

AP Capstone Program 2026-2027 FAQs

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Section I – Program Overview

1. What is the AP Capstone™ 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™.

The [AP Seminar](#) and [AP Research](#) home pages have detailed information on all aspects of the program.

2. What is AP Seminar, and what is AP Research?

AP Seminar is a yearlong course that has 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.

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.

3. Why offer AP Seminar as English 10?

Taught in the AP Seminar style, English 10: AP Seminar provides teachers with a unique instructional framework. The course helps students build a powerful foundation for critical and transferable research skills: investigation, collaboration, writing, and presentation. And students who take it fulfill a core course graduation requirement.

For additional information on this implementation model, please visit

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-seminar/english-10>.

4. Are there any student prerequisites for AP Seminar or AP Research?

For AP Research students must have successfully completed the AP Seminar course. There are no prerequisite courses for AP Seminar.

5. Are there any teacher requirements for the AP Capstone program?

Professional development is required for each course. The summer before the first year of teaching the course, you must complete a 30-hour workshop. During the winter of the first year of teaching the course, you must complete around 10 hours of additional online training. Training is specific to each course and must be completed for both AP Research and AP Seminar. For more information go to the [AP Capstone professional development](#) page.

6. What resources are available to help me teach these courses?

- The [AP Seminar Course and Exam Description](#) (.pdf/9.73MB) and [AP Research Course and Exam Description](#) (.pdf/2.16MB) are the core documents for you to download. They clearly lay out the course and assessment content and describe AP Capstone and the AP Program in general.
- The **AP Research** and **AP Seminar** Teacher Communities give you the opportunity to learn from colleagues and create a library of resources.
- **The Implementation Guide** gives information and models on how to implement the AP Capstone program for a variety of schedules and settings.

7. What are professional learning objectives for Summer Professional Development?

The AP Capstone professional development summer workshop trains instructors to teach college-level thinking and research skills while exploring academic and real-world questions, problems, and issues from different disciplines and from multiple perspectives. Special focus is given to facilitating student learning in collaborative settings, while motivating students to think critically and innovatively about research questions.

- The summer workshop will include these features:
- Outline of course goals, objectives, content, and resources
- Examination of the curriculum framework of the program
- Overview of teaching strategies and best practices
- Creation of course calendar, class activities, lesson plans, and formative assessments
- Development of course syllabi for the AP Course Audit
- Walk-through of through-course and end-of-course assessments
- Demonstration of AP Capstone Digital Portfolio

Section II - AP Capstone Registration

8. How do I register for this workshop?

Select the link in the header of this web page to register. You will need to have a College Board account and will be asked to sign in.

9. What is the cost to attend?

Tuition is \$1,075.00 for in-person and \$849 for online.