

AP CAPSTONE

AT WEST ASHLEY HIGH SCHOOL

ELEVATE YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY


As a pillar of the West Ashley community, West Ashley High School maintains a commitment to academic excellence, providing our 2,000+ students with the advanced skills necessary for elite achievement and professional success. We are proud to announce the launch of the AP Capstone Program beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.



This prestigious, multi-year diploma program serves as the pinnacle of the high school experience, transforming students into curious, collaborative, and independent thinkers. By combining the academic intensity of Advanced Placement (AP) coursework with a focus on original research, AP Capstone offers a level of rigor typically reserved for selective magnet programs, allowing students to earn a globally recognized distinction right here on our home campus.

AN ELITE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY AT WEST ASHLEY.


WHY CHOOSE AP CAPSTONE?



Builds college readiness in research, writing, analysis, and presentation.



Allows students to investigate topics of personal interest and produce a substantial academic project



Strengthens college applications and demonstrates ability to handle long-term, rigorous work.



Builds universal skills in evidence-based argumentation, information synthesis, and self-guided learning.

This program is designed for high-achieving students who want to merge the prestige of the AP Capstone Diploma with the authentic high school journey. We believe that our students should not have to choose between a premier academic track and the landmark events that define their four years at West Ashley.

- **Future-Ready Skill Mastery:** Master the essential research, critical thinking, and communication skills that are vital for success in higher level education.
- **Structured Success:** Develop advanced collegiate skills within the familiar, structured support of our faculty and staff to ensure you reach your full academic potential.
- **The Competitive Edge:** Earn a significant advantage in college admissions by proving you can master collegiate-level research and evidence-based argumentation.
- **Full Participation:** Remain fully involved in WAHS athletics, arts, and student organizations while still pursuing the most challenging curriculum offerings.

The AP Capstone is rooted in two AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These yearlong courses focus on developing the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills you need for college-level work.

AP SEMINAR: Foundation Phase

- In this course, students develop the ability to analyze complex issues from multiple perspectives.
- By investigating topics of their choice, students learn to identify credible sources, evaluate arguments, and craft logical, evidence-based recommendations.

AP RESEARCH: Mastery Phase

- In this final phase of the program, students master advanced research methodologies by conducting an original, year-long investigation .
- Whether building upon a topic from AP Seminar or exploring a new one, students take full ownership of their academic inquiry.

HOW IT WORKS:

If a student earns a score of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, as well as on 4 additional AP Exams of their choice, they will receive the AP Capstone Diploma.

If the student earns a score of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, they'll receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate



AP Capstone Diploma™

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)
Team Project & Presentation
Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
End-of-Course Exam
AP RESEARCH (Year 2)
Academic Paper
Presentation & Oral Defense
4 AP COURSES & EXAMS (Taken at any point throughout high school)



AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

The AP Capstone Program focuses on developing the skills colleges value most: independent research, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

This program is seeking studious and mature students who are ready to assume a higher level of academic responsibility. Current 9th and 10th graders have the first opportunity to begin this journey by enrolling in AP Seminar for the 2026-2027 school year.

Join our AP Capstone Cohort! Talk to your school counselor or scan the QR code for additional information how to further your academic journey here at West Ashley High School!

