AP 101 Workshop: Unlocking the Benefits of Advanced Placement

Monday, November 9, 2026

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 Advanced Placement (AP)?

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level classes offered in high school that allow students to challenge themselves academically and prepare for the expectations of college.

- **College-Level Coursework:** AP courses provide rigorous learning experiences that develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and college-readiness skills.
- **AP Exams:** Students take a standardized AP Exam at the end of each course to demonstrate their understanding of the subject.
- **Potential College Credit:** Many colleges award credit, advanced placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores. Policies and required scores vary by institution.
  - Explore College AP Credit Policies: apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies
- **College Preparation:** AP helps students build academic confidence, develop effective study habits, and demonstrate their willingness to take on challenging coursework.

The Impact of AP Participation

AP provides students with opportunities to build college-level skills, prepare for postsecondary success, and demonstrate their readiness for academic challenges.

- **College Readiness and Success:** AP courses build subject knowledge, critical thinking, and the study skills needed for college-level work.
- **Benefits Beyond the Exam Score:** Research cited by College Board finds that AP students who earn scores of 1 or 2 may still benefit, including stronger four-year college enrollment outcomes than academically similar non-AP peers.
- **Potential College Credit and Savings:** Qualifying AP scores may earn college credit or advanced placement, potentially reducing the time and cost needed to complete a degree.

Sources: College Board, AP Program Results: Class of 2025; College Board research review, AP Students in College. College outcomes vary, and the research findings show associations rather than guaranteed results.

Benefits of Taking AP Courses

AP courses offer students opportunities to challenge themselves, explore their interests, and create more options for their future.

- **Earn College Credit or Advanced Placement:** Qualifying AP Exam scores may allow students to earn college credit or skip introductory courses, depending on college policies.
- **Expand Future Opportunities:** College credit may create flexibility for electives, a minor, a double major, study abroad, or internships.
- **Strengthen Academic Skills:** Develop independent learning, analytical thinking, research, writing, and time-management skills.
- **Explore Academic Interests:** Dive deeper into subjects students enjoy and discover potential college majors or career interests.
- **Develop Research and Presentation Skills:** AP Capstone, through AP Seminar and AP Research, emphasizes inquiry, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, and communication.
- **Demonstrate Academic Initiative:** Taking challenging courses can demonstrate a student's willingness to pursue academic rigor within the context of their overall high school opportunities and performance.

AP Myths & Realities

Myths	Reality
AP is only for students who earn straight A's.	AP courses are for students who are prepared for the subject's academic demands and motivated to take on a challenge.
AP courses are too stressful.	AP courses are challenging, but teachers, classmates, and effective study habits can help students manage the workload.
I need a 5 on the AP Exam to earn college credit.	Many colleges award credit or placement for qualifying scores, sometimes a 3 or higher. Policies vary by college and subject.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	AP courses receive the district's designated weighted GPA value (1.1). Students should understand the course expectations and weighting policy when selecting classes.
I can’t take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you're interested in AP, talk with your teacher or school counselor about course prerequisites, readiness, and the selection process.
AP is only for seniors or juniors.	Some AP courses are available to younger students, including freshmen and sophomores, depending on the course.

Course availability, prerequisites, and college credit policies vary. Check district guidelines and individual college policies.

Huntington High School Advanced Placement Courses

AP Art 2-D and Design	AP Drawing	AP Physics 1
AP African American Studies	AP Environmental Science	AP Physics C
AP Biology	AP French Language and Culture	AP Precalculus
AP Business with Personal Finance	AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
AP Calculus AB	AP Italian Language and Culture	AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Calculus BC	AP Language and Composition	AP Spanish Literature and Culture
AP Chemistry	AP Latin	AP Statistics
AP Comparative Government and Politics	AP Literature and Composition	AP Government and Politics
AP Computer Science A	AP Macroeconomics	AP United States History
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Microeconomics	AP World: Modern
AP Cybersecurity	AP Music Theory	

Over 32+ Advanced Placement Courses Offered

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™**

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	71
AP Scholar with Honors	26
AP Scholar with Distinction	90
AP Capstone	17
AP Seminar and Research Certificate	3
AP Scholar Total	207

Advanced Placement Enrollment		
Year	**# of Students**	**# of Exams**
2025-2026	439	1,111
2024-2025	453	1,122
2023-2024	403	876

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

Explore these College Board resources to learn more about AP courses, college credit, and opportunities for your student.

- What Is AP?: Learn how AP courses and exams work and what students can expect.
- AP Parent Resources: Find guidance to help your student navigate AP coursework and exams.
- AP Credit and Placement Policy Search: Check how individual colleges award credit or placement for AP Exam scores.
- AP Capstone Program: Learn about AP Seminar and AP Research, which develop research, collaboration, and presentation skills.
- AP Students in College: A Review of Key Research: Review research examining the relationship between AP participation and college outcomes.

AP®

CollegeBoard

AP Course(s) Breakout Session Schedule

Breakout Session	Time
Breakout Session #1	7:35 PM-7:55 PM
Breakout Session #2	8:00 PM-8:20 PM
Breakout Session #3	8:25 PM-8:45 PM



Course	Department	Grade Level(s)	Teacher(s)	Location
AP World History: Modern AP Human Geography AP Psychology AP Government and Politics: US AP African American Studies	Social Studies	Grade 10 Grades 9-12 Grades 11-12 Grade 12 Grades 10-12	Mr. Leavy	110
AP United States History AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics	Social Studies	Grade 11 Grade 12 Grade 12	Mr. Graber	141
AP Latin	World Language	Grade 12	Ms. Fortunato	143
AP Spanish Language and Culture AP Spanish Literature and Culture	World Language	Grades 11-12 Grades 11-12	Ms. Casazza	144
AP Italian Language and Culture	World Language	Grades 11-12	Ms. Kopshti	145
AP Music Theory	Music	Grades 10-12	Mr. Giachetti	146
AP Environmental Science	Science	Grades 11-12	Ms. Hall Ms. Guagliano	113
AP Biology	Science	Grades 11-12	Mr. Cohen	114
AP Chemistry	Science	Grades 11-12	Mr. Tripolone	112
AP Physics I	Science	Grades 11-12	Mr. Liguori	112
AP Calculas AB AP Calculas BC	Mathematics	Grade 12 Grade 12	Mr. Matthis	127
AP Precalculus	Mathematics	Grades 11-12	Mr. Moriarty	128
AP Cybersecurity	Mathematics	Grades 10-12	Ms. Maniscalco	129
AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A	Mathematics	Grades 9-12 Grades 10-12	Mr. Wagner	130
AP Seminar	English	Grades 10-12	Ms. Cazzalino	140
AP Language and Composition AP Literature and Composition	English	Grades 11-12	Ms. Quintero	131
AP 2-D Art & Design	Art	Grades 11-12	*Mia Einemann	109

QR Code: Breakout Sessions Locations and Times



Huntington High School Counseling Center