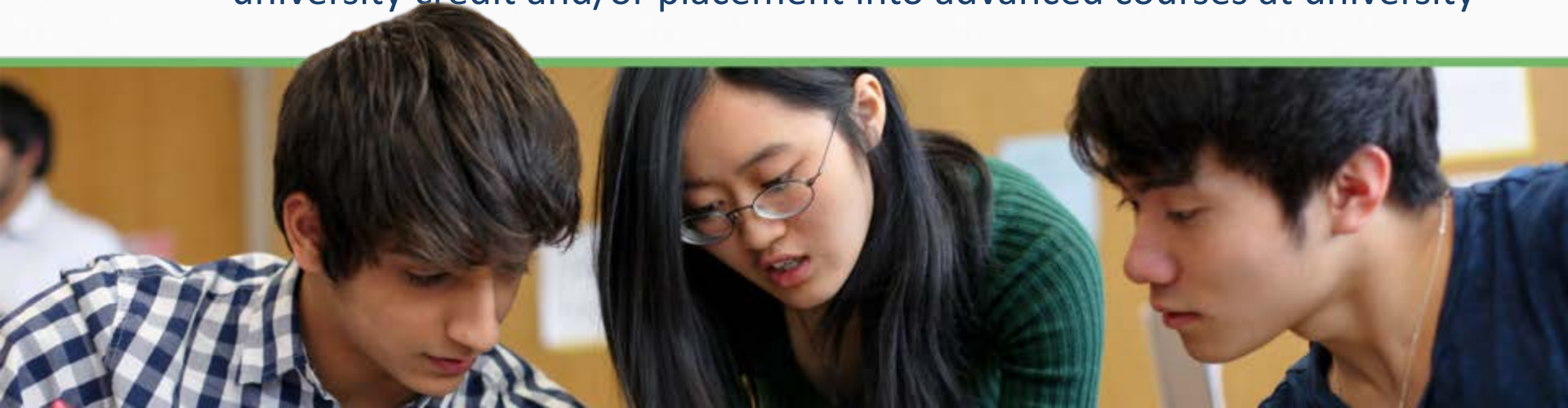




# AP Capstone™ Program 2017/18

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: Courses

- AP<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Courses

There are a variety of AP courses offered in each Burnaby secondary 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:** Comparative Gov't & Politics, European History,  
Human Geography, Macroeconomics,  
Microeconomics, Psychology

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

**Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics 2

**World languages:** Chinese Language & Culture, French Language & 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<sup>®</sup> in Burnaby Schools

AP Scholars demonstrate superior university-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and their achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report sent to universities.

*Facts: AP exams written by Burnaby Schools students (2016)*

- 1,077 district students wrote 1,867 exams
- 66 National Scholars (average of 4 on all AP exams)  
106 Scholars with Distinction (average of 3.5)  
49 Scholars with Honours (average of 3.25)  
97 Scholars (average of 3)

# Burnaby Schools AP<sup>®</sup> Graduates Reflect

“As a result of my participation in Burnaby School District’s rigorous AP courses, I feel confident and well-prepared for university. I was enriched intellectually by the challenges they offered, and the maturity and discipline they demanded made me a better student.”

**Catherina Pan, Princeton student**

“Honours and AP courses are the perfect solution for students who feel underwhelmed in a typical classroom. While providing more in-depth course material, they challenged me, and most importantly taught me to challenge myself.”

**Bronte Lim, Harvard student**

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills 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?

# AP Capstone™ Program: An Introduction

**AP Capstone™** is an innovative program offered at Burnaby North and Burnaby South that allows students in grade 11 & 12 to engage in rigorous university-level study of **the critical skills** necessary for success in university. The Program includes a 2-course sequence

## **AP Seminar and AP Research**

(both offered outside the timetable as morning blocks)

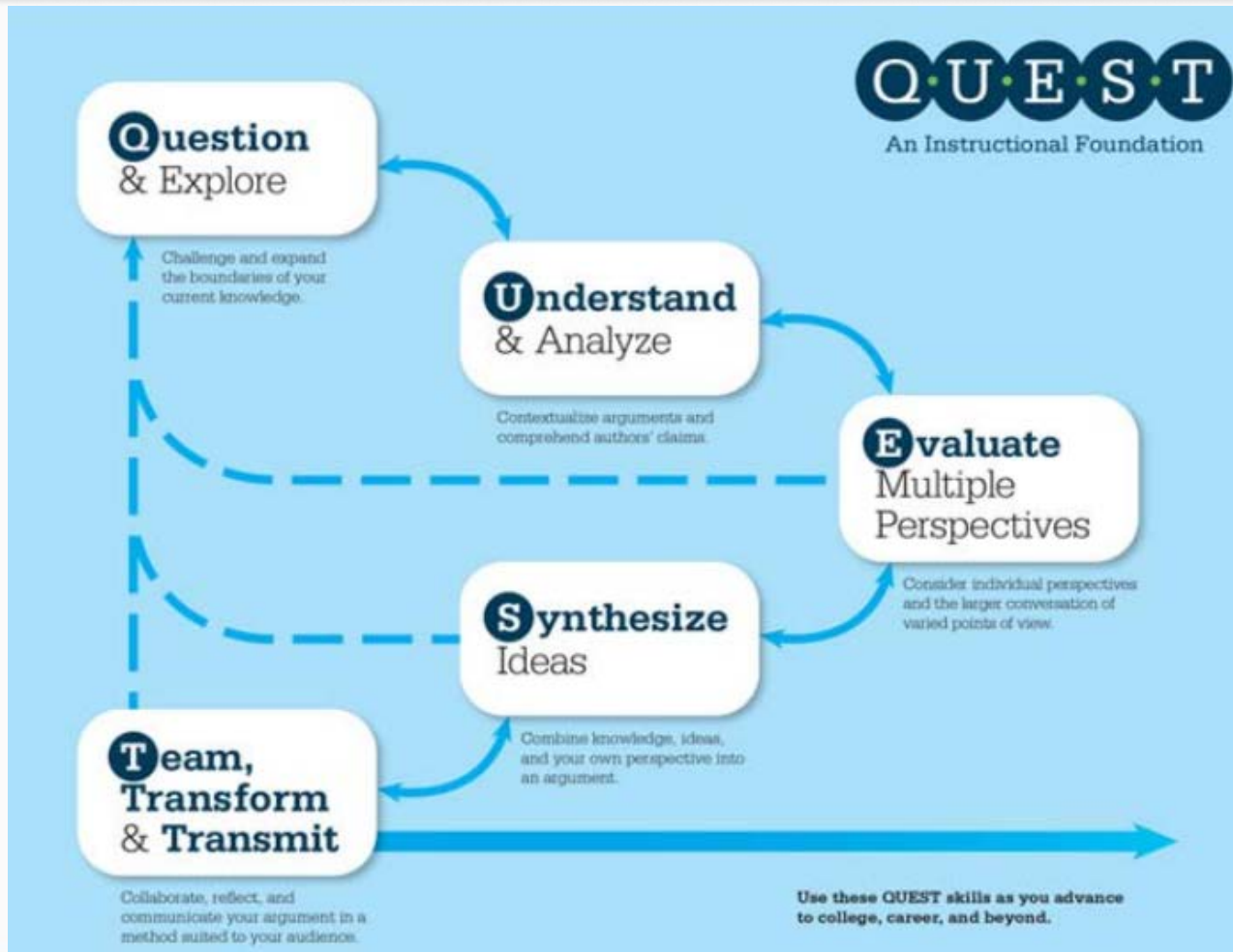
### Emphasizes Critical Skills

### Complements the in-depth subject-matter study in AP

- Considering multiple perspectives
- Careful evaluation of information
- Writing evidence-based arguments
- Identifying and solving problems
- Oral communication and defending an argument
- Collaboration and teamwork



# AP Capstone™ Program – The BIG IDEAS



# AP Seminar – Grade 11

## 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

## 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:

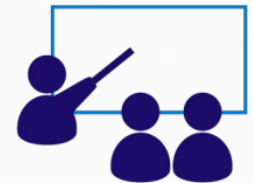
1. Academic Thesis Paper (~5,000 words)

- 75%



2. Public Presentation and Oral Defense

- 25%



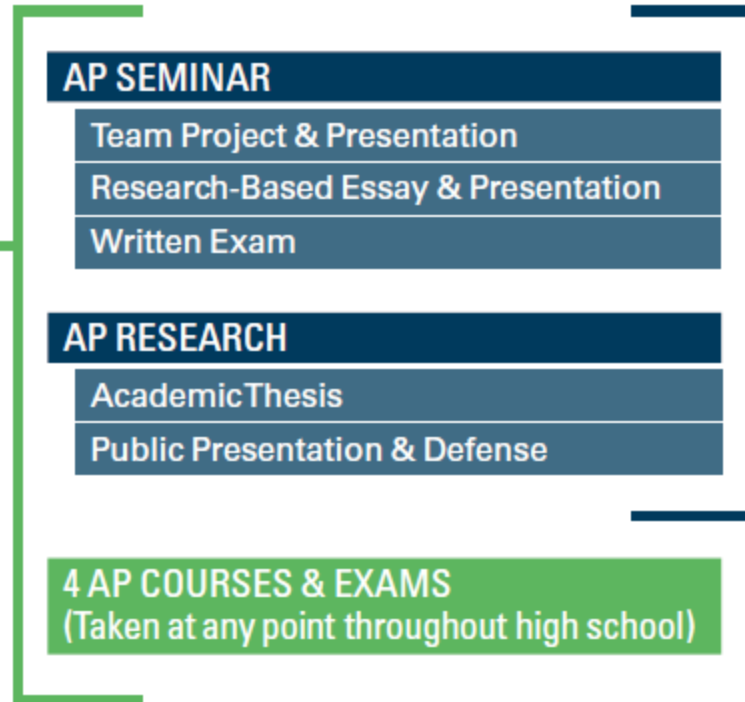
*AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.*

# AP Capstone™ 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™**.



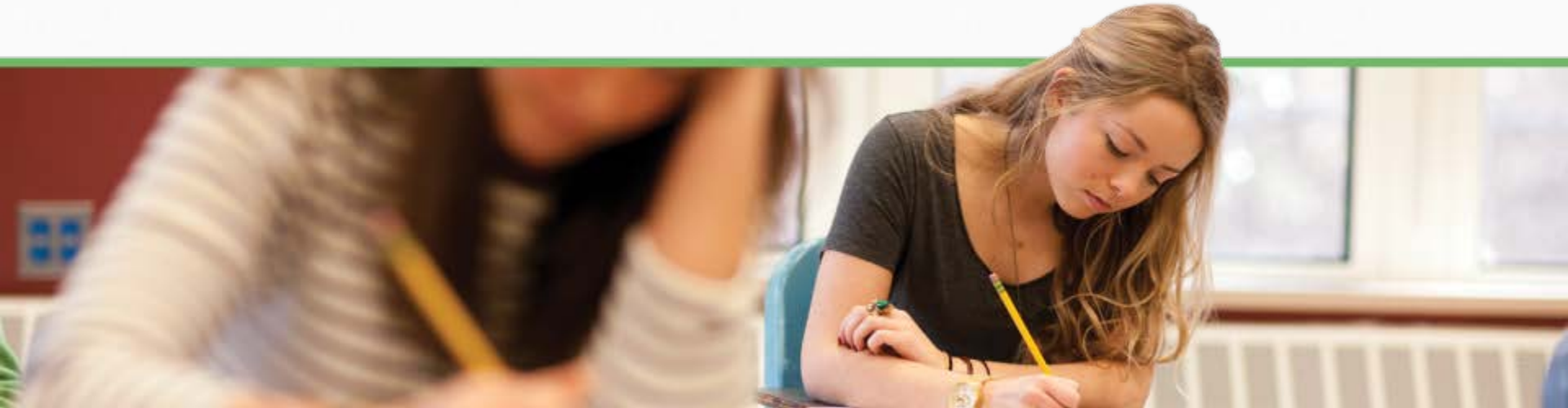
## AP Research & Seminar Certificate™

# AP Capstone™ Exams, Fees & Credentials

- All AP courses have a corresponding AP exam. While there are no fees for taking AP Seminar or AP Research courses, exam fees are \$165 each.
- Students who successfully complete AP Seminar and AP Research courses will receive an AP Certificate.
- 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 Capstone™: 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



# AP Capstone™ Strengthens University Applications

- Universities rank grades in university-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.
- Completing AP Capstone courses indicates to 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 include on their entrance application that they are part of the AP Capstone program on their personal profile and paragraph section.

**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](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone) for the latest list of universities supporting the AP Capstone program.

# 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*





# What Students are Saying about AP Capstone™

- **Helps them see an issue from multiple perspectives**
- **Challenges their thinking**
- **Helps them construct a cohesive argument**
- **Helps them improve their presentation skills**

“[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*

“[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*



# AP Capstone™: The Right Choice?

## 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

# AP Capstone™: Application Process

- AP Capstone™ Application form is available at [www.sd41.bc.ca](http://www.sd41.bc.ca) or at Burnaby North or South. Applications must include:
  - student written responses
  - a parent questionnaire
  - a teacher recommendation
- Submit completed application to the AP Coordinator at your current District school by **Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 3:30pm**
- Acceptance letters will be sent to students at their home school in **March and April 2017**
- Accepted students will be transferred to Burnaby North or South.

# Additional Information about AP Capstone™

## AP Capstone™



AP Capstone: [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

Direct questions to:

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**Amos Lee @ Burnaby South:** [Amos.Lee@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:Amos.Lee@sd41.bc.ca)