

Levittown School District AP Capstone Research

Todd Winch, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Steve Costello, Director of Social Studies and World Language

Kevin McDermott, Director of Science, K-12

Kerin Slattery, Director of ELA, K-12

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AP Capstone is a program from the College Board.

It allows students an opportunity to earn an AP Capstone Diploma by:

- successfully taking AP Seminar as a student's English experience in tenth grade.
- successfully taking the second course, AP Research, as a stand alone course after completing AP Seminar.
- successfully taking four other AP courses in any discipline.



What is AP Capstone?

- Fosters research, argumentation, and communication skills.
- Provides a setting to build on the knowledge and rigorous course work of AP in an interdisciplinary format.
- Allows students a choice to challenge themselves academically, and by showing their passion and interest in specific research topics.
- Transforms students into independent thinkers.

Benefits of AP Capstone for Students





Program Overview

AP Capstone

AP Seminar

Themes are chosen that allow for deep exploration based upon:

- student interests
- local and civic issues
- global topics
- concepts from other AP courses

AP Research

Deep investigation of a topic to foster a scholarly understanding of a real world issue.

- Academic thesis paper
- Public Presentation and Defense

AP Capstone Diploma™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both of the AP Capstone courses and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Research-based Essay & Presentation

Written Exam

AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Academic Thesis

Public Presentation and Defense

AP Capstone Certificate™

Those students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both of the AP Capstone courses but not on the four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Capstone Certificate™, signifying successful performance in those courses.

4 AP COURSES (Throughout High School)

AP EXAM 1

AP EXAM 2

AP EXAM 3

AP EXAM 4

General Course Structure*

September: Students develop research questions, learn discipline-specific citation expectations.

October: Students research, refine research question, identify methods, approach and design; Students create annotated bibliographies.

November: Students continue research, finalize inquiry proposals, make outside contacts

December: Students create surveys and meet with IRB, refine/expand research, conduct peer review.

January: Students conduct their studies and collect data.

February: Student draft and peer edit.

March: Students present and defend their research studies

April: Teachers grade and submit student work to College Board by April 30th

- AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest.
- Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong investigation to address a research question.
- Students further develop the skills acquired from AP Seminar by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information.

“Let’s go an inch wide and a mile deep as we really research and explore a specific topic of interest...”

AP Research



Format of Assessment



Academic Thesis: worth 75%

Presentation and Oral Defense (15-20 minutes total for presentation followed by 3-4 questions from a panel of 3 evaluators) worth 25%

*There is no end-of-course exam for AP Research.

AP Research (continued)

- The AP Research course will be offered to students in the 11th or 12th grade year who have successfully completed the AP Seminar course.
- This course will be a stand alone course.
- Students will have the opportunity to take the AP Research course on a Science path or on a Humanities path.

How will this course be structured in Levittown?

Characteristics of a Successful AP Capstone Student

- Self-Motivated
- Cooperative
- Collaborative
- Hard-working
- Inquisitive
- Enthusiastic
- Determined
- Outgoing
- Willingness to learn



AP Capstone™

Is this course for you?

- Students must complete AP Seminar including the end-of-course exam and all required performance tasks to develop the skills necessary to succeed in AP Research.
- Students who score a 1 or a 2 in AP Seminar are still eligible to enroll in AP Research but will need additional support and guidance throughout the course.



Is this course for you?

The research culminates into an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words that include the following components:

- Introduction
- Method, Process, or Approach
- Results, Products, or Findings
- Discussion, Analysis, and/or Evaluation
- Conclusion and Future Directions
- Bibliography

Using appropriate media, students present and defend the topic of inquiry/research question, approach, and findings or product to a panel.

Is this course for you?

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 .



Visit www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone for the latest list of colleges with credit policies for AP Seminar and/or AP Research.

AP Capstone™

Questions???
