



AP 101 Workshop: Unlocking the Benefits of Advanced Placement



Thursday, October 9, 2025

Huntington High School

Dr. Ricky Papandrea – Director of School Counseling & Testing, K-12

"AP classes don't just prepare you for college; they prepare you for life by teaching critical thinking, time management, and perseverance."

Agenda

1. What is AP?
2. Discuss the benefits of taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses
3. Advanced Placement course offerings at Huntington High School
4. Advanced Placement Capstone Program
5. Advanced Placement Scholars and Honor Roll
6. Breakout Sessions: Presentations from our Advanced Placement Teachers and Students



What is AP?

“AP” stands for Advanced Placement

- **Challenging Coursework:** Prepares students for the rigor and expectations of college.
- **AP Exams:** Each course ends with a standardized exam.
- **College Credit & Placement:** Many colleges grant credit or allow advanced placement for scores of 3 or higher.
- **Boost College Applications:** AP exam scores can be submitted as part of applications.
- [AP Credit Policy Search](#): Use College Board’s online tool to see how each college awards credit.
- **Widely Recognized:** AP is accepted by most U.S. colleges and many universities worldwide.



The Impact of AP Participation

College Readiness & Success

- AP students are more likely to graduate on time.
- Students who score 3+ on AP Exams are 6–8 percentage points more likely to finish college in 4 years. *(College Board, 2023)*
- Even students who take AP but score below 3 still show stronger college outcomes than non-AP peers.

College Enrollment & Retention

- 75% of AP students enroll in college immediately after high school, compared to 60% of non-AP students. *(College Board, 2020)*
- AP students are 24% more likely to stay in college after their first year. *(NBER)*

Performance in College

- AP students average a first-year GPA of 3.3, compared to 2.9 for non-AP students. *(National Center for Educational Achievement)*
- Students who earn credit for AP courses can graduate earlier and save on tuition.

Equity & Opportunity

- In 2024, 35.7% of U.S. public high school graduates took at least one AP exam, with participation among underrepresented students steadily rising. *(College Board, 2024)*



Benefits of Taking AP Courses

- **College Preparation:** Experience college-level coursework early.
- **Earn College Credit:** Save on tuition with qualifying AP exam scores.
- **College Flexibility:** Enter college with credits that allow room for double majors, minors, study abroad, or internships.
- **Higher Placement** – Place out of introductory courses, moving more quickly into advanced classes.
- **Skill Development:** Build critical thinking, problem-solving, and time management skills.
- **Stronger College Applications:** Stand out with a rigorous academic transcript.
- **Scholarship Opportunities:** Increase eligibility for merit-based awards.
- **Explore Interests:** Dive deeper into subjects you're passionate about.
- **AP Capstone Program:** Gain research, collaboration, and presentation expertise through AP Seminar and AP Research.



AP Myths & Realities

Myths	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the workload.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam. Even without credit, AP courses strengthen your skills, prepare you for college rigor, and enhance your transcript for applications.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	AP courses have our highest weighting. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.
AP is only for seniors or juniors.	Students can take AP courses as early as 9th or 10th grade if they are academically prepared.



Huntington High School Advanced Placement Courses

AP African American Studies	AP Government & Politics: United States	AP Precalculus
AP Biology	AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
AP Calculus AB	AP Italian Language and Culture	AP Research
AP Calculus BC	AP Language and Composition	AP Seminar
AP Chemistry	AP Latin Language	AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Computer Science Applications	AP Literature and Composition	AP Spanish Literature and Culture
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Macroeconomics	AP Statistics
AP Drawing	AP Microeconomics	AP United States History
AP Environmental Science	AP Music Theory	AP World History: Modern
AP French Language and Culture	AP Physics 1	AP 2-D Art & Design

Over 30 Advanced Placement Courses Offered

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AP Capstone Curriculum

Developed in response to feedback from Higher Education

AP Capstone is an innovative program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills valued by colleges. The program is based on two new skills-based AP courses:

AP Seminar and AP Research

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth subject-matter study in AP

The AP Capstone program empowers students to:

- synthesize information from multiple perspectives
- apply skills in new situations and cross-curricular contexts
- collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision
- craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments
- practice disciplined and scholarly research skills while exploring relevant topics that appeal to their interests and curiosity.

Two Courses – Two Levels of Distinction

A flexible two-course program that engages students in rigorous college-level curricula while promoting the critical skills needed for success in college and beyond.

AP Capstone Diploma™

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

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation

End-of-Course Exam

AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Academic Paper

Presentation & Oral Defense

4 AP COURSES & EXAMS
(Taken at any point throughout high school)

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™**.

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AP Scholars

Award	Criteria
AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Advanced Placement Scholar Awards 2024-2025	
AP Scholar	83
AP Scholar with Honors	33
AP Scholar with Distinction	58
AP Capstone	11
AP Seminar and Research Certificate	4
AP Scholar Total	175

Advanced Placement Enrollment		
Year	# of Students	# of Exams
2024-2025	453	1,122
2023-2024	403	876
2022-2023	354	749



Advanced Placement Honor Roll

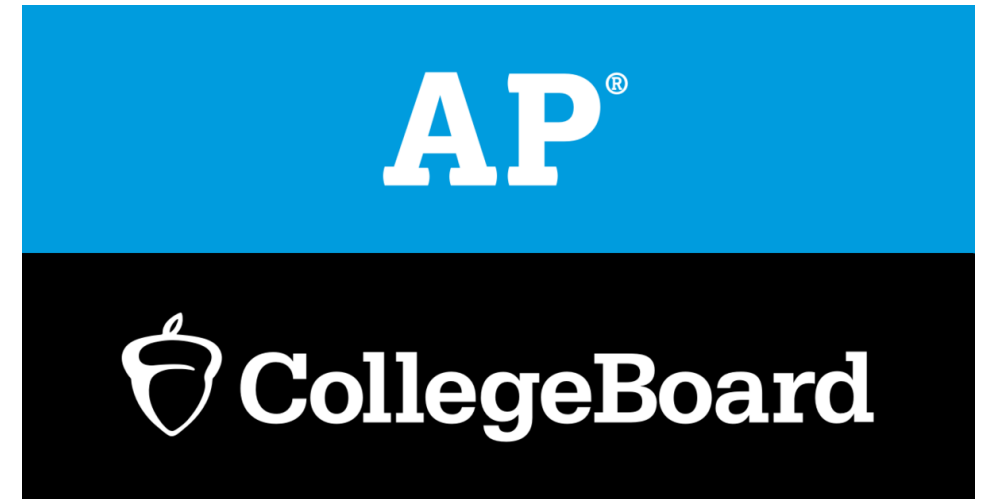
- Huntington High School received Silver Designation
 - 1,511 schools (10% of eligible schools) received Silver level AP School Honor Roll recognition.



Advanced Placement Resources

Click on the links below to learn more about the College Board's Advanced Placement program:

- [AP Students in College: A Review of Key Research](#)
- [AP Students – What is AP?](#)
- [Parent Resources – College Board](#)
- [Big Future – College Board](#)
- [AP Capstone Program](#)
- [AP Credit Policy Search](#)



AP Course(s) Breakout Session Schedule

Breakout Session	Time
Breakout Session #1	7:30 PM-7:50 PM
Breakout Session #2	7:55 PM-8:15 PM
Breakout Session #3	8:20 PM-8:40 PM



AP Course(s) Breakout Session Locations

AP Course	Teacher	Room Location
AP Precalculus (Grades 11-12)	Mr. Moriarty	123
AP Statistics (Grades 11-12)	Mrs. Swierkowski	128
AP Calculus AB & AP Calculus BC (Grades 11-12)	Mr. Mattis	129
AP Computer Science Principles (Grades 9-12) & AP Computer Science Applications (Grades 10-12)	Mr. Wagner	130
AP Environmental Science (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Guagliano & Ms. Hall	131
AP Biology (Grades 11-12)	Mr. Cohen	141
AP Chemistry (Grades 11-12) & AP Physics (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Raguzin & Mr. Liguori	114
AP Seminar & AP Research (Grades 10-12)	Ms. Cazzalino	140
AP Spanish Language & AP Spanish Literature (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Casazza	143
AP Latin (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Fortunato	144
AP French (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Molvaut	145
AP Italian (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Kopshti	146
AP African American Studies (Grades 10-12), AP US History (Grade 11), AP Microeconomics(Grade 12), & AP Macroeconomics (Grade 12)	Mr. Leavy	150
AP Psychology (Grades 11-12) & AP World History Modern (Grade 10)	Mr. Crugnale	109
AP Human Geography (Grades 9-12) & AP US Government and Politics (Grade 12)	Ms. Balducci	116
AP Art 2-D (Grades 11-12)	Ms. Piffard	110

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QR Code: Breakout Sessions Locations and Times



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