

THIS AP Academy

PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO
COLLEGE SUCCESS

What Are Advanced Placement Courses?

- The College Board AP Program offers college-level courses that students take in high school.
- At the end of each course, students take an exam. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher may earn college credit. The amount of credit depends upon the score and college/university.
- Students may work towards AP Diplomas OR take stand-alone courses.
- THS offers 2 pathways to the AP Capstone Diploma or Brevard AP Diploma through 18 AP courses. Students may also mix-and-match STEM and Humanities/Liberal Arts AP classes if they wish.
- Humanities/Liberal Arts Pathway – Seminar and Research (required for Capstone Diploma), English Literature, English Language, Human Geography, World History, US History, US Government, Psychology, Drawing, Music Theory, Spanish Language and Culture
- STEM Pathway – Seminar and Research (required for Capstone Diploma), Calculus AB, Statistics, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Biology and Chemistry (based on enrollment numbers)

Overview of AP Program Benefits

AP EXPERIENCE	AP REWARDS	AP REWARDS	SPECIAL RECOGNITION
AP courses are more engaging and allow students to challenge themselves.	AP courses on transcripts lets colleges know students are serious about education.	AP Capstone Diploma and/or Brevard AP Diploma	AP Scholar – scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams
Students discuss and debate opinions using critical thinking and research skills.	Students can earn college credit – saves time and money!	Boost to GPA – AP courses are weighted at 1.0.	AP Scholar with Honor – average score of 3.25 on all exams taken (min. four)
Students can explore topics of interest on a deeper level.	Students get a jump start on developing collegiate skills, such as presenting, writing, and research.	African-American Recognition Hispanic Recognition	AP Scholar with Distinction – average score of 3.5 or higher on five or more exams

What is the Difference between the AP Capstone and Brevard AP Diploma?

The AP Capstone is awarded through the College Board and requires students to take AP Seminar, AP Research, four additional AP courses, and earn a passing score of three or higher on each exam.

The Brevard AP Diploma is awarded through BPS to students who take ANY of six AP courses and earn scores of 3 or higher.

Students who meet the AP Capstone Diploma requirements simultaneously earn the Brevard AP Diploma.

What is the AP Capstone Program?

- Students who take AP Seminar, AP Research, and four other AP courses and who earn scores of at least three in each course qualify for the AP Capstone Diploma.
- Students who earn the AP Capstone Diploma will stand out to colleges because the coursework requires critical thinking, communication, and research skills.
- College admission officers 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.
- Some of the colleges and universities that offer credit and/or placement policies for AP Seminar and Research include: Cal Tech, OSU, UF, MIT, Brigham Young, Marquette, and more. See complete list at: www.collegeboard.org/apcapstonehed.

What is the AP Seminar Course?

- Students learn to consider issues from multiple perspectives, identify credible sources, evaluate strengths and weaknesses or arguments, and make logical, evidence-based recommendations.
- Students will investigate a variety of topics such as: effects of texting on grammar skills, the mathematics behind extreme sports, genetically modified organisms, wealth inequality, and the role of art in education.
- Students complete a team project, an individual paper, and a presentation.
- AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research and an exam is administered.
- Find out more about Seminar at: www.apstudent.org/seminar.

What is the AP Research Course?

- Students explore various research methods and complete an independent research project.
- The research topic may build on a problem or issue covered in AP Seminar, or on a brand-new topic. Some previously researched topics include: effects of sleep deprivation on academic achievement in teens, learning chemistry through musical chords, the algorithm of K-POP music, and environmental injustice in subsidized housing.
- At the end of the course, students submit an academic paper and defend their research findings. These components contribute to the overall AP Research score (there is no exam).

What College Administrators Say About AP Capstone

“AP Capstone helps students develop key skills that they will use over and over in college: conducting research and communicating their results.” – Stu Schmill, Dean of Admissions, MIT

“AP Capstone not only equips students with critical thinking and communication skills they will need in college, but also immerses them in independent research within a collaborative environment.” – Philip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington

What AP Capstone Alumni Say About Their Experience

“AP Capstone helped me work independently, think critically about research and the research process, and organize myself so I can present to other people.” - Michael, Stanford University

“My experience in AP Capstone gave me exposure to a field I couldn’t really access in the normal school curriculum.” – Kaelin, University of Texas-Austin

“Just do it...Not a day goes by where I don’t use a skill I learned in the course.” – Reagan, University of Oklahoma

Example of Course Progression for Humanities / Liberal Arts Pathway

9th Grade – English Honors 1, AP Human Geography, Science, Math, electives

10th Grade – English Honors 2, AP World History, Science, Math, electives

11th Grade – AP Seminar/AP Language, AP US History, AP Environmental Sci, Math, electives (AP Psychology, etc.)

12th Grade – AP Research/AP Literature, AP US Government, Science, Math, electives

Example of Course Progression for STEM Pathway

9th Grade – English 1, Geometry Honors, Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors, Social Studies, electives

10th Grade – English 2, Algebra II Honors, Physics Honors, Social Studies, electives

11th Grade – AP Seminar, AP Biology, Pre-Calculus Honors, Social Studies, electives

12th Grade – AP Research, AP Environmental Science/Chemistry, AP Calculus AB/Statistics/Computer Science, electives

What is the Difference Between AP and Dual Enrollment?

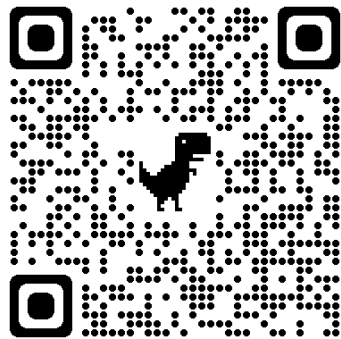
- AP courses are offered on campus.
- AP courses which are taken stand-alone may count for college credit at out-of-state universities and colleges.
- Placement exams are not required to take AP courses. Counselors will assist students and parents in determining appropriate AP courses.
- Weighted 1.0
- Most DE courses are offered off-campus at EFSC.
- Stand-alone courses may not always be credited in content areas at out-of-state colleges but instead as electives.
- DE is a good option for students who wish to earn an AA alongside a high school diploma.
- Students interested in DE will take a PERT exam to ensure college readiness.
- Weighted 1.0

FAQ's

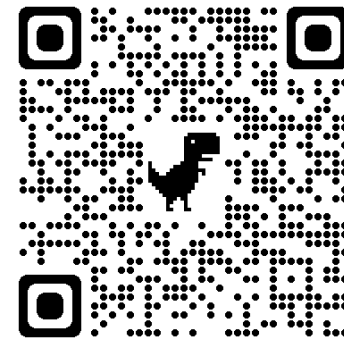
- Do AP courses have prerequisites? For some courses, such as AP Biology and AP Calculus, we recommend taking the high school course as a prerequisite. AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.
- Will an AP course be too hard for me? AP classes can be challenging and more time intensive than high school classes, but if students are willing to work hard most should be able to succeed in an AP course.
- Can anyone take AP? The College Board believes that all motivated and academically prepared students should have access to AP courses. Counselors can assist families in making decisions about the best AP courses for each student to take.

What's Next?

- Find out more information about AP Programs at: www.ap.collegeboard.org
- Find out more information about the AP Capstone program at: www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone.
- Please complete the following 2 Google Forms:



What is your AP Goal?



Name our Academy!