



An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

<Your School's Name>

Welcome

Countryside High School is committed to every student's success.

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

To complement the suite of AP courses at our school, we are proud to announce that we will be going into our second year of a new AP-developed program at our school – **AP Capstone™**.



What We' ll 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?

- AP Capstone Program
- 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

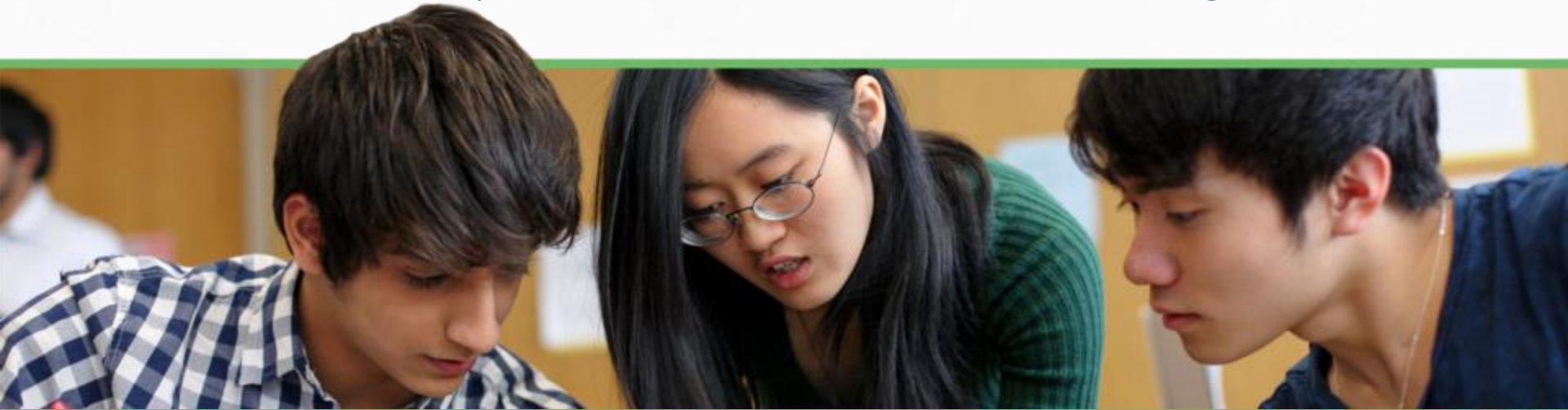
Questions and Answers



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

- **Arts:** Art History
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History, Microeconomics
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Computer Science
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics
- **World languages:** 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*



What is the AP Capstone Program?

Introducing - AP Capstone

AP Capstone™ is an innovative program that allows students to engage in rigorous college-level study of **the critical skills** necessary for success in college. The Program of study includes a two-course sequence:

AP Seminar and AP Research

Emphasizes Critical Skills

- Considering multiple perspectives
- Careful evaluation of information
- Writing evidence-based arguments

Complements the in-depth subject-matter study in AP

- Identifying and solving problems
- Oral communication and defending an argument
- Collaboration and teamwork

AP Seminar – 11th Grade

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
Revolution
Freedom
Protest
Technology
Sustainability

Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation

- 25%



2. Individual Essay & Presentation

- 35%



3. Written Exam

- 40%


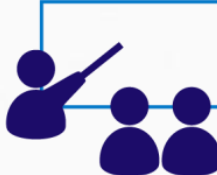
Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.

AP Research – 12th Grade

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 the findings and research methodology

Exam score based on:

1. Research Process
 - 15%
2. Academic Thesis Paper (~5,000 words)
 - 70%
3. Public Presentation and Oral Defense
 - 15%

AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.

AP Capstone Program Model

A two-course sequence that provides students with the critical thinking and research skills needed to succeed in college and stand-out in the admission process

AP Capstone Diploma™

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

AP SEMINAR

Team Project & Presentation

Research-Based Essay & Presentation

Written Exam

AP RESEARCH

Academic Thesis

Public Presentation & Defense

4 AP COURSES & EXAMS
(Taken at any point throughout high school)

AP Research & Seminar Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research Exams only will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**

AP[®] Capstone Exam Fees

- The exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research are \$139 each.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
 - The College Board offers exam fee reductions for eligible students with financial need.
 - Speak to the Guidance Counselor prior to AP testing.



AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Distinction** – Stand out in the college admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable college credit or placement
- **Critical Skills** – Students acquire rigorous college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges
- **Choice** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them



What Students are saying about AP Capstone

“Seminar helped me become a better writer. I was allowed to gain independence and make deadlines for both a group and individual work.”

—Junior, Countryside High School, Clearwater, FL

“Seminar was a fun and informant introduction to a college course. It allows for perspective beyond research papers.”

—Junior, Countryside High School, Clearwater, FL

“Seminar prepares you for how to plan in depth presentation and sets you in a college like environment.”

—Junior, Countryside High School, Clearwater, FL

“Seminar has helped me to realize my passion for research in a career.”

—Junior, Countryside High School, Clearwater, FL



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

“[Through this program] you get students turned on to higher education in a way they are not currently and they enter university with a different kind of attitude.”

Susan Roth, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University, AP Capstone Curriculum Advisory Committee



Support from Colleges

- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.
- Completing the AP Capstone courses tells college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter at their institution and beyond.
- AP Capstone launched in the fall of 2014 after a successful pilot program conducted in high schools across the globe and supported by over 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

Below is a list of some of the colleges that have conveyed support for the pilot:

Columbia University	New York University	University of Southern California
Davidson College	Pennsylvania State University	University of Texas at Austin
Duke University	University of Maryland	University of Virginia
Florida State University	University of Michigan	University of Washington
Massachusetts Institute of Technology		Yale University

Visit www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone for the latest list of colleges supporting the AP Capstone program.



Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP Capstone. Here are some questions to encourage your child 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?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

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!

Additional Information about AP Capstone

The AP Capstone Brochure



AP Capstone online: www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone

Direct questions and concerns to:

MaryBeth Williams

williamsmarye@pcsb.org

727-725-7956 ext. 2021

AP[®]

Questions and Answers

11th Grade PSAT Information – Oct. 2015

About PSAT/NMSQT

- The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](#). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT[®]. It also gives you a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.
- The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test does not require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study, which allows you to focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

Scholarships & Recognition

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you may qualify to enter the competitions for prestigious scholarships and participate in recognition programs. As cosponsor of the PSAT/NMSQT, NMSC receives all students' scores.

Scholarship and Recognition Programs

- *National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)*
- *National Achievement Scholarship Program (NASP)*
- *National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP)*
- *National Scholarship Service (NSSFNS)*
- *The Telluride Association*

Advanced Sign Ups

Please stop by the PSAT table in the concourse and sign up if you are interested in taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2015 as an 11th grader.