WHAT IS THE AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA PROGRAM?



WHAT IS AP CAPSTONE?

AP Capstone program is an innovative program designed to foster critical thinking, research skills, and collaborative learning: all are essential competencies for success in college and beyond.

"AP Capstone has given me skills that helped me easily adjust to the college environment." --Destini, Temple University

AP Capstone consists of two courses:
AP Seminar and AP Research.

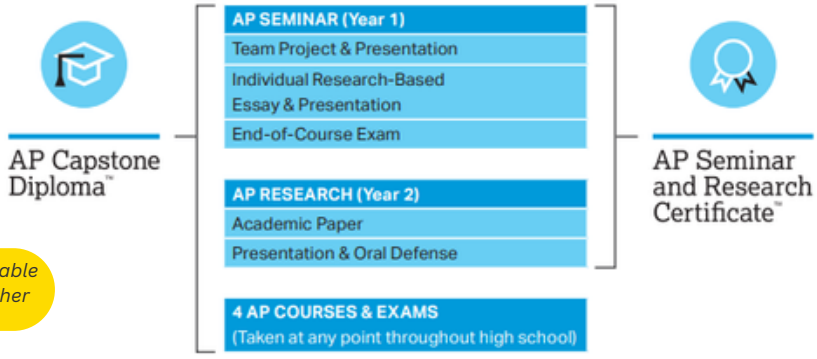
In **AP Seminar**, students explore complex topics, develop arguments, and present their findings, all while honing their analytical skills.

The **AP Research** course allows students to pursue an independent research project on a topic of their choice, guiding them through the research process and culminating in a formal presentation of their work.

HOW IT WORKS

If you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of your choice, you'll receive the AP Capstone Diploma™ . If you earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, you'll receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ .

Colleges and Universities recognize the AP Capstone Diploma as a valuable credential that signifies a student's readiness for the challenges of higher education.



Learn more about AP Capstone at collegeboard.org/apcapstone

STAND OUT IN COLLEGE ADMISSION

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 unique academic projects.
- To college admission 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.

NEXT STEPS

We encourage you to discuss the AP Capstone program with your family, counselor, or administrator. Consider how it might align with your academic goals and personal interests. This program not only prepares you for the challenges of college, but also empowers you to explore your interests in depth and develop a passion for learning. This is a transformative experience that can prepare you for future challenges and opportunities.

AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA PATHWAY

AP Capstone Diploma + Bright Futures (with only eligible GPA and Community Service Hours)	**AP Seminar Year 1 Earn score of 3+**	AP Capstone Certificate
	AP Research Year 2 Earn score of 3+	
	4 AP Exams* taken during grades 9-12 Earn score of 3+	

*For students graduating in 2026, 2027, or 2028, any 4 AP exams will qualify for Bright Futures. For 2029 graduates and beyond, 3 AP exams must be in Math, Science, English or Social Studies and 1 AP exam can be student choice.

Earning Bright Futures with the AP Capstone Diploma



Why does it matter for Florida students?

Earning the **AP Capstone Diploma** is now recognized as one of the eligibility pathways for Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship, one of the state's most significant sources of financial support for students pursuing higher education, covering a substantial portion, or in some cases, nearly all, of college tuition and fees at Florida's public universities and colleges.

For students graduating in 2026, 2027, or 2028

may earn the FAS award by:

Completing 100 Hours

Students must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both, equal to 100 total hours

Receiving an AP Capstone Diploma, in which students must:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, and
- Earn a score of 3 or higher on any four additional AP examinations of their choosing

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

AP Capstone™ CollegeBoard

For students graduating in 2029

may earn the FAS award by:

Completing 100 Hours

Students must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both, equal to 100 total hours

Receiving an AP Capstone Diploma, in which students must:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on BOTH AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, and
- Earn a score of 3 or higher on:
  - THREE AP courses in Math, Science, English, or Social Studies that satisfy graduation requirements.*
  - ONE AP subject of the student's choice.

Contact your school counselor, AP teacher, or Office of Advanced Studies for more information

*Florida acknowledges AP Computer Science courses as a math credit for graduation, but Bright Futures does not. These courses will count toward the "student choice" subject.

PCS PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Office of Advanced Studies

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AP Coursework for AP Capstone Diploma

Social Studies*	Math*	Science*
AP World History	AP Precalculus	AP Biology
AP US History	AP Calculus (AB/BC)	AP Environmental Science
AP European History	AP Statistics	AP Chemistry
AP US Government		AP Physics (1, 2, CM, CEM)
AP Micro/Macro Economics		
English*	**Elective**	
AP English Language and Composition	AP Psychology	AP 2D or 3D Art
AP English Literature and Composition	AP Computer Science (Principles/A)	AP Drawing
	AP Human Geography	AP Music Theory
	AP World Language & Culture	AP Art History
	AP Comparative Government	

*Satisfies Florida graduation requirements

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