

AP Capstone Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***I have heard that it is “stressful, hard work, time-consuming, and/or too difficult,” and I’m worried I won’t be able to handle it.*** Ample time is given **in class** to complete **all** course components, and there will be little to no outside work – unless a student fails to utilize the time given in class to the best of their ability. The Capstone program is not prescriptive like other selective-entry programs; students are able to choose which AP classes to take based on their strengths and interests. Almost all work for both classes is done in class, so homework time can be spent where needed. Most students maintain an A average because they come to class every day AND they do all of their work. If you do the same, you, too, will be successful!
2. ***I’ve heard admittance to the program is selective, and I’m worried I won’t be able to get in.*** Students must complete an application during course registration – included with that application must be a teacher recommendation and a brief essay. A student must have at least a 3.0 GPA, no prior serious discipline offenses, and excellent attendance. If you meet those criteria, then chances are excellent that you’d be selected!
3. ***You may have heard that AP Capstone “doesn’t count for anything” at a university. Here’s the real story:***

SCHOOL	SEMINAR CREDIT	RESEARCH CREDIT
Florida Atlantic University	IDS 1350	IDS ****
Florida Gulf Coast University	IDS 1***	IDS 1***
Florida Institute of Technology	-----	COM 1101
Florida State University	FSU ****	FSU ****
Pasco Hernando State College	IDS 1999	IDS 1999
St. Petersburg College	IDS 1999	REA 1105
University of Central Florida	IDS 1350	IDS 1911
University of Florida	IDS 0301	ISS 0301
University of North Florida	IDS 1350	IDS 1000
University of South Florida	IDS 1930	IDS 1930

(For complete list, visit both the College Board site at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/higher-education-endorsement> and then visit your specific university’s AP credit policy web page.)

****: courses are awarded credit by the department in which the student is enrolled; see your admissions counselor to determine credit
 -----: no credit for Seminar

4. ***Will the curriculum enable me to focus on my interests?***
 YES! During Seminar (the first tier of the program), students are able to work toward topics that interest them to meet course components. During Research, the topic of the year is chosen by the student, so it can absolutely be a personal interest or in a field of future study at the university level. If you are thinking about participating in the school science fair, you can do the same topic in Research!
5. ***I have fears of speaking in front of people. Will I be required to present?***
 Both Seminar and Research have speaking components, but these come after students have developed a skill set to assist with it. We work very hard to ensure that all students have a warm and fostering environment to ensure mastery of this important life skill. By the time you must present, you will have had ample practice.
6. ***Will taking AP Capstone hurt my GPA?***
 Absolutely not!! It would be a major boost, and the skill set will help ensure success in college at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
7. ***I heard the exam in these classes are different than other AP exams. Is this true?***
 Yes. Seminar has six components that make up the AP score, with four of them completed in class. Two of the four are even group projects. Research has no exam. It only has the required paper and presentation for the AP score.