

AP

An Introduction to the
AP Capstone™ Program

Welcome

Portland Public Schools committed to every student's success.

We believe access to challenging course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.

To complement the suite of AP courses in our district, we are proud to introduce a new program at our school in Fall 2019:

APCapstone™



AP Capstone Implementation Team

Maude Lamont, Acting Principal

Jason Breaker, Vice Principal Curriculum

Cassie Lanzas, Teacher Librarian, former AP Social Studies Teacher

Jamie Suehiro, AP English Teacher, Instructional Support

What We Will Cover

Topic

Background on Advanced Placement®

- Advanced Placement: The Basics
- Our AP Courses
- AP®: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

What is the AP Capstone™ Program?

- Program Overview
- The Courses: AP Seminar & AP Research
- Exam Fees

AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

- Benefits and Student Testimonials
- Support from Colleges

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

- AP: Start the Conversation
- Program Contact Information

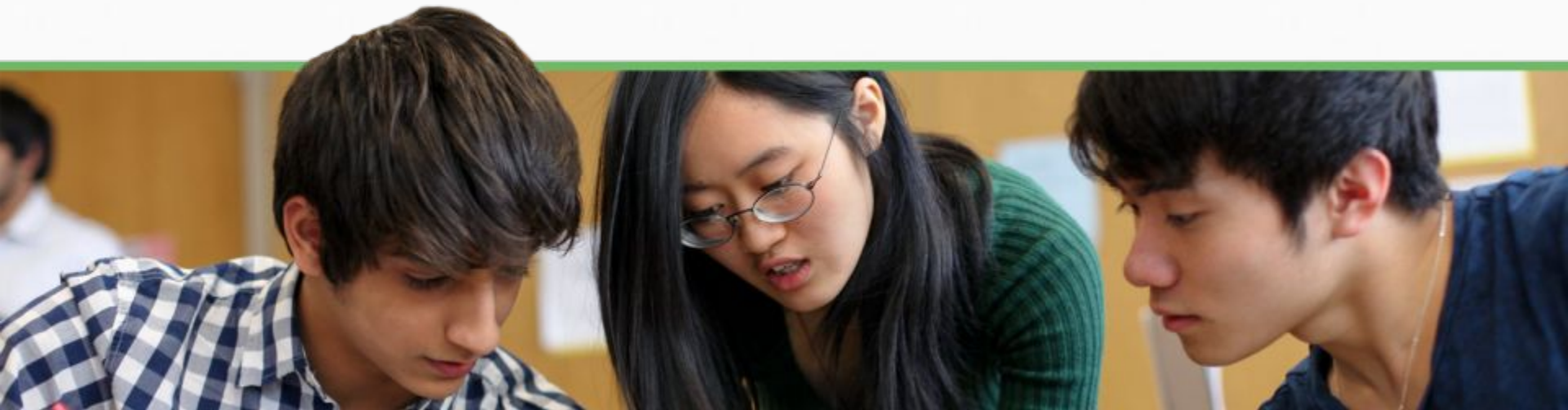
Questions and Answers



Background on Advanced Placement[®]

Advanced Placement[®] : The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college



Our AP[®] Courses At Wilson

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar, *AP Research*
- **Arts:** Art History, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio, Music Theory (2019/20)
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, Comparative Government and Politics, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics 2, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- **World languages:** French Language and Culture, Spanish Language and Culture

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$21,500** for public colleges (in-state tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*

Introducing - AP Capstone

APCapstone™ is an innovative program that helps students stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in their future careers.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed
for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth
subject-matter study in AP

Two new courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants.



What is the AP Capstone Program? (Link to Video)

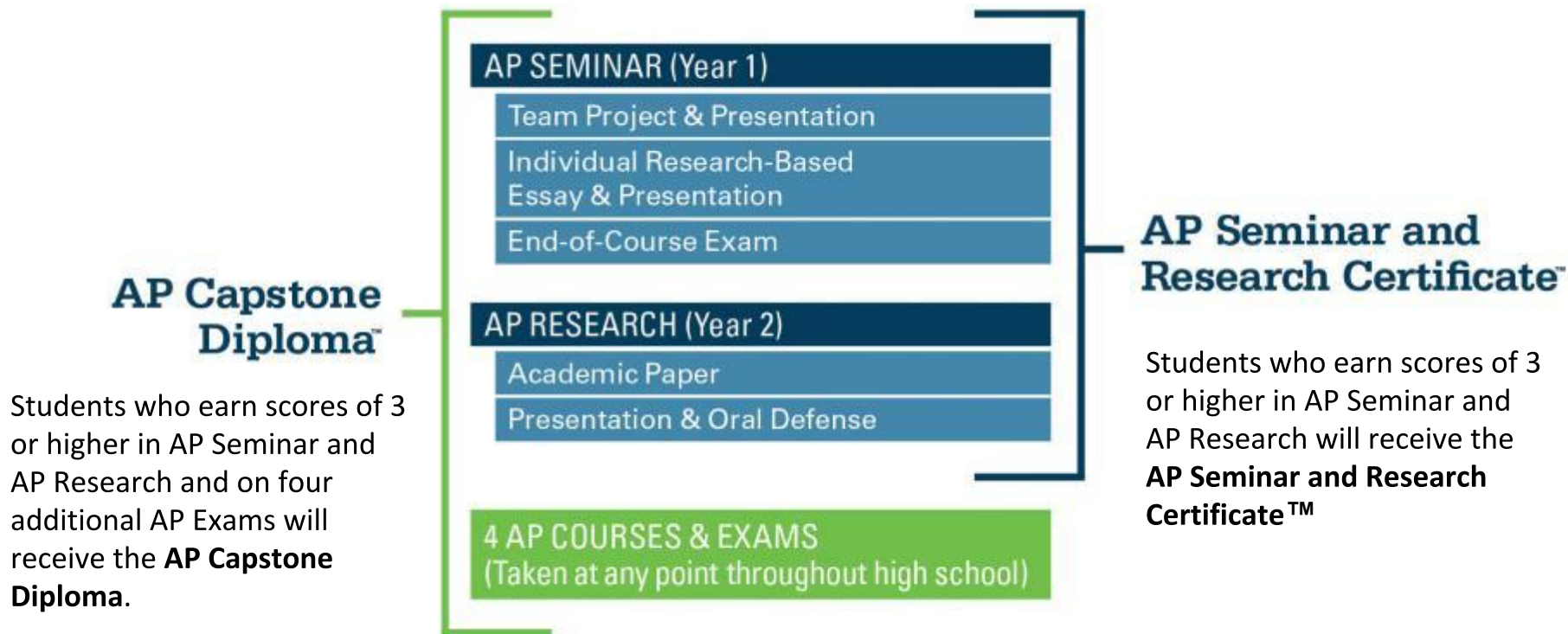


AP Capstone at Wilson

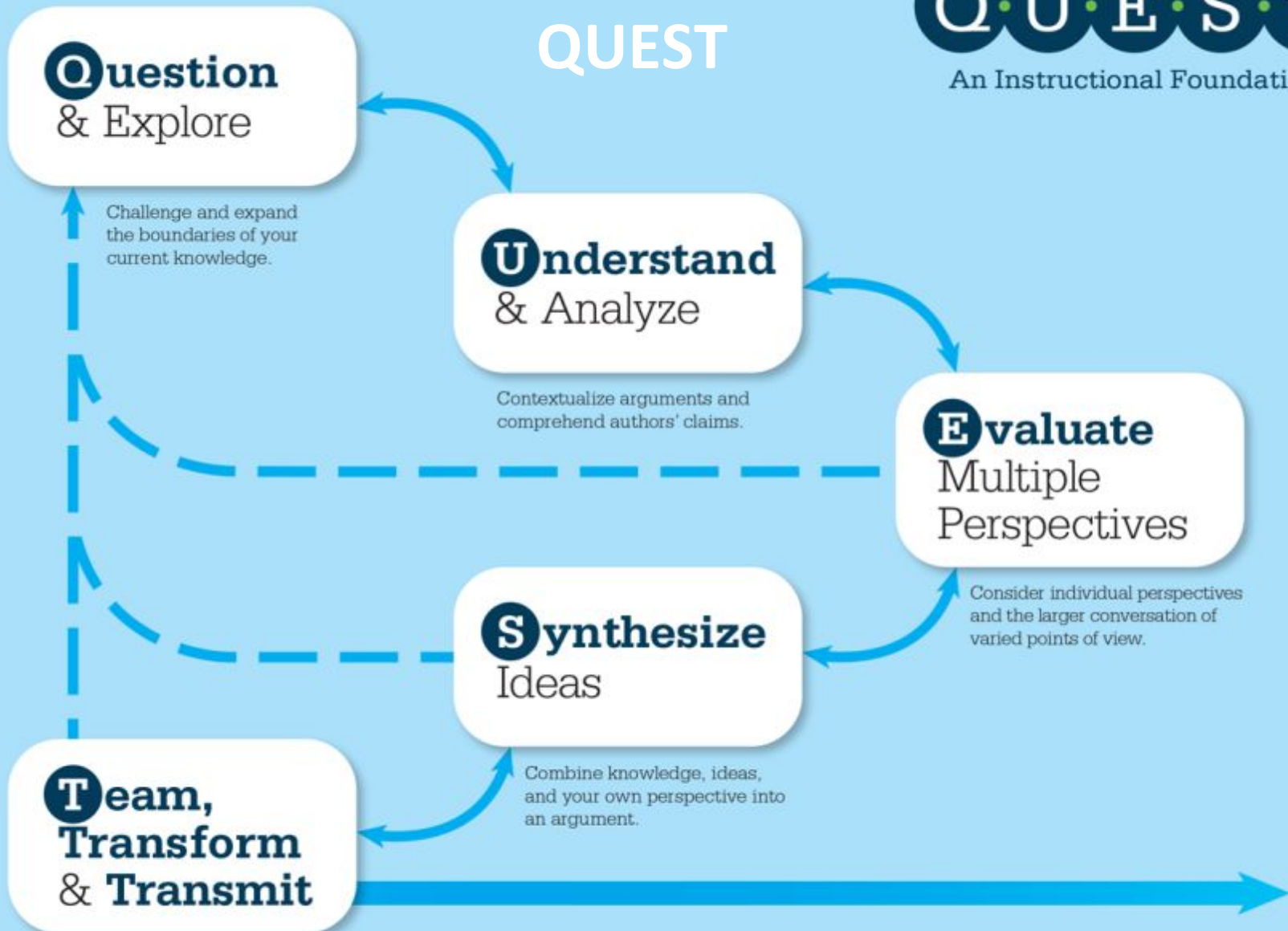
- AP Seminar will be offered in 2019/20 with AP Research will follow in 2020/21
- AP Seminar will be offered to 10th-12th graders. If a student wants to try for the Capstone Diploma, they must enroll in AP Seminar no later than 11th grade
- AP Research will be open to students who completed AP Seminar successfully
- AP Seminar and AP Research will count as high school elective credits

The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

This challenging program helps students deepen their passion for learning, gives them greater confidence in their academic skills, and a broader perspective on their



QUEST



Question
& Explore

Challenge and expand the boundaries of your current knowledge.

Understand
& Analyze

Contextualize arguments and comprehend authors' claims.

Evaluate
Multiple Perspectives

Consider individual perspectives and the larger conversation of varied points of view.

Synthesize
Ideas

Combine knowledge, ideas, and your own perspective into an argument.

Team,
Transform
& Transmit

Collaborate, reflect, and communicate your argument in a method suited to your audience.

Use these QUEST skills as you advance to college, career, and beyond.

AP Seminar - Year 1

Typically taken in grade 10 or 11.

Students learn how to:

- Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

Example Topics

Democracy
Education
Environment
Revolution
Technology
Sustainability

Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation
 - 25%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
 - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
 - 40%



Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.

AP Research - Year 2

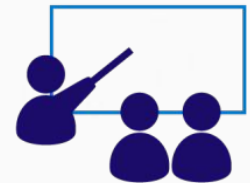
AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.

Students learn how to:

- Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- Write a college-level research paper
- Present and orally defend research findings and methodology

Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper (4,000 - 5,000 words)
 - 75%
2. Presentation and Oral Defense
 - 25%



AP Capstone Learning Goals

In **AP Seminar**, students learn how to:

- Think critically
- Read critically
- Gather credible evidence
- Analyze, interpret, and evaluate different perspectives
- Make claims, inferences, and connections
- Develop lines of reasoning supported by evidence
- Collaborate in teams
- Communicate publicly with appropriate media

In **AP Research**, students learn how to:

- Build on AP Seminar skills
- Identify and refine research questions
- Seek and synthesize background information
- Align study design
- Analyze and evaluate findings
- Engage with consultants
- Peer review
- Showcase scholarly work and defend inquiry outcomes
- Reflect

Potential Topics

Here are some topics that students have chosen to investigate in **AP Seminar**:

- Effect of texting on grammar skills
- Food waste solutions
- Future of the automotive industry
- Importance of voting age and civic participation of teens
- Mathematics behind extreme sports
- Genetically modified organisms
- Role of art in education
- Wealth inequality

Visit the AP Seminar student home page at apstudent.org/seminar

Here are some topics that students have chosen to investigate in **AP Research**:

- 3-D printed prosthetics for amputees
- Algorithm of K-POP music
- Effects of sleep deprivation on academic achievement in teens
- Learning chemistry through musical chords
- Environmental injustice in subsidized housing
- Effect of popular opinion on the implementation of Supreme Court decisions

Visit the AP Research student home page at apstudent.org/research

AP[®] Capstone Exam Fees

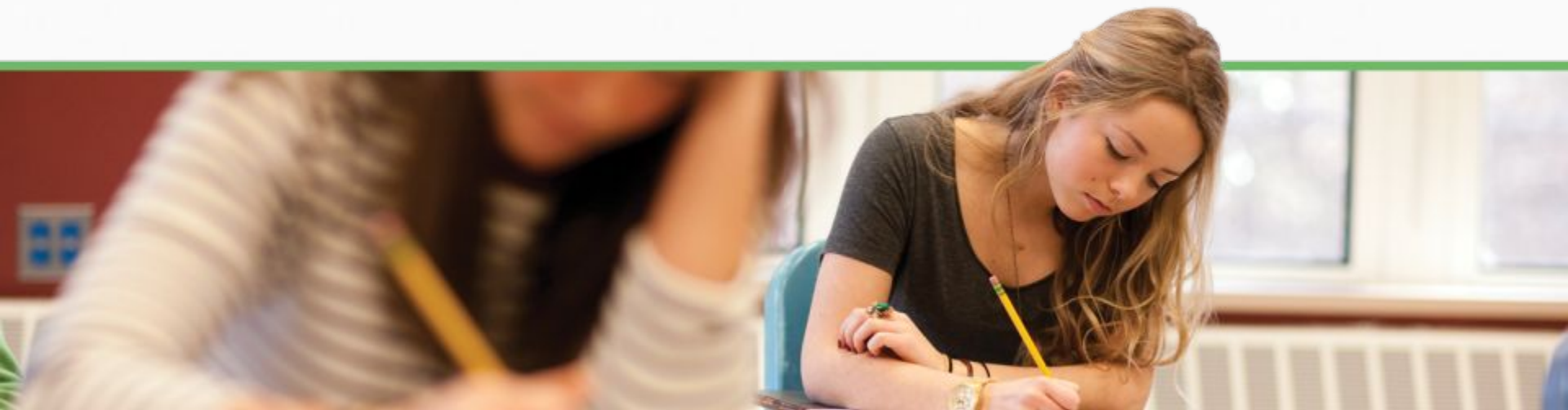
- The 2016-17 exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research were \$141 each.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
 - The College Board offers exam fee reductions for eligible students with financial need.
 - PPS offers a _____ per exam fee for those students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch



AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging career and college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges and in the workplace
- **Choose what to study** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them



What Students are saying about AP Capstone

“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

“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, N. 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

“[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



What Colleges are saying about AP Capstone

“At the University of Washington, we would be very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the AP Capstone program.”

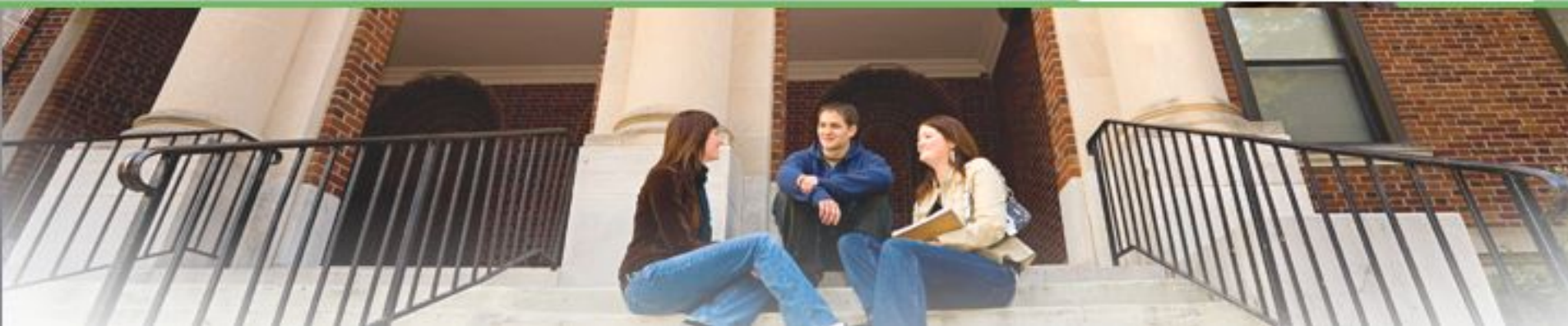
Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington

“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

“AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond: effective communication, original research, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Ken O’Donnell, Senior Director of Student Engagement, California State University



Below are some of the 130+ colleges that have endorsed AP Capstone for its challenging interdisciplinary curricula.



Visit www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone for the latest list of colleges with credit policies for AP Seminar and/or AP Research.



Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

Help your student prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP Capstone. Here are some questions to encourage your student to think about:

Is AP Capstone right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do I enjoy challenging myself to think in new ways?
- Do I like to collaborate and learn from others?

What steps do I need to take?

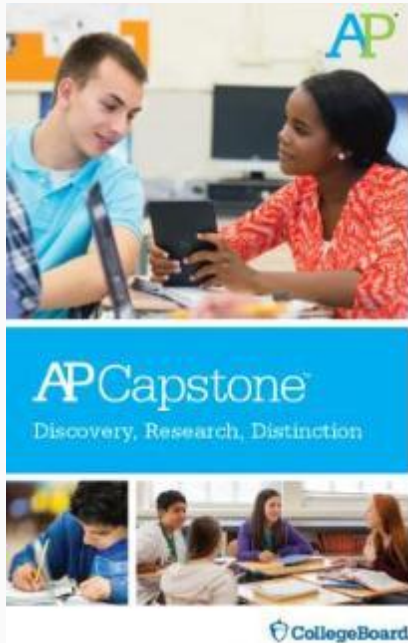
- Go online and read the AP Capstone brochure to find out more
- Find out your school's enrollment deadline and sign up!

AP

Questions?

Additional Information about AP Capstone

The AP Capstone Brochure



The AP Capstone Website



www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone

AP Students – Course Information



apstudent.collegeboard.org

Direct questions and concerns to:

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