



# An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

La Porte High School

# Welcome

La Porte High School is 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 at our school, we are proud to introduce a new program at our school in Fall 2016:

**AP**Capstone™



# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school that 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
- **\*NEW FOR TEXAS HB 1992\***: All students earning a **score of 3 or higher** on an AP exam *will receive college credit for that course in Texas public colleges and universities.*

# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar implemented 2016-17, *AP Research new course implemented 2017-18*
- **Arts:** Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics 2
- **World languages:** Spanish Language and Culture



# What is the AP Capstone Program?



# Introducing - AP Capstone

**AP Capstone™** is an innovative program that helps you stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in your future career.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed  
for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth  
subject-matter study in AP

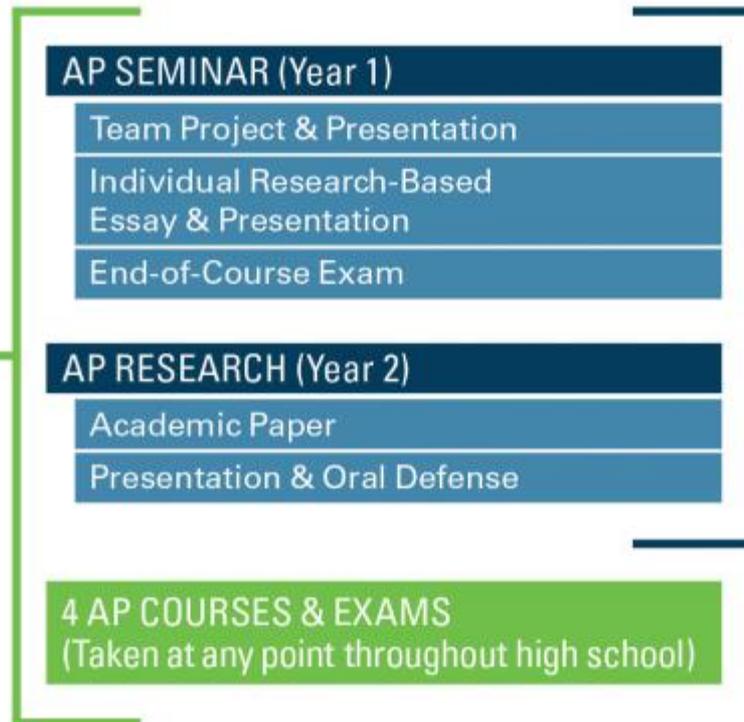
Two new courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics *that matter to them*, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants.

# The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

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

**AP Capstone Diploma™**

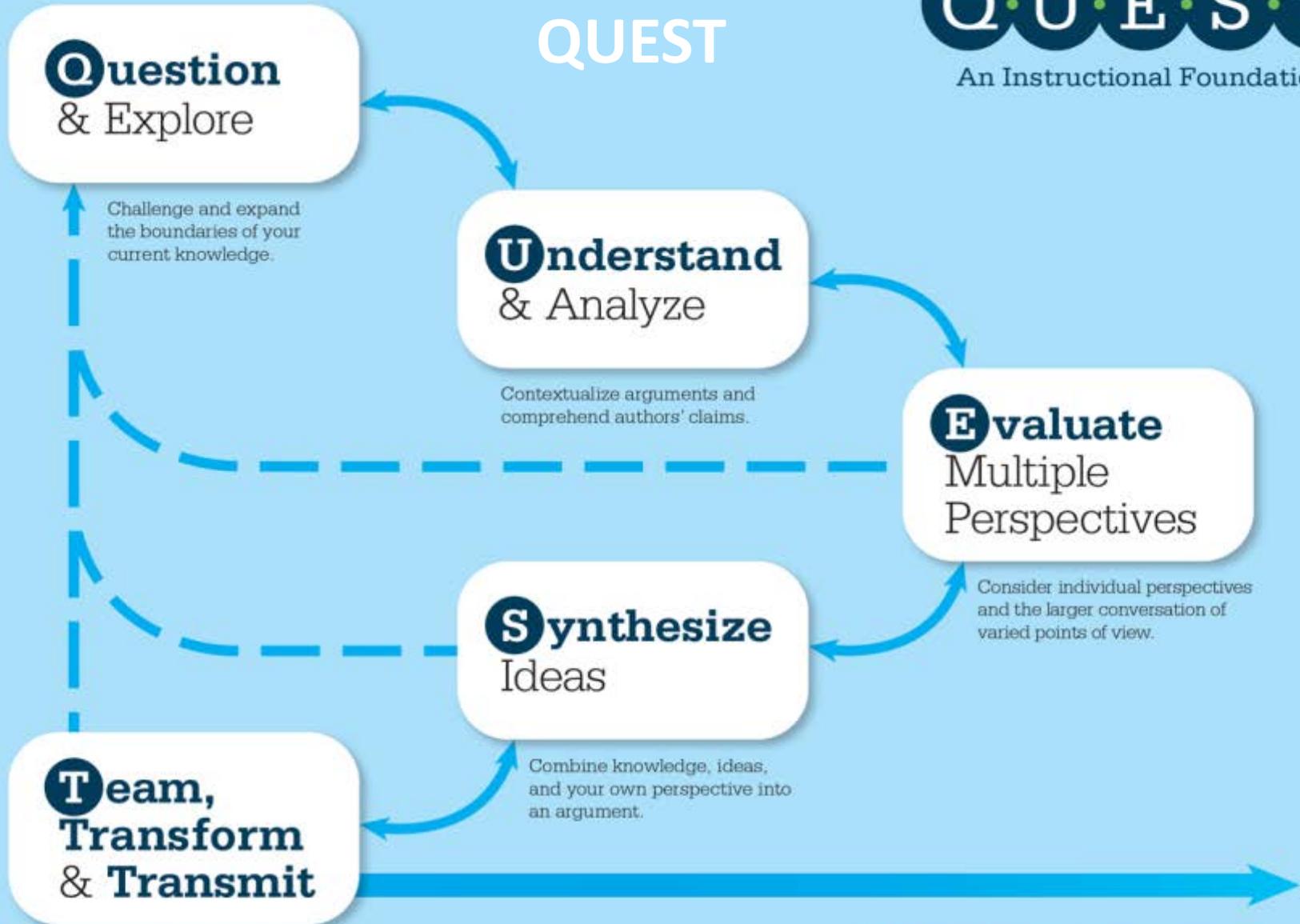
Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.



## AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

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

# QUEST



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: Core Skill Areas

Students practice, refine, and master the skills critical for academic success

<p><b>Critical Thinking &amp; Reasoning</b> Analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating perspectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• comparing and/or contrasting</li><li>• identifying patterns and trends</li><li>• explaining relationships (comparative, causal, correlational)</li></ul>	<p><b>Argumentation</b> Making a claim and developing a line of reasoning supported by evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• thesis development</li><li>• selecting evidence and attributing its use</li><li>• considering other perspectives</li><li>• drawing a conclusion</li></ul>
<p><b>Critical Reading</b> Discovering ideas and information in a text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contextualizing</li><li>• questioning assumptions</li><li>• identifying bias and implications</li><li>• making inferences and connections</li></ul>	<p><b>Communicating Publically</b> Conveying a clear message that engages and appeals to a specific audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• eye contact</li><li>• vocal variety (tempo, inflection)</li><li>• movement</li><li>• appropriate visuals</li></ul>
<p><b>Inquiry &amp; Research</b> Discovering new understandings or ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• identifying a problem or issue</li><li>• determining the best strategy to address the problem or issue</li><li>• gathering evidence</li><li>• drawing and supporting a conclusion</li></ul>	<p><b>Collaboration</b> Working with others to accomplish a shared task or goal or solve a problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• individual role and contribution</li><li>• consensus building</li><li>• conflict resolution</li></ul>

# AP Seminar Overview

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 how to:

- Investigate academic and real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Gather and analyze information from various sources
- Develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments
- Conduct research and evaluate evidence
- Collaborate in teams
- Communicate using appropriate media

*Teachers and students typically select 2-4 topics for the course.*

## Example Topics

Discovery  
Diversity  
Education  
Government  
Identity  
Immigration  
Liberty  
Myth  
Networks  
Perception  
Place  
Power  
Revolution  
Selection  
Sustainability  
Transformation  
Wealth and Poverty

# AP Seminar Assessments

Multiple through-course assessments

Assessment Task		Scoring Method	Weight
<b>Team Project and Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Research and Reflection</li><li>• Written Team Report</li><li>• Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense</li></ul>		Teacher-scored; College Board validated	25%
<b>Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Written Argument</li><li>• Individual Multimedia Presentation</li><li>• Oral Defense</li></ul>		Teacher-scored; College Board validated	35%
<b>End-of-Course Exam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze an argument</li><li>• Compare the effectiveness of two arguments</li><li>• Construct an evidence-based argument</li></ul>		College Board scored	40%

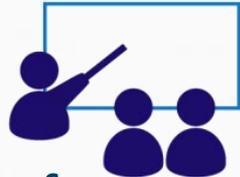
# AP Research

*AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research, which is taken in 12<sup>th</sup> 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 research findings and methodology

## Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper  
(4,000 - 5,000 words)
  - 75%
2. Presentation and Oral Defense
  - 25%
  - Student-chosen format
  - 3-5 Questions from a panel of  $\geq 2$  evaluators

# Components of the Academic Thesis Paper

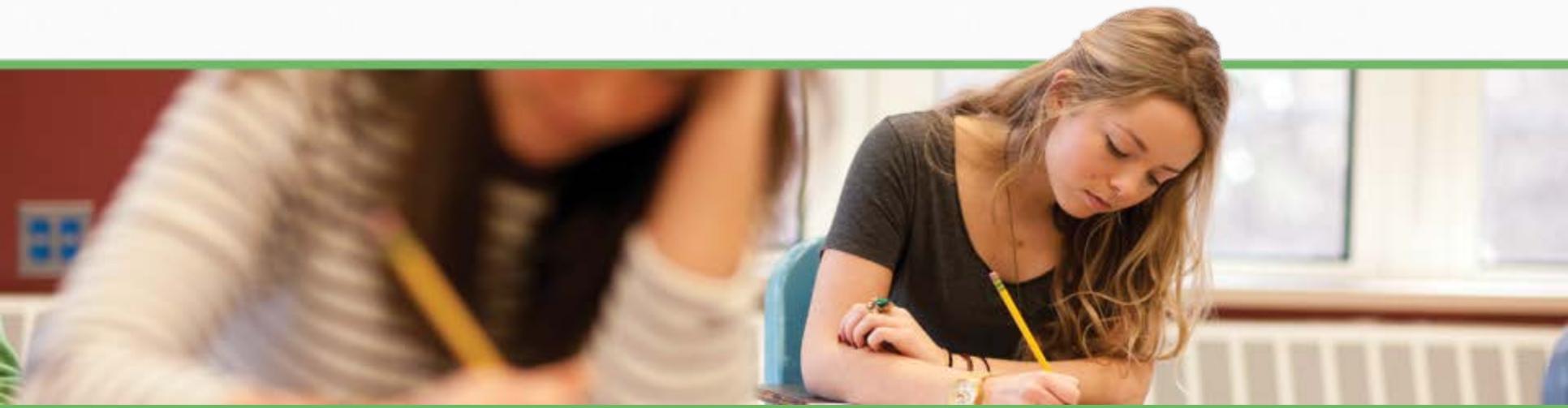
Required Component	Description
<b>Introduction</b>	<i>Introduces and contextualizes the research question</i>
<b>Literature Review</b>	<i>Synthesizes information and perspectives related to the research question</i>
<b>Method</b>	<i>Explains the rationale of research method</i>
<b>Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<i>Analyzes and interprets the evidence</i>
<b>Conclusion &amp; Reflection</b>	<i>Illustrates a cogent argument and a clear line of reasoning based on evidence provided, and reflects on the research project and the implications of the conclusion(s) reached</i>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<i>Lists all sources cited and consulted</i>



# AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

# AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Earn Distinction** – Stand out in the college admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable college credit or placement
- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges
- **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



Below are some of the 140+ colleges that have endorsed AP Capstone for its challenging interdisciplinary curricula. Also, over 100 colleges have developed credit policies – a few are below outlined in green.



[Visit The College Board's website 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 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:

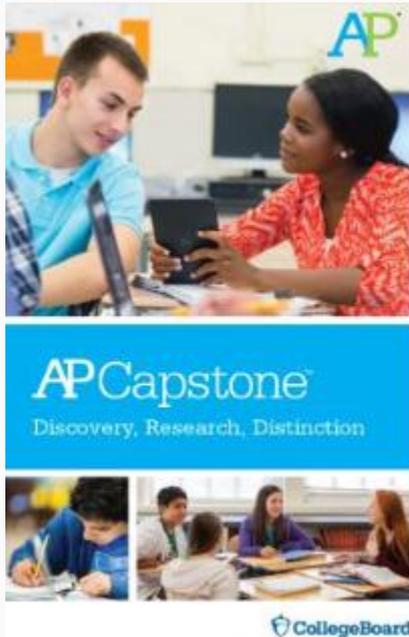
- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

## 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 our AP Programs and about AP Capstone

## The AP Capstone Brochure



## The AP Capstone Website



[www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

Direct questions and concerns to:

**Eveline M. Bailey**  
**baileye@lpsd.org**  
**281.604.7589**

## AP Students – Course Information



[apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org)