

AP Capstone Program

What it is, how to get in, and what it means

Mr. McDonald

“Capstone”

“The high point: crowning achievement”

- Merriam-Webster

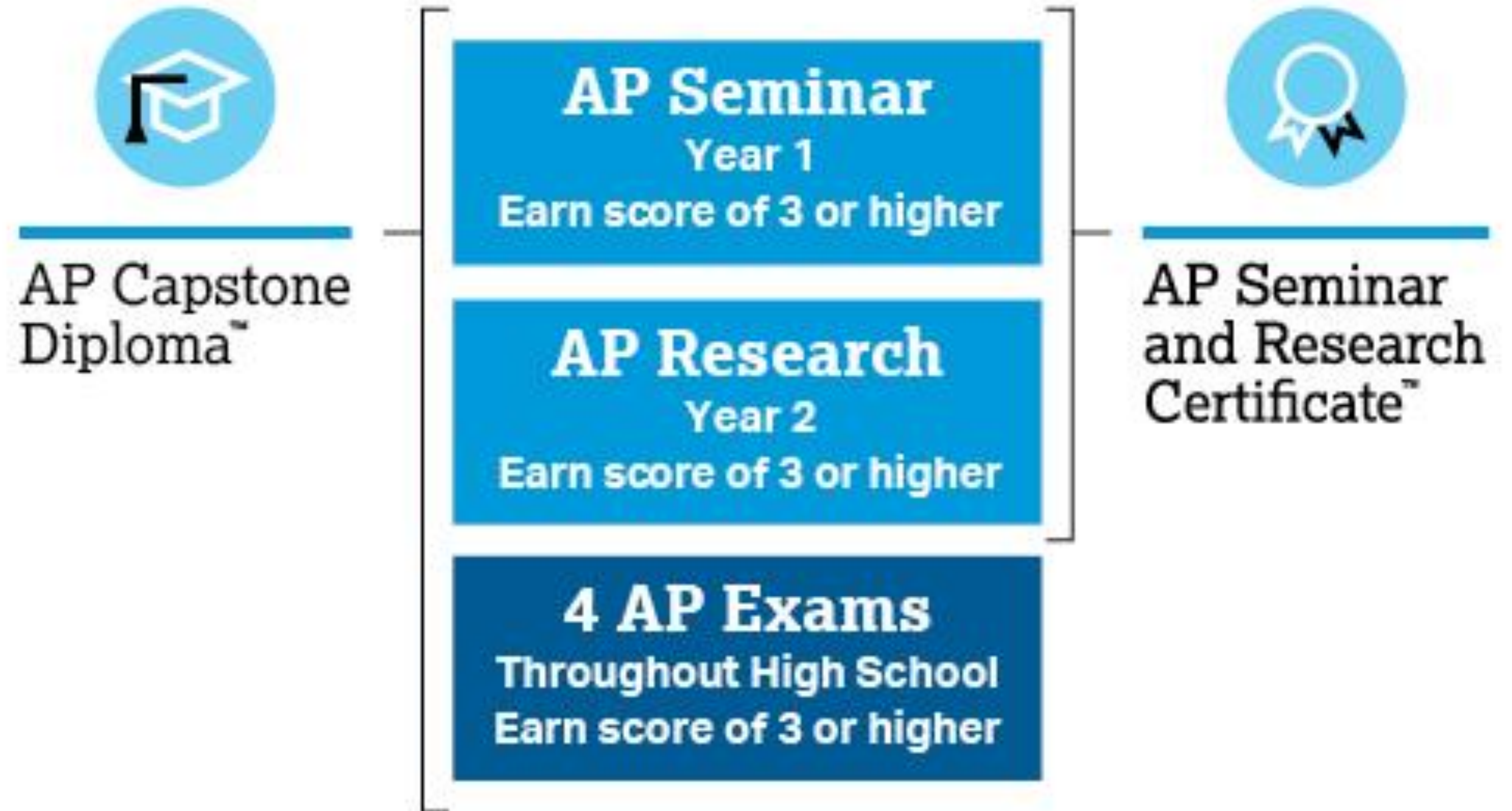
What it is

- An elevated diploma centered around the capstone classes 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.” - College Board

Awards

Upon Completion

- Receive the AP Capstone Diploma if you take AP Seminar, AP Research, 4 other AP's and pass all 6 exams
- Receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate if you pass Seminar and Research, but do not pass 4 other AP classes.
- Both are reported to colleges as "Scholar Awards"



AP Seminar

10th or 11th Grade

“AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students learn to investigate a problem or issue, analyze arguments, compare different perspectives, synthesize information from multiple sources, and work alone and in a group to communicate their ideas.” - College Board

AP Research

11th or 12th Grade

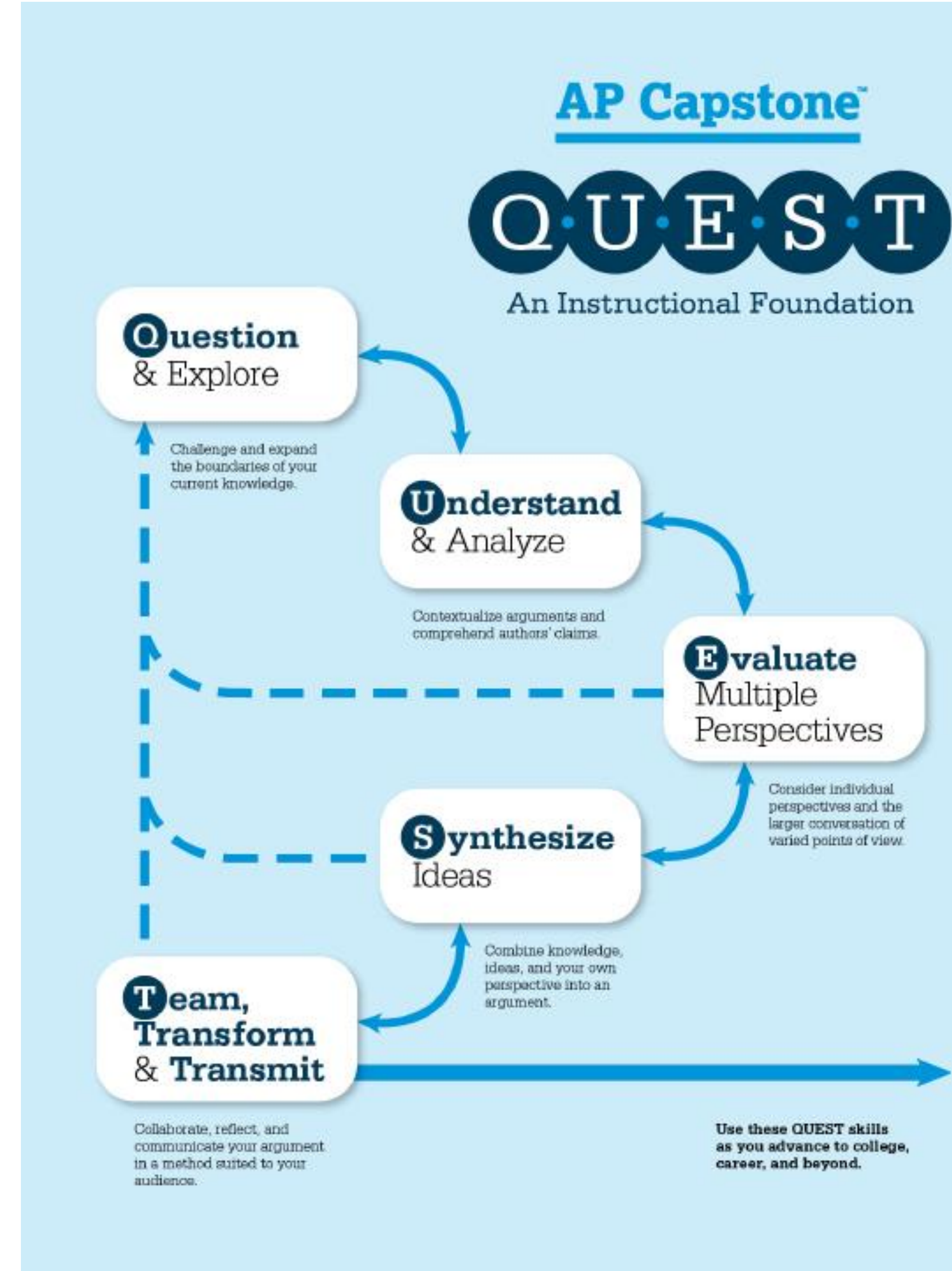
“.... Allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.” - College Board

Grading of AP Seminar and Research

- AP Seminar has an exam, AP Research does not.
- Throughout the year, for both courses, you are to upload your work (group and individual) to the AP Digital Portfolio for grading.
- Presentations and other work would be graded by the instructor. Your AP score is generated by a combination of your presentations, papers, and exam (for Seminar).

Instructional Foundation

- The courses are designed to create independent, creative, thinkers.
- Seminar is a year long course that can focus on the teacher's specialty or what the students are most interested in, or both. But there should be a common theme.
- Research is completely independent, like a thesis class. Encouraged to use other faculty/staff as resources.



Why Advanced Placement?

AP Capstone Program	International Baccalaureate (IB)	Dual Enrollment
6 classes (2 required)	6 classes (3 high level, 3 standard)	Any amount of classes
4 remaining classes are up to student to decide	Classes must cover all subjects	Any subject matter
Must score 3 or higher on all 6 exams	Must score 24 or higher on all exams combined	No end of course exam, must pass course
\$90 per exam	\$130 per exam	Cost depends on course
AP Seminar and AP Research classes with 4,000-5,000 word academic paper	Theory and Knowledge two year course and 4,000 word essay	No common theme
Applies internationally College credit is usually given with a score of 3 or higher	Applies internationally College credit varies, sometimes only awarded with full diploma	College credit is only guaranteed at Florida public universities

Why AP matters

- The AP classes are designed by a combination of current high school teachers and college professors designed to teach to the college standard.
- AP Capstone was introduced in 2014 after college faculty wanted a program to introduce students to the idea of interdisciplinary study.
- College Board communicates with high school teachers in the classroom and curriculum developers to design an effective course that completes the standards for high school education as well as college.

College Admissions

- When reviewing your application to colleges, admission staff will look at your transcripts and see how much you challenged yourself.
- Taking AP classes, and especially enrolling in the AP Capstone Program, will tell colleges you are willing to challenge yourself.
- The rest of the application notwithstanding, colleges prefer a student with 5 AP classes and a 3.6 unweighted GPA rather than a student with standard classes and a 4.0 unweighted GPA.

College Admissions

- Because the AP Capstone has stricter requirements and is more challenging than AICE, colleges value the AP Capstone Diploma.
- The AP Capstone Diploma is rare, so it will help you stand out. Colleges trust College Board's curriculum as university professors built it.
- “Students frequently report that AICE classes are easier than IB or AP classes, and many complete their AICE diploma by the end of 10th grade. Schools in the US are more likely to recognize AP or IB as more rigorous than AICE, but the AICE curriculum is still typically considered more rigorous than Honors or Dual Enrollment courses.” – *International College Counselors*

Members of the AP Capstone Advisory Committee

Rakesh Bhandari, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Stephanie Carter, McCracken County High School, Paducah, KY

Hui-Ching Chang, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Janet Eldred, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Alice Hearst, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Luis Martínez-Fernández, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Teresa Reed, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

Susan Roth, Duke University, Durham, NC

Nicole Wallack, Columbia University, New York, NY

Ellen Woods, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Who makes the curriculum?

All college/high school teachers

Members of the AP Seminar Curriculum and Assessment Development Committee

Teresa Reed, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

David Miller, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA

Maria Albano, Barbara Goleman Senior High School, Miami Lakes, FL

Melvin Butler, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Stephanie Carter, McCracken County High School, Paducah, KY

Rita C. F. Davis, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School, Nashville, TN

Janet Eldred, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Ellen Woods, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

How to enter the AP Capstone Program

Requirements

Similar to a job or college application

- Unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher (slightly lower would be admitted on a case by case basis, may require extra interview questions). Must be in high school or entering high school.
- Completion of application packet that includes:
 - Survey questions, short answer questions, and an essay question
 - Signature of two teachers that approve of your admission. The teachers are vouching that they believe you can complete and pass 6 AP exams.
- Interview (15-20 minutes) after school to review application packet and other questions. Faculty panel attends and can ask questions.

When to enroll

- Applications will open January of every year. The interview process the next month, and selections before Spring Break. 2024-2025 Applications are due to Mr. McDonald by **February 16th**
- Applications will open again at the beginning of the year for new students to the school.
- You can apply at the end of your 8th grade year, 9th-10th grade year, or beginning of 11th grade year at the latest.
 - You can take AP classes before and after the admission process, even if you were denied entry. AP Seminar and AP Research would only be available to AP Capstone students

Staying in the program

Plus some perks

- Continue to hold a 3.5 unweighted GPA.
- Be a leader at Burns. If the student earns a few points on the discipline matrix, student may be put on probation from the program and eventually dismissed.
- If you fail to score a 3 or higher on the AP Seminar exam, you would be ineligible from either award (Diploma or Certificate). This would dismiss you from the program.
- By being in the program, you get to have a say in which AP classes run which year (not who teaches them). You also get to have input in the AP Seminar theme.
- Students in the program will also get other perks and privileges to be announced.

AP Classes offered at Burns

These offerings are subject to change based on teacher availability.

AP Capstone students get priority when choosing which AP classes run.

English	Social Studies	Science	Math	Other
<p><u>Powers:</u> Pre-AP English I</p> <p><u>Lee:</u> Language and Composition Literature and Composition</p>	<p><u>Thompson:</u> United States History World History European History</p> <p><u>Grove:</u> Psychology Government and Politics</p>	<p><u>Jarrett:</u> Biology Environmental Science</p> <p><u>McDonald:</u> Chemistry Physics 1 and 2</p>	<p><u>Dugan:</u> Pre-Calculus Statistics</p> <p><u>McDonald:</u> Calculus AB/BC</p>	<p><u>Zahn:</u> 2D Art</p> <p><u>McDonald:</u> Seminar* Research*</p>

AP Classes and 4-Day Week

Conditional on adoption of 4-day school week

- If Burns High School adopts the 4-day school week for 2024-2025, AP classes will still be 5 days.
- For the sciences, Friday will be used as lab days (2 hour block to complete labs)
- Other classes would use it depending on teacher's direction. Could be a study make up day, an AP Progress Check day, or test/quiz day.
- Would have scheduled classes for AP's on Friday, only have to show up for those classes.
 - Example: if your AP Chem lab block is scheduled from 12:30-2:30pm, show up around 12:15 and at completion of the lab you may leave. No need to attend rest of the school day unless you want to see other teachers for "office hours"

AP Capstone Resources at Burns

- AP Capstone Coordinator: Mr. McDonald
- AP Capstone Committee: Mrs. Lee, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Dugan, Mrs. Grove, Ms. Jarrett, Mrs. Aldridge
 - Decision makers on admission to program. Even if not teaching an AP that year, they are still on the committee.
- Mr. Hargrave and Mrs. B. will be involved in the admission process and have a say in acceptance or denial from program.

Questions?