

CAPS in a Nutshell

This program is a rigorous college level program that potentially enables a motivated student to graduate high school with college credits, and enter college at the sophomore or higher level.

Advanced Placement gives the student high flexibility in choosing advanced courses, with the potential to earn college credit and high school credit at the same time. **Teacher recommendation is required to register for this program.** Students who took advanced courses in Junior High and take honors level for English in high school are those who are typically most successful in AP.

CAPS is designed for the academically motivated students who want:

1. To graduate with distinction from high school
2. To have transcripts which allow students to be competitive in college admissions applications
3. To earn the potential to enter college or university at the sophomore or higher level

These courses are designed by the College Board and meet college level work. In May, the student takes a three (3) hour Advanced Placement exam. Successful completion of the course gives the student one high school credit toward graduation. If the student scores a 3.0 or higher on the exam, he/she may receive up to six semester hours of college credit for the course, depending on the policy of the university.

Did you know?

- ☑ Clay High School's students have some of the highest passing rates on AP exams among all Northeast Florida High Schools!

Our dedicated teachers are passionate about their subject areas and really care about their students' success.

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Do I have to pay to take the AP Exams?

No. The school district pays for your exam.

What happens if I am not doing well in the CAPS program or my AP classes?

If a student does not maintain a "C" average at the end of the first semester of any AP class, the student will be dropped from the AP class and moved to either an honors class or regular class, depending on availability and workability of their schedule. Depending on the situation, the student would still be eligible for future AP classes.

A 9th grader taking an AP course? That seems hard!

Your first AP class is AP Human Geography, which is a social studies class, and it provides an excellent avenue for honing your AP skills and trying out an AP course. Students also will take Semantics/Logic (semester course) and Humanities 1 honors (semester course)— these honors electives prepare students for AP level reading, writing, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary study.

If I do not enroll in CAPS as a 9th grader, can I enroll as a 10th, 11th, or 12th grader?

Absolutely! We recommend you start with AP Seminar to help you build a foundation for future classes but you could also take courses in your strongest subjects first to see if AP is a good fit.

If I do not enroll in CAPS, can I still take AP Classes?

Yes! We want you to be successful and challenge yourself whenever possible. If your strength is in just one or two areas and you don't want to commit to 5 or more AP classes, then you can pick and choose which you do want. You just won't get the CAPS recognition at graduation unless you complete the requirements for the program.

If I enroll in CAPS, can I still take Dual Enrollment classes or be enrolled in an academy or take other electives?

Definitely! In fact, we have students doing both right now! This opportunity to explore areas of interest to get the most out of high school is one of the benefits of CAPS vs AICE or IB. Our AP program is built on flexibility. Contact guidance to discuss building your AP experience to suit your needs and interests.

If I have any questions, whom should I contact?

Please contact Mrs. Garcia, the Assistant Principal, at 336-7186 or Mr. Dunn, AP Coordinator and Guidance Counselor, at 336-7198.

CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

"Once a Blue Devil, Always a Blue Devil"



Clay Advanced Placement Scholars (CAPS)



Requirements

3 CAPS options:

AP Capstone Diploma™ (6 AP courses);
 CAPS without Capstone (5 AP Courses); or
 CAPS with Dual Enrollment (2 AP courses and
 earn your AA degree through dual enrollment
 courses at Clay High and/or SJRSC campus).

AP Capstone™ Diploma

Earn a diploma from AP/College Board

Students who take a minimum of 6 AP courses including Seminar and Research earning a 3 or better on AP exams will earn a diploma certificate from the College Board. This elite diploma option provides students with superior skill development in academic research, argumentation, and presentation and sets students apart from their peers when applying for college. Visit College Board for more: <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/courses-exams/ap-capstone>

CAPS without Capstone Diploma™ Option:

1. Successfully complete a MINIMUM of 5 AP Courses .

CAPS and Full-time Dual Enrollment Option:

1. Successfully complete 2 AP courses by the end of 10th grade.
2. Successfully earn an Associate’s degree before/at time of graduation (through SJRSC). (Speak to Guidance about dual enrollment courses offered at Clay High and steps to earning AA).

ALL CAPS Students must also:

1. Take the PSAT test at least once. 11th grade is recommended for eligibility for Merit Scholarship Program even if student took the PSAT earlier.
2. Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA unweighted

RECOMMENDED COURSES BY GRADE

9th grade

Semantics/Logic and Humanities 1 (Honors)

AP Human Geography

10th grade

AP World History

(AP Seminar for Capstone Diploma™)

11th grade and 12th grade

You must take a MINIMUM of 3 AP classes during your junior and/or senior year in order to be eligible to graduate with the CAPS distinction.

(Capstone Diploma™ students will also take AP Research 11th or 12th grade year)



Clay High AP Courses

(subject to teacher availability and minimum class enrollment)

American History	World History	Human Geography
English Language & Composition	English Literature & Composition	Statistics
Calculus (AB)	Calculus (BC)	Chemistry
Biology	Physics 1	Computer Science A
American Government	Macro Economics	Psychology
Art	Spanish	Environmental Science
Capstone Seminar	Capstone Research	European History

FAQ ABOUT CAPS

How is CAPS different from IB or AICE?

The CAPS program is specific to students at Clay High. CAPS students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ -an internationally awarded diploma certificate given by the College Board. IB and AICE students can also earn internationally recognized certificates. CAPS, while rigorous, is not as restrictive as IB or AICE. CAPS is ideal for students who want to be academically challenged but not constrained by the requirements of IB or AICE. CAPS is ideal for advanced student who want more time to explore other interests like sports, arts, or a career academy or pathway.

What is the benefit of enrolling in CAPS?

CAPS will provide a structured, rigorous course of study throughout your high school career. It provides a solid foundation for students that 4-year universities are looking for and allow students to be competitive in university admissions. You will be recognized as a CAPS student and receive a medallion and certificate for successfully completing the CAPS program.

What is AP?

Advanced Placement (AP) are courses designed and taught at a college level. The course work is approved by the College Board (the makers of SAT) and taught in the high school classroom. In May, students will take the AP Exam. If the student earns a 3, 4, or 5 on a 5 point scale, the student may earn college credit; however, how much credit the student receives depends on the particular college. It is highly recommended that students check the college’s policy on awarding AP credit.

How are AP classes weighted?

All AP classes are weighted 5.0– the same as Dual Enrollment, AICE and IB courses.

How many AP classes will I need to take to fulfill the CAPS requirement?

Depending on which option you complete- You will need to take 2-6 and these should be from different subject areas. As a freshman, the first AP class you take is AP Human Geography. Most CAPS students end up taking more than the minimum AP classes throughout high school.

Do I receive college credit just for being in CAPS?

No. The only way to receive college credit is by passing the AP exams in May. However, if you do not pass the AP exams, you will still receive high school credits to fulfill graduation requirements.

SEE BACK FOR MORE FAQ...