AP Capstone Student Information and Recommendation Forms

For the 2019-2020 School Year

Student Name: ____________________________________________________

ID Number: ________________________________________________________
Instructions:

Please review the attached information in detail. Have a teacher from a core academic class (i.e. Math, Science, History, English, Social Sciences, etc.) complete the recommendation form included in this packet.

In addition, please review the description of the AP Seminar and AP Research courses and assessments, and have your parents review these as well. After you’ve done so, sign the Statement of Intent pages acknowledging that you have read and understood the requirements of the program.

In order to be considered and properly programmed into AP Seminar, have this entire packet completed and returned to Mr. Wolf in room B7 by Friday, March 29th at 3:30 pm.

For informational purposes, please indicate if you are also applying to be in the International Baccalaureate program.

☐ Yes, I am also applying for IB
☐ No, I’m sold on AP Capstone
What is AP Capstone?

AP Capstone is a flexible, rigorous two-year program designed to help students develop the research, critical thinking and communication skills they’ll need in order to be successful in college, as well as in other professional environments. The program is composed of two separate components, the Seminar Course and the Research Course. In order to earn a Capstone Diploma, students must earn a qualifying score of 3 or higher on both the Seminar and the Research assessments, in addition to any other four AP tests, at any time in their high school career. Should a student not successfully complete these four additional AP exams, he or she may potentially be eligible for a Capstone Certificate. However, it is expected that students enrolled in the program will pursue the full diploma.

What are the Seminar and Research Courses?

The Seminar and Research course differ from other AP courses in that they are not content-driven, but rather focused on cross-curricular and interdisciplinary critical thinking skills. Instead of being assessed via a traditional year-end test, AP scores in the Seminar and Research courses are determined through several performance-based tasks: individual and collaborative research projects, papers, and presentations.

In the Seminar Course, students will complete: a team research project focused on current social issues, which will include a paper and presentation; an individual research paper and presentation in a discipline of the student’s choosing; and a year-end assessment designed to measure student skill in evaluating arguments in multiple disciplines.

AP Seminar Assessment Structure

Students are assessed with two through-course performance assessment tasks and one end-of-course exam. All three assessments are summative and will be used to calculate a final AP score (using the 1–5 scale) for AP Seminar.

Format of Assessment

I. Team Project and Presentation | 20% of AP Score
   - Individual Research and Reflection
   - Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense

II. Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation | 35% of AP Score
   - Individual Written Argument
   - Individual Multimedia Presentation
   - Oral Defense

III. End-of-Course Exam (3 Hours) | 45% of AP Score
   - Understanding and analyzing an argument
   - Synthesizing information to develop an evidence-based argument.
AP Research Assessment Structure:

Per the AP Research Course and Exam Description

“Students design, plan and implement a yearlong, in-depth study or investigation in an area of personal interest through a chose or designed inquiry method and develop a well-reasoned argument based on the evidence collected in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words. As a culmination of their research, students deliver (using appropriate media) a presentation and orally defend their research design, approach and findings . . . Throughout the inquiry process, students communicate regularly with their teacher and, when appropriate, consult with an internal or external expert.”

I. Academic Paper (4,000-5,000 words) | 75% of AP Score
II. Presentation and Oral Defense (15-20 minutes) | 25% of AP Score

How will participating in the program affect my schedule?

Students in the Capstone Program are free to choose any combination of AP and traditional courses they choose. Both AP Seminar and AP Research are yearlong academic electives, and do not replace any existing coursework. Depending on your schedule and extracurricular activities, you may need to take a zero period course.

You will also be required to take AP English Language in 11th grade, concurrently with AP Seminar.

Who is eligible for this program?

GHCHS will be offering the program to all students in their Junior year. Current Sophomores are eligible for next year's cohort. Because of the flexible nature of this program, students who participate in sports and extracurricular activities are welcome and encouraged to apply; we will find a way to guide students to success if they are interested and motivated.

What are the requirements for joining the program?

There are no prerequisites courses. We are, however, asking for a recommendation from a current teacher in an academic course, in order for us to help determine if this program is a good fit for you. Should your teacher not recommend you, there is the option for you to fill out an additional application.

However, it is required that you take AP English Language concurrently with AP Seminar. This is meant to provide you an opportunity to reinforce some of the fundamental skills necessary for the course, as well as to help you earn one of the qualifying scores necessary for the AP Capstone Diploma.

*** NOTE: THERE IS NO OPTION OF TAKING AP SEMINAR OR AP RESEARCH WITHOUT TAKING THE EXAM. THE PERFORMANCE TASKS ARE A REQUIRED COMPONENT OF THE COURSE ***
Student Information

Last Name: _________________________________  First Name: _________________________________

Student ID: _______________________________________________________________________________

Preferred or nickname: _____________________________________________________________________

Counselor: ________________________________________________________________________________

Current Academic Program: __________________________________________________________________

Please list any AP Classes you have taken, or are currently taking. If you have received an AP Exam Score for the class, please also indicate your score:

1. Class:_________________________________________ Score:_________

2. Class:_________________________________________ Score:_________

3. Class:_________________________________________ Score:_________

4. Class:_________________________________________ Score:_________

5. Class:_________________________________________ Score:_________

Please list the AP Classes you plan on taking in your Junior and Senior year, excluding AP Seminar and Research:

1. Class:_________________________________________

2. Class:_________________________________________

3. Class:_________________________________________

4. Class:_________________________________________

5. Class:_________________________________________
AP Capstone Teacher Recommendation Form

Student Name: ________________________________  Student ID #: ________________________________

Teacher Name: ________________________________
Class: ________________________________

Please indicate the extent to which you recommend the student for AP Capstone, based on each of the following categories.

1. Time management:
   Recommend______  Recommend with reservations_______  Do not recommend______

2. Contribution to class discussions:
   Recommend______  Recommend with reservations_______  Do not recommend______

3. Ability to collaborate/work on group projects:
   Recommend______  Recommend with reservations_______  Do not recommend______

4. Independence/Initiative:
   Recommend______  Recommend with reservations_______  Do not recommend______

5. Overall:
   Recommend______  Recommend with reservations_______  Do not recommend______

Additional Comments. Please provide comments about this student’s ability to succeed in self-directed research projects:

Teacher Signature: ___________________________________________________________________
Student Statement of Intent

Please read the following statements and discuss them with your parents. After you have done so, sign below.

- I understand that taking the AP Seminar and AP Research classes means I will take the exam.
- I understand that in order to participate in the AP Capstone program, in addition to my existing coursework, I will need to take an additional year-long course in both my junior and senior year.
- I understand that this AP Seminar course is meant to supplement my other AP coursework, and will not replace any existing course.
- I understand that the AP Capstone is a rigorous program that will require me to be intrinsically motivated, and will require some degree of autonomy on my part.
- I understand that I am responsible for completing all internal assessments in the Seminar component.
- I understand that these internal assessments include a collaborative research project that will require me to work with my peers and successfully contribute to a team dynamic, and that I am responsible for completing the assessment by the assigned deadline.
- I understand that completing this collaborative project may require me to schedule time outside of school to work with my classmates.
- I understand that I am also responsible for successfully completing several individual research projects by the assigned deadline.
- I understand that in order to earn the AP Capstone Diploma, I will also need to dedicate myself to passing at least four AP tests.
- I have completed a separate AP form for each class AP class I am taking next year.

__________________________  __________________________
Student Signature            Date

Parent Statement of Intent

Please read the following statements and sign below.

- I have spoken with my child about his or her decision to join the AP Capstone program at GHCHS.
- I understand that AP Capstone is a rigorous program that will require my student to exercise autonomy in order to make sure his or her projects are successfully completed.
- I understand that my child will need to take an additional semester long course in the spring semester of his or her junior year, in addition to any existing coursework, sports and activities that he or she will be participating in.
- I understand that my child may need to schedule time to work with classmates on collaborative research projects outside of the normal school day.
- I understand that in order to earn the AP Capstone diploma my child will need to pass at least four other AP tests with a score of 3 or better.
- I understand that in order to successfully pass these AP tests, my child may need to attend Saturday sessions or afternoon review sessions.
- I understand that there is an exam fee for each AP exam my student will take as part of this diploma program.
- I understand that the AP Seminar assessments require a separate exam fee.

__________________________  __________________________
Parent Signature            Date
Anything Else?

Feel free to provide any other information about yourself, either about your academic interests, extracurricular activities, etc, that will help us get to know you! Write a letter, draw a picture, compose a poem, anything!