

## **AP Capstone Frequently Asked Questions**

Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone is a two-year AP course accredited through College Board. It is unique in that it focuses on the process of research versus specific content, such as Physics or Statistics. The purpose of this document is to provide HS counselors and administrators answers to some frequent questions surrounding the AP Capstone program.

### **Q: Who is eligible to select AP Capstone: Seminar?**

Current 9th and 10th grade students may select AP Capstone: Seminar as an elective class. Since it is a two-year program, current 11th grade students will not have the opportunity to take both courses in the Capstone program and are therefore ineligible to register for the program.

### **Q: When / How will AP Capstone: Seminar meet?**

This is a traditional class that will meet face-to-face, 5 days a week. Students will receive 1 AP credit for this course. As is the case with all AP courses, students will have work to do outside of class on an almost daily basis.

### **Q: What are the prerequisites for AP Capstone?**

There are no prerequisites for AP Capstone.

### **Q: Do students require a teacher recommendation to take AP Capstone?**

No. However, it is expected that the counselor work with students to ensure their schedule is reflective of their current academic ability and will not overburden them.

### **Q: What are the general traits of a successful AP Capstone student?**

Successful AP Capstone students possess the following traits: strong independent reading skills; very strong writing skills; self-advocacy in the learning process; interest in researching problems in a variety of fields; and strong organization and time-management skills.

### **Q: How is a student's College Board score determined for AP Capstone?**

- AP Seminar Scores are determined by 3 parts:
  - Performance Task 1: Team project & presentation (20%) - Due in April
  - Performance Task 2: Individual research-based essay & presentation (35%) - Due in April
  - End of Course Exam: 3 Short answers & 1 essay (45%) - During AP Exams in May
- AP Research Scores are determined by an individual academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (75%) which will be scored by the College Board and an Oral Defense of the research (25%) which will be scored by the student's teacher.

### **Q: How does Year 2, Research, differ from Year 1, Seminar?**

In Year 1, students will work with small group on many tasks and independently on others. In Year 2, students will work independently to address a research question of their own design. That is, students can research any problem in any field they are interested in. To guide students through their Year 2 research, students will be assigned a lead teacher, who is a credentialed by the College Board as an AP Capstone teacher and two other teachers or experts in the field of study. These three professionals will serve as the student's advisory panel and will hear the student's oral defense in the spring (April).

**Q: When will the student pick their topic for Year 2: Research?**

Students will be able to pick their field of study for Year 2 in the spring of Year 1. This will allow the student time to work over the summer (between Seminar and Research)

**Q: Why should a student take AP Capstone?**

Students who enroll in AP Capstone set themselves apart from their peers by showing a willingness to dive deeply into the analytical skills of academic research. Additionally, students who successfully complete both AP Seminar and AP Research, scoring a 3 or higher both years, will qualify for the AP Capstone Certificate. Students who successfully complete both years, plus score a 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma.

**Q: What are other students saying about their AP Capstone experience?**

Please feel free to show students [this 3:25 video](#) by the College Board.