



AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA

The AP Capstone Diploma Program is a dynamic and empowering academic pathway that celebrates student voice, choice, and intellectual independence. Unlike more rigid academic models, AP Capstone invites students to chart their own course by selecting research topics and areas of inquiry that align with their unique passions, curiosities, and long-term goals. But the flexibility doesn't stop there; students also choose additional AP courses that reflect their individual strengths and interests, allowing them to build a diploma that is as unique as they are. Whether a student is drawn to neuroscience, environmental justice, digital media, or entrepreneurship, the program provides the structure to explore those interests deeply and meaningfully.

Through AP Seminar and AP Research, students learn to ask complex questions, evaluate diverse perspectives, and communicate their ideas with clarity and purpose. This freedom to pursue individualized learning fosters not only academic excellence but also personal growth, confidence, and a sense of ownership over their education. Graduates of the AP Capstone Diploma emerge not just as scholars, but as thought leaders, ready to innovate, collaborate, and thrive. With its emphasis on inquiry, analysis, and real-world application, the AP Capstone Diploma builds the strongest foundation for success in college and beyond.

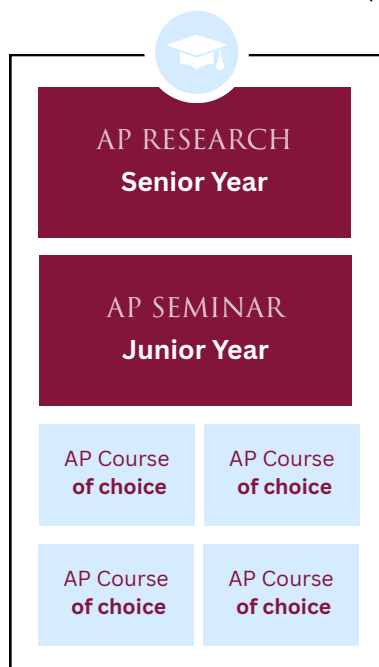
PATHWAY COURSES:

AP SEMINAR

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

AP RESEARCH

This course is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation using a variety of research methods from multiple perspectives. The project can build on a topic, problem, or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students will submit a 4,000-5,000 word academic paper as well as complete a presentation and oral defense of the research findings to a panel. Students complete research ethics training and employ ethical practices in their research processes. The academic paper and presentation and oral defense components contribute to the overall AP Research score.



To earn the **AP Capstone Diploma**, complete **AP Seminar**, **AP Research**, and **four AP courses of your choice**, taken at any time during high school.

Explore AP course options [here](#).

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- French Language
- Government & Politics
- Human Geography
- Music Theory
- Physics
- Psychology
- Research
- Seminar
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art: 3D Design
- Studio Art: 2D Design
- Studio Art: Drawing
- U.S. History
- World History



THE MCAULEY HONORS PROGRAM

The McAuley Honors Program serves as the academic cornerstone for students aspiring to pursue the AP Capstone Diploma Program at Assumption High School. Rooted in a philosophy of academic excellence and intellectual curiosity, the McAuley Honors Program is designed for highly motivated students who thrive in fast-paced, application-oriented learning environments. It emphasizes the development of critical thinking through the application, analysis, and synthesis of content across core academic disciplines.

Students in the program are required to complete all core content area courses at the most advanced level offered at the high school, while also taking a minimum of four AP courses during their academic career. This rigorous academic structure not only challenges students but also prepares them for the demands of college-level coursework.

Beyond academics, the McAuley Honors Program fosters a vibrant community of scholars who are enriched through deep discussions, artistic engagement, and participation in extracurricular academic activities. This holistic approach nurtures students' intellectual and personal growth, creating a supportive environment for scholarly exploration. Importantly, the program is not static—students may be invited to join based on their high school placement test scores or through demonstrated academic performance during their freshman or sophomore years.

DUAL CREDIT (DC) PROGRAM

Guaranteed College Credit. Real-World Readiness.

As part of Assumption High School's strategic commitment to college readiness, the Dual Credit (DC) Program offers students a powerful and cost-effective way to earn guaranteed college credit while still in high school. Research shows that exposure to college-level coursework is the most effective way to prepare students for the college experience, and Assumption proudly offers 40 college-level courses through both Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit programs.

Unlike AP courses, which require students to pass a national College Board exam to potentially earn credit, DC courses guarantee college credit upon successful completion of the course. These courses are taught by Assumption faculty who meet rigorous qualifications, including 18 graduate-level credit hours in their subject area and approval from the partnering college or university. Assumption partners with four institutions to offer DC courses: the University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, Western Kentucky University, and Jefferson Community and Technical College.

Affordability is a key advantage of the DC program. Partner universities charge only \$95 per credit hour—less than one-third the cost of the same course at a state university. Additionally, scholarships provided by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) cover the cost of up to two DC courses per student, making this option even more accessible to families. By Kentucky state law, public universities must award credit for DC hours earned, and Assumption graduates regularly transfer these credits to colleges and universities nationwide.

This commitment to academic excellence and affordability has led to remarkable outcomes: 95% of Assumption's class of 2025 graduated with college credit, exceeding the goals outlined in our strategic plan and helping students reduce the overall cost of college while gaining a head start on their academic journey.

Explore DC course options here.

- SUPR 100 – Intro to Business
- FIN 161 – Personal Finance
- SPAN 102 – Spanish III
- SPAN 201 – Spanish IV
- FREN 102 – French III
- FREN 201 – French IV
- HIST 102 – World History
- COM 181 – Public Speaking
- MAT 171 – PreCalculus
- MAT 175 – Calculus
- ENG 101 – English IV
- ENG 102 – English IV
- EDTP 107 – Human Development and Learning
- EDTP 201 – The Teaching Profession
- EDTP 215 – Foundations of Instruction
- REL 130 – World Religions