in cross-curricular content

Can be assigned to a variety of academic departments

No prerequisites needed so it's a great first course for students

AP Seminar Exam Format

Assessment Format

Performance Task 1: Team Project and Presentation—20% of AP Seminar Score		
Component	Scoring Method	Weight
Individual research report (1,200 words)	College Board scored	50% of 20%
Team multimedia presentation and defense (8–10 minutes, plus defense questions)	Teacher scored (group score)	50% of 20%

Performance Task 2: Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation—35% of AP Seminar Score		
Component	Scoring Method	Weight
Individual written argument (2,000 words)	College Board scored	70% of 35%
Individual multimedia presentation (6–8 minutes)	Teacher scored	20% of 35%
Oral defense (2 questions from the teacher)	Teacher scored	10% of 35%

End-of-Course Exam (2 Hours)—45% of AP Seminar Score		
Component	Scoring Method	Weight
Understanding and analyzing an argument (3 short-answer questions); suggested time: 30 minutes	College Board scored	30% of 45%
Evidence-Based argument essay (1 long essay); suggested time: 90 minutes	College Board scored	70% of 45%

College Board: 2021 AP Seminar Pass Rate

2021 Score Distributions: AP Capstone

Exam	5	4	3	2	1
AP Research	13.7%	25.4%	42.4%	14.2%	4.3%
AP Seminar	11.1%	19.5%	54.5%	10.7%	4.3%

AP Exam Credit: Typically, general college elective credit is awarded

Sampling of Colleges that endorse the AP Capstone Diploma Program

- California Institute of Technology
- California State University: Chico
- Claremont McKenna College
- Pitzer College
- University of California at Berkeley
- University of California at Santa Barbara
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of San Diego
- University of Southern California
- William Jessup University
- Georgetown University
- Howard University
- Illinois State University
- University of Chicago
- Bowie State University
- Johns Hopkins University
- St. John's College
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Amherst College
- Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Tech University
- University of Memphis
- Vanderbilt University
- College of William and Mary
- Marymount University
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Richmond
- Austin College
- Baylor University
- Rice University
- Southern Methodist University
- St. Edwards University
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University
- Texas State University San Marcos
- Texas Wesleyan University
- University of Houston
- University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Texas at Austin
- Boston University
- Bridgewater State University
- Harvard College
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Northeastern University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Drew University
- Georgian Court University
- Princeton University
- Columbia University
- Fordham University
- Iona College
- Marist College
- New York University
- The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
- University of Rochester
- Brown University
- Boston College
- Johnson & Wales University: Providence

College Board on AP Seminar at 10th Grade

“AP Seminar is the ideal booster of subsequent AP scores and a powerful indicator of college readiness on a student’s transcript.

Research has found that students who take AP Seminar in 10th grade achieve higher scores on AP English, history, and government exams taken in grades 11 and 12. They’re also more likely to persist in college and earn higher first year college GPAs.”

Thank you!
