

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. AP, which was developed by the U.S. College Board in 1955, offers students the opportunity to take college level courses while still in high school. Students earning a score of 3 or better on their AP exam may earn either university or advanced placement credit. **Through the AP Seminar program, students may begin taking AP classes in grade 10.**

Students are provided with an enriched program that mirrors post-secondary curricula and expectations. Students will learn what college level courses are like and develop the skills and strategies necessary to be successful in college or university. *"College entrance exams reveal that young people who take challenging classes, such as Advanced Placement courses perform better than their peers regardless of their family or financial background."* – Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Why take AP?

AP Programs are enriched classes for students who love the subject area or enjoy learning in general. AP classes also teach students skills that help them become successful post-secondary students. AP classes are enriched in a variety of ways, including different material, activities, projects, and opportunities.

What is AP Seminar?

AP Seminar is a skill-building AP program that provides students with opportunities to develop the strategies, confidence and communication needed to be successful in high-level academic programs. It is available to students beginning in grade 10.

How many colleges and universities accept AP grades?

More than 90 percent of the colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, as well as colleges and universities in 21 other countries, have a policy granting incoming students credit, placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam grades. Students with a "qualifying grade" (3+) can earn course credit at thousands of colleges and universities worldwide. The best source of specific and up-to-date information about an individual institution's policy on its calendar or website.

Can only "A" students take AP classes?

No, all students are welcome to apply for an AP class. The most successful students are hardworking, organized, mature, motivated, and positive about their learning experience. Students should expect a fast passed, highly rigorous experience in their chosen class.

Are there exams for AP Courses?

Yes, each AP course has an optional exam or portfolio submission in May. It is recommended that all students sit for the exam or submit their portfolio. **Examination costs are approximately \$185.00 to \$210.00 CAD per course/exam. Exam fees are non-refundable.**



WHAT AP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

GW Graham Secondary's AP offering continues to expand. Here is what is available for 2025-2026:

GW Graham Secondary 2025–2026 AP Programs	
Department/Program	More Information on
English	
AP Language and Composition 12 (AEN--12)	Page: 32
AP Literature and Composition 12 (AELC-12)	Page: 33
Fine Arts	
AP 2-D Art and Design 12 (A2DP-12)	Page: 69
AP 3-D Art and Design 12 (A3DP-12)	Page: 69
AP Studio Art: Drawing (ASAD-12)	Page: 69
Mathematics	
AP Calculus AB (ACAL-12)	Page: 49
AP Statistics 12 (ASTA-12)	Page: 48
Multidisciplinary Studies	
AP Capstone: Seminar 11 (available to students in grades 10-12) (APCS-11)	Page: see next page
AP Capstone: Research 12 (APCR-12)	Page: see next page
Psychology	
AP Psychology 12 (APSY-12)	Page: 37
Science	
AP Biology 12 (ABIO-12)	Page: 56
AP Chemistry 12 (ACHE-12)	Page: 57
AP Physics 1 (APHH-11)	Page: 58
Social Studies	
AP World History: Modern (AWH--12)	Page: 62

Students interested in AP programming should talk to their counsellor or current subject teacher.

General information on AP Courses is also available at: www.collegeboard.com

AP CAPSTONE

AP Capstone is an exciting Advanced Placement program offered by the College Board that aims to develop students' skills in research, collaboration, and critical thinking. GW Graham Secondary is only the sixth public school in all of British Columbia to offer this unique opportunity to students. AP Capstone is designed to provide a more in-depth, interdisciplinary approach to learning, beyond traditional subject-specific courses, and students taking this program will be well-prepared for post-secondary education. AP Capstone consists of two main courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.

The following page describes the AP Capstone courses and path.

PART 1: AP SEMINAR

Prerequisite: Completion of English or Humanities 9. While not required, teacher recommendation and/or a final grade of Proficient or Extending is strongly recommended due to the academic rigor of the course.

Typically taken in grade 10 or 11, AP Seminar teaches students how to analyze complex issues from various lenses, evaluate unique perspectives, and identify key stakeholders. Students engage in discussions, conduct research, and create presentations on real-world issues. Emphasis is placed on collaborative teamwork, as well as developing skills in argumentation, writing, and oral communication. AP Seminar is considered an “AP Access course,” meaning that, by taking this course, students will be well-prepared to tackle the challenges and academic rigor of future AP Courses. The question in this course is not, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” but rather, “What problems do you want to solve?”

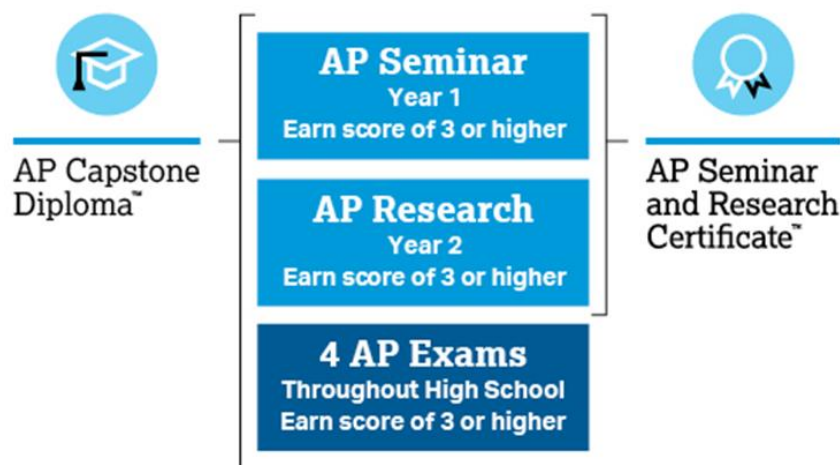
Examples of past student inquiry topics: the effects of texting on grammar skills, food waste solutions, the future of the automotive industry, the importance of voting age and civic participation of teens, the mathematics behind extreme sports, genetically modified organisms, the role of art in education, and wealth inequality.

PART 2: AP RESEARCH

Prerequisite: Completion of AP Capstone: Seminar

AP Research is the second part of the AP Capstone program, typically taken in grade 11 or 12, following the completion of AP Seminar. In AP Research, students delve into a topic they are passionate about, designing a yearlong research project centered around a question of their choice. Whether exploring the effects of social media on student mental health or investigating another area of interest, such as climate change, Artificial Intelligence, or renewable energy, students will conduct independent research, refine their methods, gather and analyze data, and present their findings through both a written research report and an oral presentation. Throughout the course, students develop critical research skills such as analyzing sources and evidence, applying context and perspective, writing a college-level academic paper, and effectively presenting their research findings to an audience.

Examples of past Research topics: 3-D printed prosthetics for amputees, the algorithm of K-pop music, the effects of sleep deprivation on academic achievement in teens, learning chemistry through musical chords, environmental injustice in subsidized housing, and the effects of popular opinion on the implementation of Supreme Court decisions. Students who complete both AP Seminar and AP Research can earn the AP Capstone Diploma or the AP Capstone Certificate, an academic recognition that demonstrates their proficiency in these areas and can be a strong addition to their college applications.



Through both courses, students develop essential academic skills such as critical thinking, communication, and the ability to synthesize and analyze information. The AP Capstone program culminates in a Capstone Project, in which students present their research in a comprehensive report, showcasing the ability to engage with complex problems and conduct scholarly investigations.