



# Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and Selective Courses

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## AP Capstone Courses

### AP Seminar (Grade 10)

Develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that you'll need in any academic discipline. You'll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

This course is a two year commitment and receives an ELA credit. Your junior year, you will be enrolled into AP Research.

Students must have:

- ❖ Succeeded in the interview process.

### AP Seminar (Grade 11)

Develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that you'll need in any academic discipline. You'll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

This course is a two year commitment. Your senior year, you will be enrolled into AP Research.

Students must have:

- ❖ Succeeded in the interview process.

### AP Research (Grades 11& 12)

Build on what you learned in AP Seminar to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, you will design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question.

Students must have:

- ❖ Currently enrolled in AP Seminar.

## **AP Computer Science Courses**

**\*\*Please note that there are multiple delivery styles of instruction which could include online instruction.\*\***

### **AP Computer Science Principles: (Grade 11 or Grade 12)**

Computer science is everywhere, from our smartphones and video games to music, medicine, and much more. AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) can help you understand how computing and technology influence the world around you. Learn how to creatively address real-world issues while using the same tools and processes that artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Successfully passed Algebra II/Trigonometry.

### **AP Computer Science A: (Grade 12)**

AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Successfully passed Bridge to Computer Science (with Mendoza / Luong) *OR* successfully completed AP Computer Science Principles.

## English Courses

### AP English Literature and Composition (Grade 11)

Learn to analyze and interpret imaginative literature through the careful reading and critical analysis of representative works from various genres and periods.

Explore literary elements such as a work's structure, style and themes, as well as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. Develop your writing skills as you express your ideas and analysis in expository, analytical, and argumentative essays.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Earned a 90% or higher in their current English course.
- ❖ Completed a writing sample.

### AP English Language and Composition (Grade 12)

Learn about the elements that define effective argument and composition through the critical analysis and interpretation of complex texts.

Understand the interactions among a writer's purpose, audience, subject, and genre and how each of these contributes to effective writing. Enhance your own writing skills and understand better each stage of the writing process as you develop expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Earned a 90% or higher in their current English course.
- ❖ Completed a writing sample.

### AP African American Studies (Grades 11 & 12)

AP African American Studies offers a rich, source-based encounter with African American experiences. You'll explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to contemporary challenges and achievements. Drawing from disciplines including history, literature, the arts, geography, science, and law, you'll study the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans and members of Black communities within the broader context of the African diaspora.

Throughout the course, you'll examine different themes from a variety of perspectives, ultimately choosing a topic of focus for your individual student project, where you'll define a research topic and present your argument.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Earned 85% or higher in their current English and social studies courses.

## **Drama (Grade11)**

The Drama course is an introduction to the theater. Students will become acquainted with the history of the theater and various significant plays. This course provides students opportunities to develop an appreciation and respect for the craft of acting as well as for the collaborative effort of all involved in producing works of theater. In addition to acting, areas of technical production such as make-up, lighting, costuming, and set design will be studied. Attention is also given to improvement of personal and interpersonal skills through collaborative work and dramatic activities including improvisation and presentations. In addition, business management skills, related to the production of a play, will be introduced. Class requirements may also include participation in a production, whether on stage or behind the scenes, as a final project demonstrating the skills and knowledge taught in this course. A list of supplementary readings that complement the anchor texts will be provided to the students. Students are expected to independently read a minimum of two supplementary texts for each anchor text.

### **Students must have:**

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents.

## **Drama Advanced Performance and Production (Grade 12)**

Building upon the foundational skills developed in Drama I, this course challenges students to refine their acting, writing, and production abilities through the creation of original video projects. Students will apply their knowledge of improvisation, character development, and storytelling to produce works such as the Edison Commercial and Improvisation How-To Videos. A key component of the course includes collaboration with the Film and Production shop class, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in cinematography, editing, and directing.

In addition to performance, students will explore advanced aspects of technical theater, including set and costume design, lighting, and stage management, deepening their understanding of the behind-the-scenes work that brings productions to life. Through collaborative projects, students will enhance their personal and interpersonal skills, fostering creativity, adaptability, and leadership.

As a culminating project, students will contribute to a final production project—demonstrating their mastery of the techniques studied throughout the course. A list of supplementary readings that complement the course content will be provided, and students are expected to independently read a minimum of two supplementary texts for each anchor text.

### **Students must have:**

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents.

## **Creative Writing (Grade 11)**

The creative writing class involves intense creative writing skills and is designed for students who enjoy writing as a form of art and personal expression. This course invites cross-curricular involvement and student engagement. In this course, students will explore the elements of numerous literary genres such as short fiction, poetry, and drama. To develop their creative writing, students will engage in writing workshops, literary element development lessons, writing/author studies, and peer reviews/conferences. To show evidence of writing development throughout the course, students will be required to engage in writing community activities that require sharing one's work and in publishing one's writing beyond the classroom setting. Finally, students will design, edit, and contribute writing pieces to Edison High School's literary magazine. In addition to the

numerous writing components of this class, students will also be responsible to read supplementary texts. Students will be expected to complete a large amount of class work, homework and demanding projects. Due to the challenging and rigorous work required by this course, they are given additional weight in the grade point average.

Students must have:

- ❖ Interview
- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents.

### **Creative Writing (Grade 12)**

The 12<sup>th</sup> grade Creative Writing class builds on the intense creative writing skills developed in the introductory course. In this course, students will hone the skills needed to publish the school's literary magazine, The Edison Spark and produce the Fall issue of the magazine. They will prepare training materials and lead training sessions for the introductory creative writing course, guiding and mentoring them in literary magazine production for the Spring Issue. In addition, students will explore additional creative writing genres such as dystopian fiction, short stories, drama, songwriting and satire. They will have the opportunity to refine their writing through student-led writing workshops. These writing workshops will be a rigorous process through which students will both provide and receive detailed analysis of writing and constructive criticism while fostering ongoing revision and goal setting. Upon completion of the course, each student will have constructed a portfolio of workshopped writing and magazine contributions. Due to the challenging and rigorous work required by this course, they are given additional weight in the grade point average.

Students must have:

- ❖ Interview
- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents.

### **Journalism - Introductory Journalism (Grade 11)**

This introductory course provides students with a strong foundation in journalistic writing while offering hands-on experience in producing *The Edison Light*, the school's award-winning newspaper. Students will explore various types of articles, including general news, features, sports, opinions, arts and entertainment, and technology.

Through interviewing, researching, and writing, students will learn how to craft engaging and informative articles tailored to different audiences. They will also practice writing compelling headlines, structuring strong lead statements, and developing their own journalistic voice. In addition, students will participate in the editing and production process, ensuring high-quality content for publication.

Throughout the course, students will gain skills required to contribute to the monthly publication of *The Edison Light* and read supplementary texts to deepen their understanding of journalism. This course is ideal for 11th-grade students looking to sharpen their writing skills, enhance their storytelling abilities, and gain practical experience in media and communications.

Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents

## **Journalism (Grade 12)**

This course emphasizes the skills and knowledge required to produce a newspaper and contributes to the production of the school's newspaper. Students will conduct interviews, write in a variety of journalistic forms, discuss editorial positions, and help produce and edit the newspaper. Topics will include, but are not limited to: journalistic credibility, newspaper writing, an analysis of the First Amendment and biases in publications. Students will also learn to write headlines and compose lead statements. The award winning newspaper, The Edison Light, will be published monthly. In addition to the numerous writing components of this class, students will also be responsible to read supplementary texts.

### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher.
- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents

## **Storytelling and Media (Storytelling for Impact: Communication through Narrative) (Grades 11 & 12)**

Storytelling will be explored in a whole new realm with the STORYTELLING AND MEDIA class. This course takes an innovative approach to the types of stories we tell, as well as the mediums through which we tell them. Our coursework includes building community among our students, analyzing and mastering storytelling components, and learning to navigate between formal and informal writing. Together, we will master telling and effectively presenting your narrative, in a weekly media installment produced, written, and directed by our students! If you are interested in growing your writing and story analysis capabilities, while also expanding your ability to navigate different media and technology areas, this is the place to be.

### Students must have:

- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents
- ❖ At least an 80 in ELA at the end of their 2025/26 Spring Term
- ❖ At least an 80 in your CTE program
- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher

## **True Crime: Justice, Society, and Media (Grade 12)**

This course examines the cultural fascination with true crime through psychology, ethics, and the criminal justice system. Students will study how crime stories are constructed, how they influence public opinion, and the responsibilities of journalists and media creators.

Students will gain real-world insight through courtroom visits, interactions with legal and law enforcement professionals, and participation in a mock jury. In the second half of the year, students will research local true crime cases and produce a long-form investigative project in the form of a podcast or documentary, emphasizing ethical storytelling and factual accuracy.

### Students must have:

- ❖ Successfully passed the English Language Arts Regents
- ❖ At least an 85 in ELA at the end of their 2025/26 Spring Term
- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their English teacher

## Foreign Language Courses

### AP Spanish Language and Culture

Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Received a recommendation from their current Spanish teacher.
- ❖ Passed the Spanish Department Interview conducted **ENTIRELY** in Spanish.

### Spanish II

The goal of the class is to continue to speak the language and understand it as spoken by the teacher, fellow students, and by native speakers in both text-based recordings and in a variety of authentic media sources; read authentic language samples and learn the new vocabulary in the reading; write short samples in Spanish while mastering the new structures and grammar; and correct persistent errors in pronunciation. All skills are treated with equal emphasis, as are the World Language modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ There are no requirements to be placed in the class but the students should have a desire to continue their learning of the language.

## Mathematics Courses

### AP Precalculus (Grade 11 or 12)

In AP Precalculus, students explore everyday situations using mathematical tools and lenses. Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. They will learn how to observe, explore, and build mathematical meaning from dynamic systems, an important practice for thriving in an ever-changing world. AP Precalculus prepares students for other higher-level mathematics and science courses. The framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Math teacher.
- ❖ Earned 80% or higher in Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus or Calculus courses.
- ❖ Students are currently enrolled in Algebra 2, Precalculus or Calculus.

### AP Calculus AB (Grade 11 or 12)

AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. You'll learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and how to make connections amongst these representations. You will learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Math teacher.
- ❖ Earned a 90% or higher in Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Precalculus or Calculus courses.
- ❖ Students are currently enrolled in Algebra 2, Precalculus, AP Precalculus or Calculus.

### AP Calculus BC (Grade 12)

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first and second semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. This course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. You will learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. You will also learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current AP Calculus AB Math teacher.
- ❖ Scored a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam.

## **AP Statistics (Grade 12)**

Learn about the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Develop analytical and critical thinking skills as you learn to describe data patterns and departures from patterns, plan and conduct studies, use probability and simulation to explore random phenomena, estimate population parameters, test hypotheses, and make statistical inferences.

### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Math & English teacher.
- ❖ Earned a 90% or higher in Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Precalculus or Calculus courses AND a 90% or higher in their English courses.

## Science Courses

### AP Biology

*(possible double period class, due to lengthy labs) \*\*Subject to budget availability\*\**

Learn about the core scientific principles, theories, and processes governing living organisms, biological systems, and natural phenomena.

Understand key science practices you can use to develop explanations and predictions of natural phenomena, which you will test and refine through laboratory investigations. Develop advanced reasoning and inquiry skills as you design experiments, collect and analyze data using mathematics and other methods, and interpret that data to draw conclusions.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Chemistry (class and Regents) grade of 80% or higher
- ❖ Living Environment/Biology Regents grade of 85% or higher

### AP Chemistry

*(double period class once a week, due to lengthy labs) \*\* Subject to budget availability\*\**

Cultivate an understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, exploring topics such as atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Science teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90+ in Chemistry, CC Algebra I, and CC Algebra 2/Trigonometry (you could take this course concomitantly)

### AP Physics 1

*(double period class once a week, due to lengthy labs) \*\* Subject to budget availability\*\**

AP<sup>®</sup> Physics 1 is an algebra-based course in general physics that meets for 45 minutes each day for the entire school year, plus an extra lab period each week. General physics topics presented during the course closely follow those outlined by the College Board and also mirror an introductory-level university physics course.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Science teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 80+ in the Physics Regents and Chemistry Regents, Algebra I Regents, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry (you could take this course concomitantly)

### AP Psychology

Explore the concepts, theories, perspectives, phenomena, and behaviors associated with the subfields and research areas of psychology. Analyze the methods psychologists use to study various types of behavior and mental processes and evaluate the validity and significance of their contributions.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Science teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90+ in Living Environment/Biology, Chemistry and English classes.

## Social Studies Courses

### Model UN/AP Comparative Government (Grade 11 or 12)

The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis. These skills would be used by delegates as they then prepare for MUN conferences.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ Succeeded in the interview process.

### AP Human Geography (Grade 11 or 12)

Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

### AP World History: Modern (Grade 10)

Learn to weigh evidence and interpretations as you build your knowledge of world historical processes and themes. Develop your ability to draw conclusions and use informed reasoning to present your arguments clearly and persuasively in essay format.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

### AP US History (Grade 11)

Learn about the developments that have shaped U.S. history through the critical analysis of historical events and materials. Learn to weigh evidence and interpretations as you build your factual knowledge of U.S. history. Develop your ability to draw conclusions and use informed reasoning to present your arguments clearly and persuasively in essay format.

#### Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

### AP US Government and Politics (Grade 12)

Study constitutional underpinnings, civil liberties and civil rights, political culture and socialization, citizen participation and influence, political institutions and policy making that are the foundation of modern U.S.

government and politics. Interpret classic and contemporary political writings and apply pertinent Supreme Court rulings to enduring social and political issues in this country.

Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

**AP Macroeconomics (Grade 12)**

Explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. You'll use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

**AP Art History (Grade 11 or 12)**

Explore the history of art across the globe from prehistory to the present. You'll analyze works of art through observation, discussion, reading, and research.

Students must have:

- ❖ School attendance rate of 90% or above.
- ❖ Recommendation from their current Social Studies teacher.
- ❖ A grade of 90 or better in their current Social Studies class (85 if an AP course)

**Peer Group Connection (Grade 12)**

Peer Group Connection (PGC) is a leadership program developed by Princeton University over 40 years ago. PGC, run by the Center for Supportive Schools, is a nationally renowned program intended to train senior peer leaders to conduct weekly outreaches with the freshmen. These outreaches are structured to support freshmen on their social and emotional transition to high school. Through a rigorous leadership training program, seniors become equipped to mentor our freshmen as they navigate through their first year of high school. Seniors receive a nationally recognized certification in Peer Leadership. They also receive course credit and 60 hours of community service upon completion of the program.

Students must have:

- ❖ Succeeded in the interview process.