

AP Capstone FAQ

I cannot fit both the SAT Prep course and AP Seminar in my schedule for my junior year. Which one should I choose?

Students who are identified as Gifted/Talented are expected to participate in the AP Capstone program as a part of their Gifted/Talented services at the high school level.

There is data from Pearland ISD AP Exam results to support the assertion that the students who take AP Language and Composition, AP US History and AP Seminar *concurrently* score 10-18% higher on all three AP Exams due to the reinforcement of similar skills.

(AP Language and Composition and AP US History are two of the most commonly accepted credits by colleges and universities that accept AP credit.)

How might AP Capstone help a student in the college admissions process?

AP Capstone candidates stand out:

- On college applications and essays because they demonstrate critical thinking, communication, and research skills associated with AP Capstone.
- In college interviews because of the confidence, expertise, and passion they show when they talk about their academic projects.
- To college admissions officers, who recognize that AP Capstone students know how to build evidence-based arguments, apply research methods, work in teams, deliver professional presentations, and complete long-term academic projects.

What are the key skills of the AP Capstone courses?

AP Seminar: consider issues from multiple perspectives, identify credible sources, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of arguments, and make logical, evidence-based recommendations. Investigate topics through various viewpoints of your choice.

AP Research: Explore various research methods and complete an independent research project. Your project can build on a topic, problem, or issue of your own choosing.

Why was the AP Capstone Diploma program created?

The AP Capstone Diploma program launched in fall 2014. We developed the program after hearing from higher education faculty and administrators who were seeking incoming freshmen with proficiency in critical thinking and communication skills. Specifically, these higher education professionals wanted to identify students who were able to analyze different perspectives, evaluate the credibility of sources, use scholarly methods, build evidence-based arguments, work in teams, work with mentors, and develop and deliver team and individual presentations.

Successfully completing an AP Capstone course or earning one of the AP Capstone awards communicates to colleges and universities that an applicant has these skills.

AP Central/AP Courses & Exams/AP Capstone Diploma Program/Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AP Capstone™ Diploma 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™.

AP Central/AP Courses & Exams/AP Capstone Diploma Program/Frequently Asked Questions

How can a student be successful in the AP Capstone program?

Students who are motivated and prepared for college-level coursework are more successful in the program. Students should demonstrate curiosity about real-world issues, a willingness to take intellectual risks, and a dedication to acquiring the skills that colleges and universities value—critical inquiry, analysis, and research.