



An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

Burnaby School District
Burnaby Central Student Commons
Wednesday, January 21, 2015 7 p.m.

Aboriginal Education in Burnaby Schools



We acknowledge and thank the Coast Salish Nations of Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn and live.

Burnaby's AP Capstone Team

Team Members:

Ms. Wanda Mitchell

- Director of Instruction,
School District #41 Burnaby

Mr. Dave Rawnsley

- Principal, Burnaby North Secondary

Ms. Lee Anne Kristmanson

- Principal, Burnaby South Secondary

Mr. Laurent Scaligine and Mr. Vincent Chan

- AP Program Advisors, Burnaby North Secondary

Mr. Amos Lee

- AP Program Advisor, Burnaby South Secondary

What We' ll Cover

Topic

Background on Advanced Placement® (AP)

- Advanced Placement: The Basics
- AP Courses offered in Burnaby
- AP®: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

What is the AP Capstone Program?

- AP Capstone Program
- The Courses: AP Seminar & AP Research
- Exam Fees

AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

- Benefits
- Student Testimonials
- Support from Universities

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

- AP®: Start the Conversation
- Program Contact Information

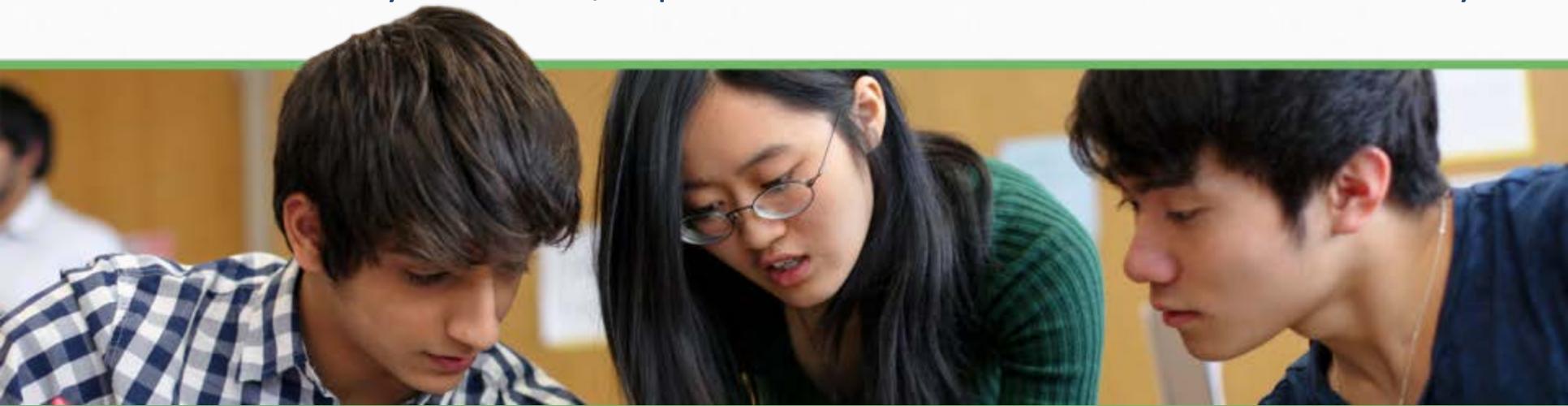
Questions and Answers



Background on Advanced Placement[®]

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are university-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory university courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of university-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students university credit and/or placement into advanced courses at university



Our AP[®] Courses

AP courses in Burnaby schools (the selection varies from school to school)

Arts: Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio,
Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio

English: English Literature and Composition

History and Social Sciences: European History, Macroeconomics,
Microeconomics, Psychology

Mathematics and Computer Science: Calculus AB, Calculus BC,
Computer Science A, Statistics

Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics 2

World languages: Chinese Language and Culture,
French Language and Culture

With each AP course, there is a corresponding year end AP exam that students may take. If successful, they can receive credit for the course at university.

AP[®] in Burnaby

Some interesting facts about AP in Burnaby

- Number of exams: 1815
- % of exams with a score of 3 or more: **85.3%** in Burnaby;
For comparison: 82.1% BC, 76.8% Canada, Worldwide 57%
- 67 National Scholars; 92 Scholars with Distinction,
57 Scholars with Honours and 111 Scholars
 - AP Scholars demonstrate superior university-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and this achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to universities the following fall.

Thoughts from Burnaby AP[®] Students

Some quotes from Burnaby AP students

“Due to my participation in Burnaby’s rigorous AP program, I feel confident and well-prepared for university; I was enriched intellectually by the challenges AP courses offered, and the maturity and discipline they demanded have undoubtedly made me a better student.”

Catherina Pan, currently studying at Princeton

“The Honours and AP program are the perfect solution for students who feel underwhelmed in a typical classroom. Honours and AP taught me more course material, but more importantly challenged me, and taught me to challenge myself.”

Bronte Lim, currently studying at Harvard

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- An AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for university success.
- Students who score a 3+ on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in university than their non-AP peers.*
- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a university degree in 4 years.**

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

***College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, The College Board, 2008*



What is the AP Capstone Program?

Introducing - AP Capstone

AP Capstone™ is an innovative program that allows students to engage in rigorous university-level study of **the critical skills** necessary for success in university. The Program of study includes a 2-course sequence:

AP Seminar and AP Research

(both offered outside the timetable as morning blocks)

Emphasizes Critical Skills

- Considering multiple perspectives
- Careful evaluation of information
- Writing evidence-based arguments

Complements the in-depth subject-matter study in AP

- Identifying and solving problems
- Oral communication and defending an argument
- Collaboration and teamwork

AP Seminar – Grade 11 Year

Students learn how to:

- ▶ Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- ▶ Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- ▶ Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

Example Topics

Democracy
Education
Honesty
Freedom
Perception
Technology
Sustainability

Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation

- 25%



2. Individual Essay & Presentation

- 35%



3. Written Exam

- 40%

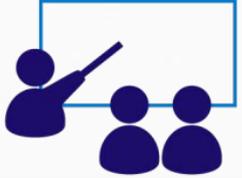
Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.

AP Research – Grade 12 Year

Students learn how to:

- Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- Write a university-level research paper, present and orally defend the findings and research methodology

Exam score based on:

1. Research Process
 - 15%
2. Academic Thesis Paper (~5,000 words)
 - 70%
3. Public Presentation and Oral Defense
 - 15%

AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.

AP Capstone Program Model

A two-course sequence that provides students with the critical thinking and research skills needed to succeed in university and stand-out in the admission process

AP Capstone Diploma™

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

AP SEMINAR

Team Project & Presentation

Research-Based Essay & Presentation

Written Exam

AP RESEARCH

Academic Thesis

Public Presentation & Defense

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

AP Research & Seminar Certificate™

AP[®] Capstone Fees

- All AP Courses have a corresponding AP exam.
- Exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research are \$165 each.
- *There are no fees for taking the AP Seminar or AP Research course.*



AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Distinction** – Stand out in the university admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable university credit or placement
- **Critical Skills** – Students acquire rigorous university-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by universities
- **Choice** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them



What Students are saying about AP Capstone

Brendan Wong

Burnaby South Capstone Student

“[In university interviews,] it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific and universities see that you have an interest.”

-Senior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

Ariel Cao

Burnaby North Capstone Student

“[I’ve gained] confidence... I speak more now. In this environment your opinion is needed. You feel part of a family.”

—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY



What Universities are saying about AP Capstone

“At the University of Washington, we would be very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the AP Capstone program.”

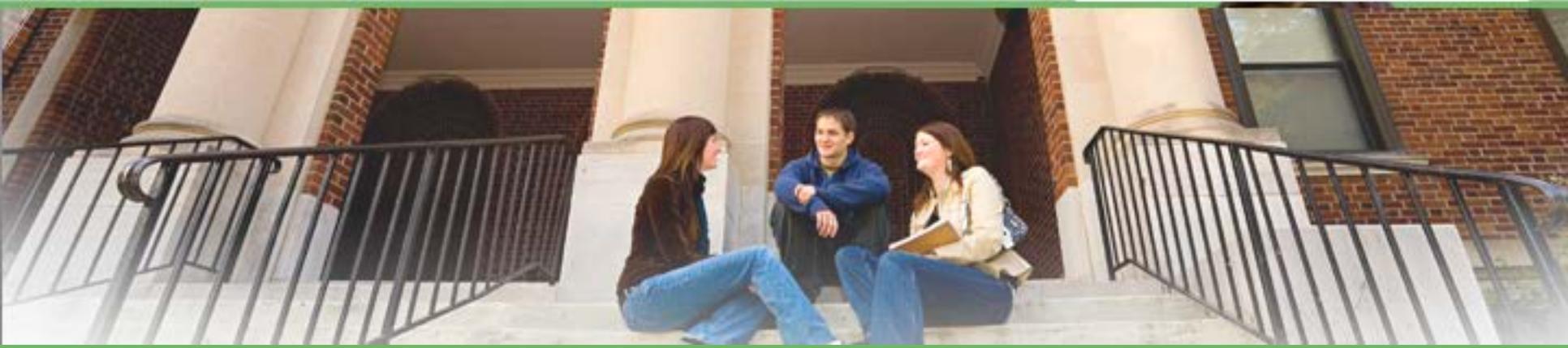
Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington

“AP Seminar and AP Research are terrific classes that prepare students to think in non-formulaic ways.”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“In AP Capstone, you get students turned on to higher education in a way they are not currently and they enter university with a different kind of attitude.”

Susan Roth, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University, AP Capstone Curriculum Advisory Committee



Support from Universities

- Universities rank grades in university-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.
- Completing the AP Capstone courses tells university admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter at their institution and beyond.
- At UBC, the admissions officer told students to definitely write down that they are part of the AP Capstone program on their personal profile and paragraph section of their entrance application.

Below is a list of some of the universities that have conveyed support for AP Capstone:

University of British Columbia	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Michigan
University of Alberta	New York University	University of Southern California
Columbia University	Pennsylvania State U	University of Texas at Austin
Duke University	University of Maryland	University of Virginia
Florida State University		University of Washington
Harvard University		Yale University

Visit www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone for the latest list of universities supporting the AP Capstone program.



Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

Is AP Capstone right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- What university majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do I enjoy challenging myself to think in new ways?
- Do I like to collaborate and learn from others?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

What steps do I need to take?

- Go online and read the AP Capstone brochure to find out more
- Complete the application form to sign up!

AP Capstone: Application Information

- AP Capstone District Application is available on the district's website and at tonight's information meeting
- The application requires
 - a completed application form
 - student written responses
 - a parent questionnaire, and
 - a teacher recommendation
- Send applications to the Burnaby District Office
- Applicants must understand that if accepted, they may need to transfer to Burnaby North or Burnaby South.

AP Capstone: Application Timeline

- **Monday, February 16, 2015**
Completed application package due at
Burnaby District Board Office
5325 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC
- **April, 2015:**
Acceptance notifications sent by letter to student

Additional Information about AP Capstone

The AP Capstone Brochure



AP Capstone online: www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone

Direct questions to:

Laurent Scaligine @ Burnaby North; e-mail: Laurent.Scaligine@sd41.bc.ca

Vincent Chan @ Burnaby North; e-mail: Vincent.Chan@sd41.bc.ca

Amos Lee @ Burnaby South; e-mail: Amos.Lee@sd41.bc.ca



AP[®]

Questions and Answers