



# An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

Wilson High School

# Welcome

Wilson High School is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to challenging course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.

To complement the suite of AP courses at our school, we are proud to introduce a new program at our school in Fall 2016:

**AP**Capstone™



# What We' ll Cover

## Topic

### Background on Advanced Placement®

- Advanced Placement: The Basics
- Our AP Courses
- AP®: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

### What is the AP Capstone™ Program?

- Program Overview
- The Courses: AP Seminar & AP Research
- Exam Fees

### AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

- Benefits and Student Testimonials
- Support from Colleges

### Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

- AP: Start the Conversation
- Program Contact Information

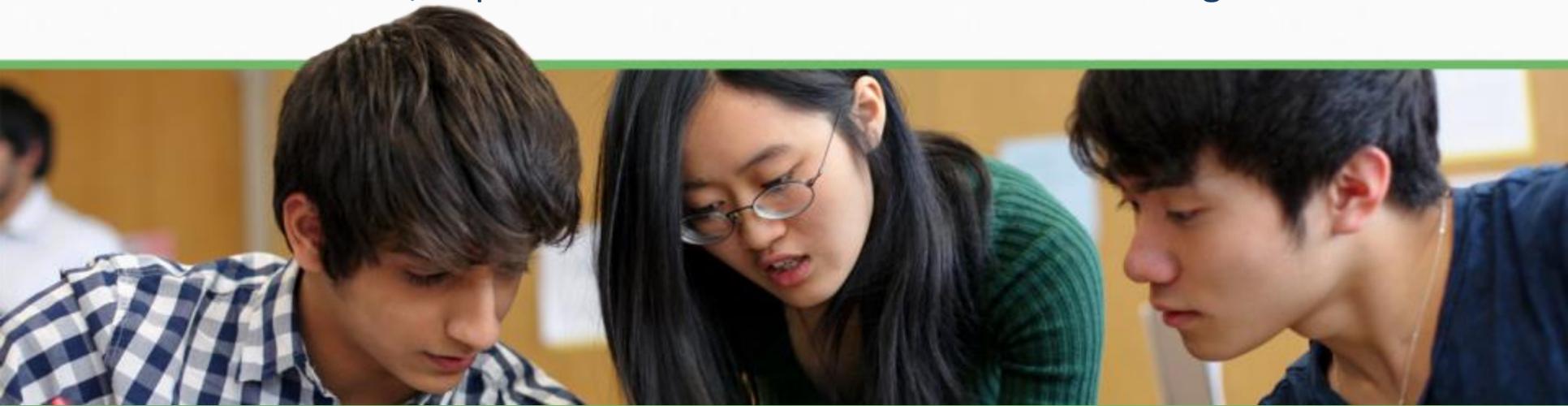
### Questions and Answers



# Background on Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college



# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar, *AP Research starting Fall 2016*
- **Arts:** Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics: Mechanics
- **World languages:** Chinese Language and Culture

# AP<sup>®</sup> at Wilson

- 906 - Number of exams taken last year.
- 529 – Number of AP Students
- 74.3% - percentage receiving a 3 or higher on AP exam
- 68.3% = PA average, 60.7% = US average
- Quotes from recent graduates about how taking AP courses and exams benefited them in college.
- Additional support provided to students: summer ramp-up programs for incoming students, mentors, office hours, study groups, etc.

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.\*

*\*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.\* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$21,500\*\* for public colleges (in-state tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

\*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

\*\**The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*



# What is the AP Capstone Program?



# Introducing - AP Capstone

**AP Capstone**<sup>™</sup> is an innovative program that helps you stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in your future career.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed  
for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth  
subject-matter study in AP

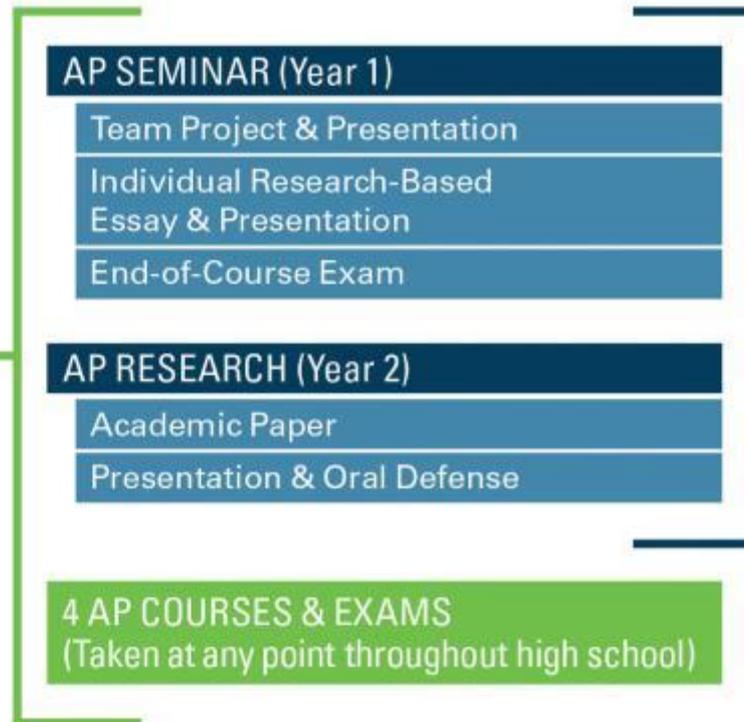
Two new courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants.

# The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

This challenging program helps students deepen their passion for learning, gives them greater confidence in your academic skills, and a broader perspective on their world.

**AP Capstone Diploma™**

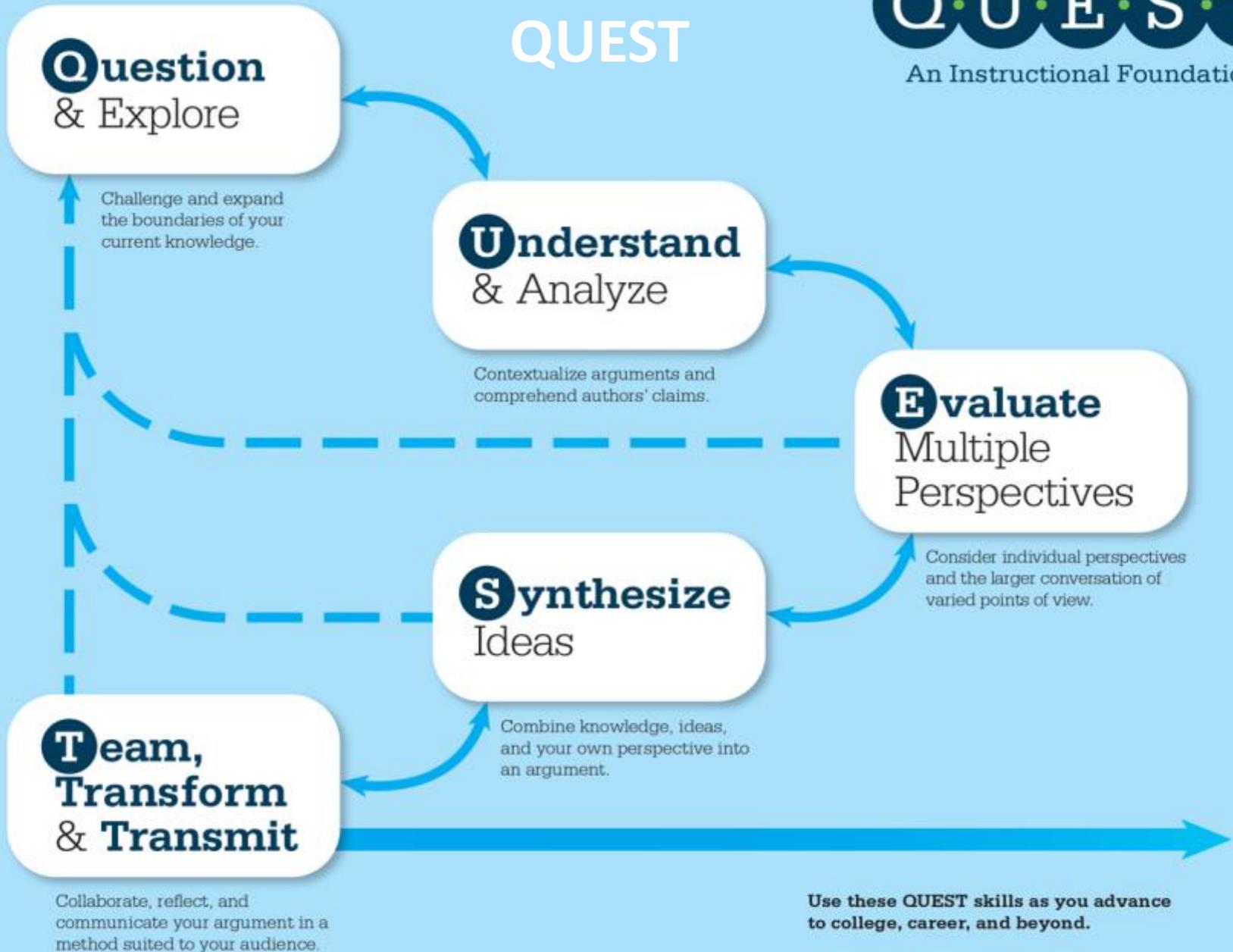
Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.



## AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**

# QUEST



# AP Seminar

*Typically taken in grade 10 or 11.*

## Students learn how to:

- Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

### Example Topics

Democracy  
Education  
Environment  
Revolution  
Technology  
Sustainability

## Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation
  - 25%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
  - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
  - 40%



*Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.*

# AP Research

*AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.*

## Students learn how to:

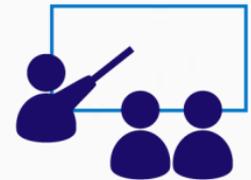
- Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- Write a college-level research paper
- Present and orally defend research findings and methodology

## Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper  
(4,000 - 5,000 words)
  - 75%



2. Presentation and Oral Defense
  - 25%



# AP<sup>®</sup> Capstone Exam Fees

- The 2016-17 exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research are \$141 each.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
  - The College Board offers exam fee reductions for eligible students with financial need.



# AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

# AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Earn Distinction** – Stand out in the college admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable college credit or placement
- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges
- **Choose what to study** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them



# What Students are saying about AP Capstone

“We get a topic, and we dive deep into it, looking at not just the facts but different perspectives, which ones are strongest, which ones are missing something... [It]...teaches us to learn and think, and prepares us for college and life in a way that no other class does...”  
—Senior, North Central High School, Spokane, WA

“The expectations in the [AP Seminar] course are a lot higher. We are expected to be more responsible and more attentive about what is going on in the world around us.”  
—Sophomore, N. Miami Beach High School, Miami, FL

“[In college interviews,] it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific and colleges see that you have an interest.”  
—Senior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

“[I’ve gained] confidence... I speak more now. In this environment your opinion is needed. You feel part of a family.”  
—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY



# What Colleges are saying about AP Capstone

“At the University of Washington, we would be very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the AP Capstone program.”

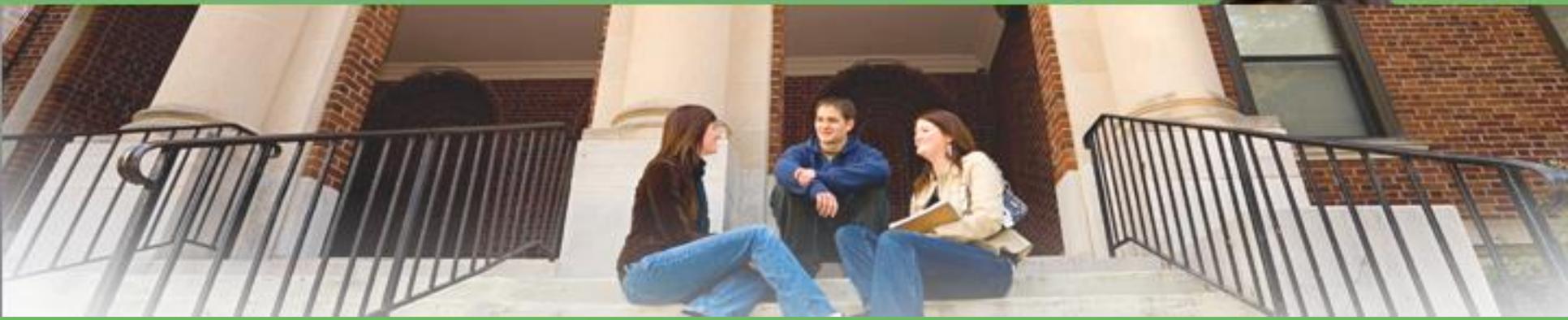
*Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington*

“AP Seminar and AP Research are terrific classes that prepare students to think in non-formulaic ways.”

*Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond: effective communication, original research, collaboration, and critical thinking.

*Ken O’Donnell, Senior Director of Student Engagement, California State University*



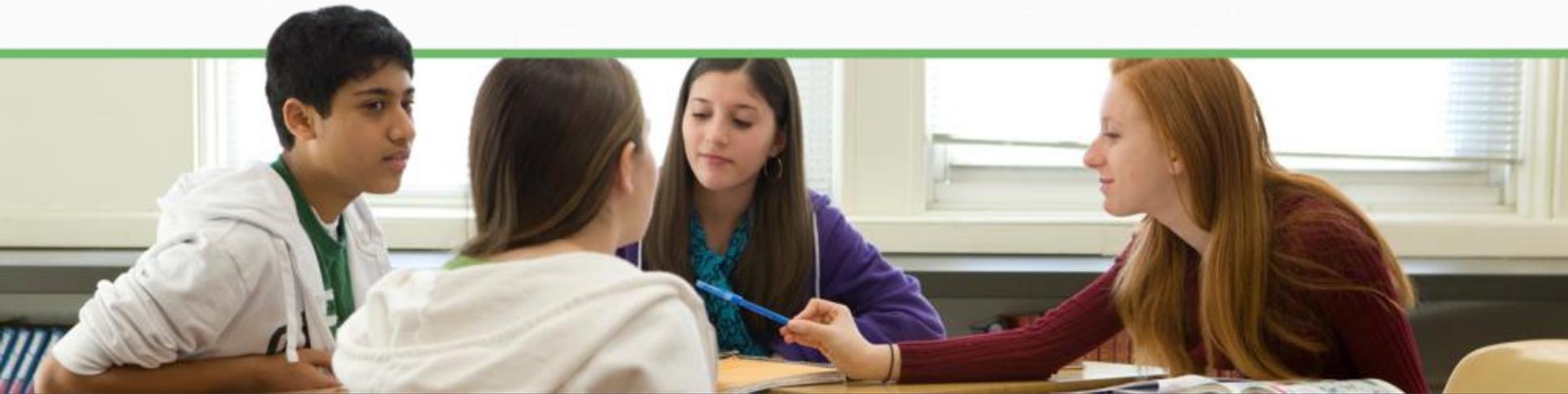
Below are some of the 140+ colleges that have endorsed AP Capstone for its challenging interdisciplinary curricula. Also, over 100 colleges have developed credit policies – a few are below outlined in green.



Visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone) for the latest list of colleges with credit policies for AP Seminar and/or AP Research.

# Our Students & Parents: Up Close & Personal

*Question and Answer session from current AP Capstone students*





# Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

# AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP Capstone. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

## Is AP Capstone right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do I enjoy challenging myself to think in new ways?
- Do I like to collaborate and learn from others?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

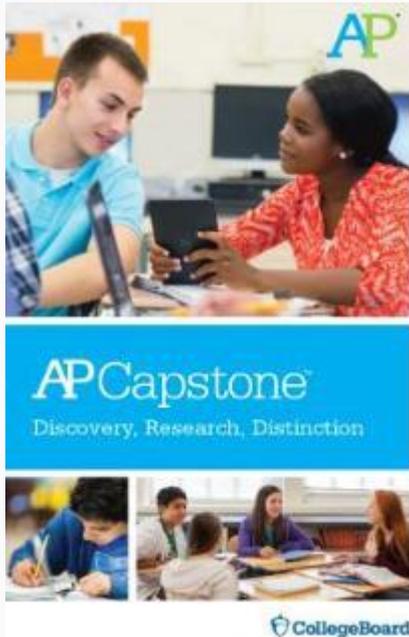
- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

## What steps do I need to take?

- Go online and read the AP Capstone brochure to find out more
- Find out your school's enrollment deadline and sign up!

# Additional Information about AP Capstone

## The AP Capstone Brochure



## The AP Capstone Website



[www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

## AP Students – Course Information



[apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org)

Direct questions and concerns to:

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(610) 670-0180 x. 6714 or x. 1133

AP<sup>®</sup>

# Questions and Answers