



AP CAPSTONE

AT PEMBINA TRAILS COLLEGIATE

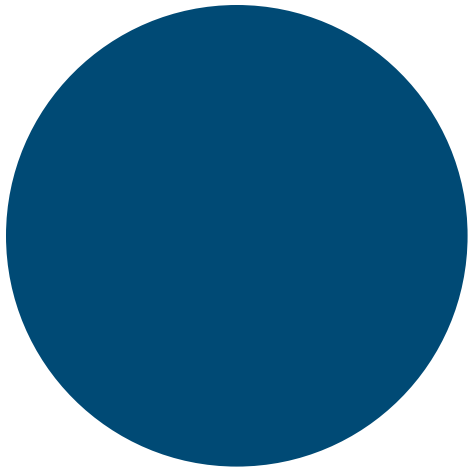


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WHAT IS THE AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM?

AP Capstone is a two-year advanced high school program offered by the College Board. The program is designed to develop critical thinking, research, and communication skills that are necessary for success in post-secondary and beyond.

The program consists of two courses: AP Seminar (Grade 11) and AP Research (Grade 12).

In **AP Seminar**, (AP Capstone Seminar 42S) students learn how to analyze and evaluate sources, collaborate with others to solve problems, and make arguments in a clear and persuasive manner.

In **AP Research**, (AP Capstone Research 42S) students conduct independent research on a topic of their choosing and produce a 4,000- to 5,000-word academic paper and presentation.

Students must also take a content-based course along with AP Capstone (which consists of AP Seminar 42S & AP Research 42S). The following innovative pathways are examples of how you can build the AP Capstone programming into your timetable:

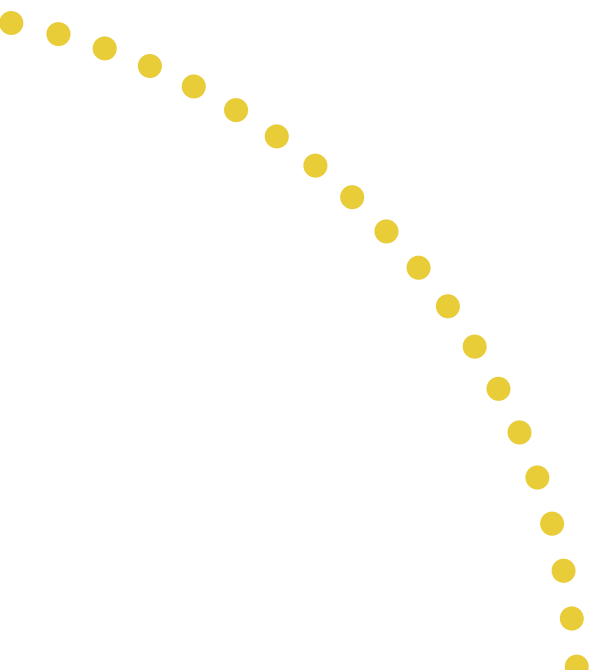
AP Seminar in Grade 11

- Biology 30S
- Chemistry 30S
- Physics 30S
- Introduction to Tourism 30S
- Treaties & Treaty Relations 41G
- Computer Science 40S
- Networking Technologies 30S

AP Research in Grade 12

- Biology 40S
- Chemistry 40S
- Physics 40S
- Sustainable Tourism 40S
- Global Issues: Citizenship & Sustainability 40S
- Applied Business Technologies 40S
- Operating Systems 30S

*Other grade 12 options will be offered in 2024-25. We will be including student voice into the process of choosing which courses will be offered. AP Calculus 42S will be offered as this is a requirement for direct entry into certain university programs.



In addition to completing the coursework, students must also complete an AP Capstone exam. The exam consists of two parts:

1. A three hour long written exam based on the skills learned in AP Seminar:

- **Section 1:** Multiple-Choice: In this section, students will answer 32 multiple-choice questions based on provided texts and sources.
- **Section 2a:** Team Project and Presentation: In this section, students will work in a team to deliver a presentation on a provided topic.
- **Section 2b:** Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation: In this section, students will write an individual essay on a research question of their choice, and then deliver a presentation on their research.

*There is an exam fee applied to each student.

2. A three hour long presentation and defense of their research in AP Research:

- **Section 1:** Academic Paper: In this section, students will submit an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words that documents their research project and their analysis of the results.
- **Section 2:** Presentation and Oral Defense: In this section, students will deliver a 15-20-minute oral presentation on their research project, followed by a 15-20 minute oral defense in which they answer questions about their research from a panel of evaluators.
- **Section 3:** Written Defense of the Research: In this section, students will submit a written defense of their research project, in which they reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their research and their approach to the project.

By completing the AP Capstone program, students can demonstrate to colleges and universities that they have developed the skills necessary to succeed in college-level coursework and in their future careers.

Both exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 3 or higher generally considered passing. It's important to note that the specific content and format of the AP Capstone exams may vary from year to year, so students should consult the College Board website or their AP teacher or Counsellor for the most up-to-date information.



HOW AP CAPSTONE BENEFITS STUDENTS:

- [College Readiness](#): The program is designed to prepare students for college-level coursework, by helping them develop the skills and knowledge needed for success in college, including research skills, critical thinking skills, and effective communication.
- [Admissions](#): The program can be a valuable asset in the post-secondary admissions process, as it demonstrates to colleges and universities that a student has successfully completed a rigorous, college-level program that emphasizes research and critical thinking skills.
- [Credit and Placement](#): Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research exams may be eligible to receive college credit and/or advanced placement at participating colleges and universities.
- [Career Preparation](#): The program can help students develop the skills needed for success in a variety of fields, including academia, business, government, and the arts.
- [Personal Growth](#): The program can help students develop their research and critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to work collaboratively and communicate effectively with others.

Overall, the AP Capstone program can provide students with a unique and valuable learning experience that prepares them for success in college and beyond, while also providing opportunities for personal growth and development.



HOW CAN STUDENTS APPLY FOR THE AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM:

To participate in the AP Capstone program, students will need to meet certain criteria. This criterion is as follows and is subject to change:

- A commitment to a two-year long program to gain two credits: AP Seminar & AP Research
- A demonstration of learning in previous courses in grade 10 in the areas of inquiry, research, problem solving and critical thinking. This involves the intentional process of analyzing and synthesizing ideas using criteria and evidence, making thoughtful decisions, and reflecting on the outcomes and implications of those decisions.
- A display of collaboration, communication and creativity in previous courses. This involves learning with and from others and working together with a shared commitment to pursue common purposes and goals. In addition, this involves the interaction of intuition and thinking.
- A passion for citizenship and is working towards a more compassionate and sustainable world through the development and value of relationships with self, others and the natural world.

The PTC team will communicate with all students this criteria to enable each student to succeed in the AP Capstone program.


At PTC, students generally start the AP Capstone program in grade 11. Students will take AP Seminar, which is the first course in the program. In grade 12, students take AP Research, which is the second and final course in the program.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AP CAPSTONE AND AP COURSES:

The main difference between AP courses and AP Capstone is that AP courses focus on specific academic subjects, **while AP Capstone is a program that develops critical thinking, research, and communication skills across multiple subjects.**


AP courses are advanced high school courses in specific academic subjects such as English, math, science, and social studies. They cover college-level material and prepare students to take the corresponding AP exams, which can earn them college credit if they score well. Each AP course focuses on a specific subject and has a corresponding AP exam.



On the other hand, **AP Capstone** is a two-year program that consists of two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. AP Seminar is an interdisciplinary course that teaches students to think critically, research, and collaborate with others to solve real-world problems. AP Research is a course that allows students to conduct independent research on a topic of their choice and produce a 4,000- to 5,000-word academic paper and presentation.

Overall, AP courses provide in-depth knowledge of a particular subject, while AP Capstone develops the skills needed for success in college and beyond across multiple subjects. Both AP courses and AP Capstone can help students prepare for college-level coursework, but they serve different purposes and can be taken in combination or independently, depending on a student's goals and interests.

WHAT DOES AN AP CAPSTONE SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE FOR PTC STUDENTS:



A high school timetable for AP Capstone courses typically involves taking AP Seminar in grade 11 and AP Research in grade 12. Here is a possible example of how our high school timetable might be structured to accommodate the AP Capstone program:

Grade 9: option courses that interest and support their desire to enter AP Capstone

Grade 10: register and become educated on AP Capstone and its commitment and rigor.

Grade 11: AP Seminar + 1 content based course at a 30S or 40S level.

Grade 12: AP Research + 1 content based course at a 30S or 40S level.

It's important to note that the specific course offerings and scheduling may vary by year. Students should work with their student support teacher to help understand what to take and to expect.

DO WE HAVE TO TAKE AP COURSES TO TAKE AP CAPSTONE:

It is not a requirement for students to take a regular AP course in order to participate in AP Capstone. However, PTC has criteria for enrollment in the AP Capstone program.

AP Capstone is designed to be an interdisciplinary program that develops critical thinking, research, collaboration, and communication skills across multiple subjects. As such, it is not necessary for students to have taken AP courses in specific academic subjects in order to participate in AP Capstone. However, successful completion of AP Seminar and AP Research can prepare students for success in future college-level coursework, including other AP courses.

ARE AP CAPSTONE COURSE CONSIDERED IN ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES?

Yes, AP Capstone courses are generally considered in admissions to universities. The AP Capstone program is a highly regarded program that develops critical thinking, research, collaboration, and communication skills across multiple subjects. It demonstrates to college admissions officers that a student has successfully completed a rigorous, college-level program that prepares them for future academic success.

In addition, students who successfully complete the AP Capstone program and earn the AP Capstone diploma may also receive college credit or advanced placement at many universities, depending on your scores.

It's important to note that the weight given to AP Capstone courses in the admissions process may vary by university, as each university has its own unique admissions requirements and criteria. However, in general, universities value the AP Capstone program as an indicator of a student's academic ability and potential for success in college. Students must check with student support teachers and do their own due diligence to make sure that they are receiving what they need to apply to post-secondaries.

WHAT SCORE OR MARK DO I NEED TO GET ON THE AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM TO RECEIVE A POST-SECONDARY CREDIT?

The specific score that a student needs to earn in the AP Capstone program in order to receive university credit or advanced placement varies by university. Each university has its own policies for granting credit and placing students into higher-level courses based on AP scores, and these policies can also differ depending on the specific subject area.

For example, one university might grant college credit for a score of 4 or 5 on both AP Seminar and AP Research, while another university might require a score of 3 or higher on all AP exams to receive credit or placement. It's also possible that a university might not grant any credit or placement for the AP Capstone program specifically, but instead only grant credit or placement for individual AP exams in specific subjects.


It's important for students to research the specific policies of the universities they are interested in attending, as well as to consult with their student support teacher or AP coordinator for guidance on the best strategies for earning high scores on AP exams. Ultimately, the score needed for university credit or placement will depend on the policies of the individual universities and the student's performance on the AP exams.

Both exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 3 or higher generally considered passing. It's important to note that the specific content and format of the AP Capstone exams may vary from year to year, so students should consult the College Board website or their AP teacher for the most up-to-date information.

WHO MARKS THE EXAMS?

The AP Capstone exams are scored by a team of experienced educators and subject matter experts who are trained and certified by the College Board to ensure that each exam is scored fairly and consistently. The exams are scored using a combination of computerized scoring technology and human scorers.

For the multiple-choice section of the AP Seminar exam, student responses are scored by a computer using optical mark recognition technology. For the other sections of both the AP Seminar and AP Research exams, student responses are scored by a team of human scorers who are trained to evaluate student work according to specific scoring guidelines and rubrics.



In order to ensure consistency and fairness in scoring, all AP Capstone exam scorers are required to participate in an intensive training process that includes scoring practice exams and participating in regular scoring calibration sessions. The College Board also employs a variety of quality control measures, such as rescore requests and audit procedures, to ensure that scores are accurate and reliable.

Overall, the goal of the AP Capstone exam scoring process is to provide students with fair and accurate evaluations of their academic performance, and to ensure that students receive appropriate credit and recognition for their hard work and achievements.

DOES THE PTC TEACHERS MARK OUR EXAMS?

No, the AP Capstone exams are not scored by the teachers at PTC. Instead, the exams are scored by a team of experienced educators and subject matter experts who are trained and certified by the College Board to ensure that each exam is scored fairly and consistently. This is the reason for a student fee to write the exam.

The AP Capstone program follows the same protocol as other AP programs in which exams are scored by trained and experienced educators who are selected and trained by the College Board to ensure that each exam is scored fairly and consistently. The College Board employs a variety of quality control measures to ensure that scores are accurate and reliable, such as rescore requests and audit procedures.

The teachers at the high school are responsible for preparing students for the AP Capstone exams and helping them develop the research and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in the program. They may also help students with the preparation and submission of their team project and individual research project, but they do not score the exams themselves.

It's important to note that the role of the teacher in the AP Capstone program is critical, as they are responsible for guiding students through the program and helping them develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the AP Seminar and AP Research courses.

WHILE THE AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM CAN BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FOR MANY STUDENTS, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ALL STUDENTS WILL NEED TO CONSIDER BEFORE REGISTERING:

Difficulty: The AP Capstone program is a rigorous and challenging program that requires a significant amount of time and effort. Some students may find the workload and pace of the program to be overwhelming or stressful.

Cost: As with other AP programs, there are fees associated with taking the AP Capstone courses and exams.

Limited Availability: The AP Capstone program has limited availability into the program. PTC criteria will be a part of the application.

Uncertain Benefits: While the program can be beneficial for college admissions and credit, there is no guarantee that a student will receive credit or advanced placement for their performance on the AP Seminar and AP Research exams. Additionally, the program may not provide any additional benefit to students who are already well-prepared for college-level coursework.

Emphasis on Testing: Like other AP programs, the AP Capstone program places a significant emphasis on testing and exam performance. Some students may feel that this focus on testing is not the best way to measure their learning and growth.

It's important to weigh both the benefits and potential drawbacks of the program when deciding whether or not to participate in AP Capstone. Students should talk to their student support teacher and other trusted advisors to help them make an informed decision.

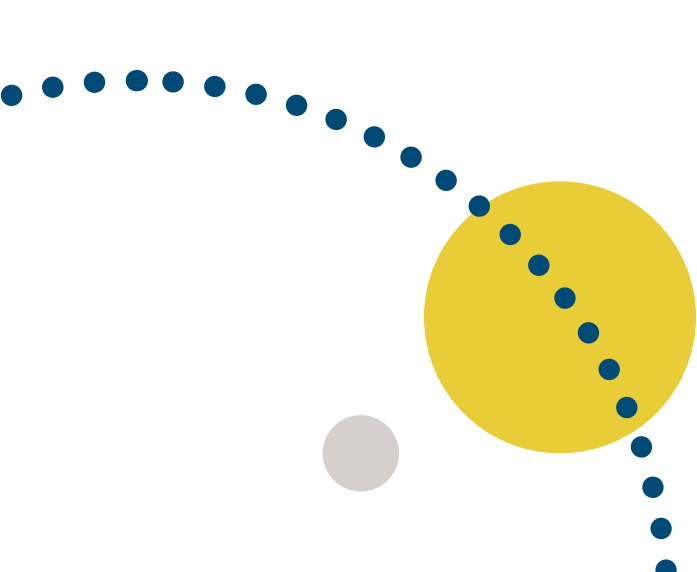
WHAT IF I DECIDE TO LEAVE THE AP CAPSTONE PROGRAM:

If a student leaves the AP Capstone program halfway through, it will depend on the specific circumstances what the consequences could be for the individual student. In general, dropping out of the program can have consequences for a student's academic record and the availability of courses at PTC to be enrolled in as an alternative. Serious consideration should be given before committing to this program.

If a student drops out of the program early in the school year, they may be able to switch to a different course without any major consequences. However, if they withdraw later in the year, they may receive a failing grade for the course, which could negatively impact their marks and admissions prospects.

In addition, students who drop out of the AP Capstone program may not be eligible to receive college credit or advanced placement for their performance on the AP Seminar and AP Research exams, which are the culmination of the program.

It's important to carefully consider the decision to leave the AP Capstone program and to discuss the situation with student support teachers, teachers, and other trusted advisors. They can help students understand the potential consequences and explore alternatives that may better meet their needs and goals.



If you are interested in enrolling in PTC's AP Capstone program, we highly recommend that you visit our open house and attend the AP Capstone session. Additional information can be gathered by speaking to our student support teachers, AP Capstone teachers, and administration.

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