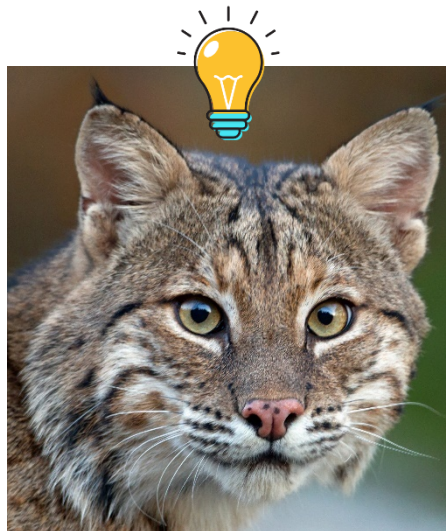


Piedmont Classical High School
Advanced Placement Capstone Academy
2020-2021



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Purpose

The AP Capstone Academy at Piedmont Classical High School offers highly-motivated students an opportunity to experience a rigorous academic and instructional program which will prepare them for college. In addition to completing their North Carolina and Piedmont Classical graduation requirements, students enrolled in the PCHS AP Capstone Academy will also fulfill a number of requirements that will entitle them to earning the AP Capstone Diploma, which will help them to stand out in the college application process, as well as the opportunity to earn college credit at a number of North Carolina colleges, as well as those around the United States. Students will also gain the skills of analysis, synthesis, argumentation, and high-level research that often may not be presented in honors- or standard-level classes, presented by a highly qualified instructor in small-class settings.

Benefits of Enrolling in the AP Capstone Academy:

- Fosters the research, argumentation, and communication skills at the core of college readiness and lifelong learning
- Provides a setting to build on the knowledge and rigorous coursework of AP in an interdisciplinary format
- Lets students show colleges that they've challenged themselves academically and also illustrate their passion and interest in specific research topics
- Makes students self-confident, independent thinkers prepared for higher education
- Allows students to collaborate on their research topics with higher education faculty and/or local community leaders

Equity and Access

“The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Schools should make every effort to ensure that their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging coursework before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.”

From the *AP Capstone Implementation Guide*, College Board, p. 2

How does the AP Capstone Academy fit into our classical model here at PCHS?

Here at Piedmont Classical High School, we teach our students how to *think*: to use evidence in argumentation, to discuss, to understand how all the discipline are interconnected and can be applied to the “real world,” as well as how to analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources. These skills line up nicely with the curriculum of the AP Capstone Academy. Throughout their high school career, students enrolled in the AP Capstone Academy will acquire a number of skills through their various AP classes: how to make historical arguments, how to analyze documents, how to identify themes and motifs in literature, how to prepare verbal arguments, and how to conduct college-level research.

In addition to our existing AP courses, students will also be enrolled in classes exclusive to our AP Capstone Academy, AP Seminar and AP Research. These classes will encourage students to “engage in cross-curricular conversations where they can 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 foundational, literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. They synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as a team...[as well as] address a research question. Students further develop their skills...by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information...culminating in an academic paper and a presentation with an oral defense.” (*AP Capstone Implementation Guide*, College Board, p. 9, 11-12). Thus, students will be combining their Advanced Placement skills with the skills that serve as prerequisite for graduating from Piedmont Classical High School: understanding and applying interdisciplinary and cross-curricular material, logic, and rhetoric.

Sample AP Capstone Academy Course Sequence

9th Grade:

Honors English I
Honors World History or Honors Civics and Economics
AP Human Geography
Other 9th grade requirements in science, math, and electives

10th Grade:

AP Seminar
AP Environmental Science (fulfills Earth/Environmental Science requirement)
AP Biology
AP Human Geography
AP World History (fulfills World History graduation requirement)
AP Statistics

11th Grade:*

AP Seminar
AP Environmental Science (fulfills Earth/Environmental Science requirement)
AP English Language and Composition (fulfills 11th grade English requirement)
AP Psychology
AP US History (fulfills 11th and 12th grade US History requirements)
AP Biology
AP Calculus AB
AP Human Geography
AP Statistics
AP European History
AP Psychology
AP Art
AP Latin
AP Chemistry

12th Grade:*

AP Research (only after completing AP Seminar in 10th or 11th grade)
AP Environmental Science (fulfills Earth/Environmental Science requirement)
AP English Literature and Composition (fulfills 12th grade English requirement)
AP Psychology
AP Biology
AP Calculus AB
AP Human Geography
AP Statistics
AP Calculus BC
AP European History
AP Physics
AP Art
AP Latin
AP Chemistry

*Minimum of four AP courses should be taken with a score of 3 or higher by the end of Junior year. Students may opt to take additional AP courses in 12th grade.

Optional AP Capstone Academy Course Focus

Our AP Capstone Academy also offers the option for students to take courses that best suit their talents in the classroom. For example, students who are stronger in their written skills and the understanding of texts may choose to take the Humanities Track, which focuses on English, history, social sciences, and the arts. Students who are strong in math and the sciences may opt to take the Math/Science Track instead. Both routes still require students to take AP Seminar and AP Research, which are pre-requisites for earning the AP Capstone Diploma.

Humanities Track:

AP Seminar
AP Research
AP Psychology
AP Human Geography
AP World History
AP English Language and Composition
AP US History
AP European History
AP Art
AP English Literature and Composition
AP Latin

Math/Science Track:

AP Seminar
AP Research
AP Psychology
AP Biology
AP Statistics
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics
AP Chemistry

Requirements for Successfully Completing the AP Capstone Academy

To receive the AP Capstone Diploma, students must:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and at least four additional AP exams of their choosing;
- Complete all the relevant coursework for all enrolled AP courses;
- And complete the research essay and oral defense serving as the final project for AP Research.

To receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, students must:

- Earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research but not on all four additional AP exams of their choosing;
- Complete all the relevant coursework for all enrolled AP Courses;
- And complete the research essay and oral defense serving as the final project for AP Research.

AP Capstone Policies

Pre-requisites

Students must first complete AP Seminar, including the end-of-course exam and all required performance tasks, to develop the skills necessary to succeed in AP Research. Students who score a 1 or 2 in AP Seminar are still eligible to enroll in AP Research, but they may need additional support and guidance during the course. Students must also complete all pre-requisite courses before enrolling in the AP courses of their choosing.

Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information

Students enrolled in the AP Capstone Academy must ethically use and acknowledge the ideas and work of others throughout their coursework. The student's individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited.

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution, or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g., evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Team Multimedia Presentation will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

Using Turnitin

In keeping with AP Capstone's policy on plagiarism, AP Capstone teachers and students will use Turnitin to evaluate the originality of student work and ensure that appropriate citations are included. Students will receive instruction on how to access and use Turnitin in AP Seminar.

Retaking AP Seminar and/or AP Research

AP Seminar:

Students may retake AP Seminar; however, they may not resubmit the work they produced in previous AP Seminar courses as part of their through-course assessment(s).

Students who retake AP Seminar must complete all Performance Tasks and the End-of-Course exam; individual component, task, or exam scores from previous years can't be applied.

AP Research:

Students may retake AP Research; however, they may not resubmit the work they produced in previous AP Research courses as part of their through-course assessment(s).

Students who retake AP Research must complete the Academic Paper and Presentation and Oral Defense on a new research topic; individual component scores from previous years can't be applied.

College Endorsement and Credit Policies for AP Capstone Program

A number of colleges and universities throughout North Carolina acknowledge, endorse, and provide credit to students who successfully complete the AP Capstone program.

The following colleges and universities publicly endorse the AP Capstone program:

- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- Queens University
- University of North Carolina: Asheville
- University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina: Charlotte
- University of North Carolina: Wilmington

The following colleges and universities have developed credit and placement policies for AP Seminar, AP Research, or both:

- Davidson College
- Queens University
- University of North Carolina: Wilmington

The following colleges and universities provide university credit for passing the AP exam that corresponds with introductory-level survey courses.^{1}*

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- North Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina: Asheville
- University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina: Charlotte
- University of North Carolina: Pembroke
- University of North Carolina: Wilmington
- University of North Carolina: School of the Arts
- Western Carolina State University
- Winston Salem State University

Performance Expectations and AP Intervention

¹ For more information, please speak to your Academic Advisor, Mr. Kiste, or visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>.

In order to be successful as a part of the AP Scholars Academy at Piedmont Classical High School, it is expected that all enrolled students will adjust themselves to the high amounts of effort and rigor that come with being enrolled in an Advanced Placement class.

As a result, the academic progress of AP Scholars will be monitored on a weekly basis to ensure that the following criteria are being met:

- Students are maintaining at least a 75% average in each AP class.
- Student attendance is regular and does not affect student's grades.

Students who do not maintain their performance in an AP class after first semester (lower than a 75% average in any AP class) will be placed on AP Intervention Level I:

- Student will meet with AP Education Coordinator once a month to discuss a plan for improvement
- Student will meet with corresponding AP teacher once per week and attain a signature by that AP teacher to prove tutoring occurred
- Student will be released from AP Intervention Level I upon maintaining a 75% average for one semester.

Students who do not maintain their performance in an AP class after one year (score lower than a 3 on the AP exam or fail an AP class) will be placed on AP Intervention Level II:

- Student will meet with AP Education Coordinator biweekly to discuss a plan for improvement during the following year
- Student will meet with each AP teacher once per week and attain a signature by that AP teacher to prove tutoring occurred
- Student will be released from AP Intervention Level II upon maintaining a 75% average in each AP class for one semester

The AP Education Coordinator and Administration of Piedmont Classical High School reserve the right to remove a student from the AP Scholar Academy for the following reasons:

- Student does not maintain a passing average after the second year of being placed on AP Intervention Level II
- Student does not meet with AP Education Coordinator on a regular basis while on AP Intervention Level I or Level II
- Student does not attend tutoring on a regular basis with AP teacher while on AP Intervention Level I or Level II
- Student chooses not to re-enroll in AP Seminar after failing the course's AP exam during their sophomore or junior years
- Student chooses not to enroll in required number of AP courses to fulfill the Capstone Diploma requirement

**Piedmont Classical High School
AP Scholars Academy
Student Expectations Agreement**

As a student enrolling in the AP Scholars Academy at PCHS, I understand and agree to the following:

- It is my responsibility to enroll in and complete AP Seminar, AP Research, and at least four (4) other AP classes following the course sequence set out by the AP Scholars Academy;
- That I must pass each AP exam with at least a score of a 3 or higher in order to earn credit toward the AP Capstone Diploma;
- That I will maintain at least a 75% average in each of my enrolled AP classes, and that if my grade is lower than a 75% that I will adhere to the established guidelines for AP Intervention as outlined by the AP Scholars Academy;
- That I will meet with the Academic Advisors at the conclusion of every school year to plan for the following school years, understanding that I will be working toward the fulfillment of requirements that will make me eligible for the AP Capstone Diploma;
- That I may opt to exit myself from the AP Scholars Academy at the conclusion or beginning of each school year, and that if I drop AP Seminar, AP Research, or any other AP course after ten (10) school days, I will receive an F on my transcript for the corresponding course;
- That my role as a scholar comes before any and all extracurricular teams, clubs, or activities, and that a score lower than a 65% can and will make me ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities, projects, and games until grades are improved;

I, _____, agree to the conditions outlined above.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

AP Teacher Signature

Date

AP Coordinator Signature

Date

**Piedmont Classical High School
AP Student Expectations Agreement**

Date: _____

Student Name: _____
AP Course: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
AP Teacher: _____
AP Coordinator: _____

You are currently registered to take an AP course this year. Taking an AP course and exam is a collaborative effort between you the student, your parent/guardian, and the school. Each party plays a role and must make the commitment to meet the expectations noted below.

The Student agrees to organize their time and effort to successfully complete the AP course in which they are enrolled. The student will notify teachers immediately if they fall behind in class readings and/or assignments. The student will be expected to complete assignments, readings and projects outside of class time. The student recognizes that this course will be taught at a *college* level in preparation for the corresponding AP exam, and that it is *their* responsibility to complete all assignments and assessments at the level of rigor set by the instructor. The student will take the AP Exam on its scheduled date and time as outlined by the College Board.

The Parent/Guardian agrees to be familiar with and accept the AP course requirements and policies, and to help their child organize study time in support of class assignments. The parent/guardian recognizes that this course will be taught at a *college* level in preparation for the corresponding AP exam, and that it is *the student's* responsibility to complete all assignments and assessments at the level of rigor set by the instructor. The parent/guardian agrees to purchase any materials required by individual instructors and to pay the exam fee as determined by the AP coordinator. If the parent/guardian is unable to meet these requirements for financial reasons, they will contact the AP coordinator immediately.

The School (AP teacher and AP coordinator) agrees to provide rigorous instruction and challenging course content as described in the AP Course Description. The school will provide the student with a copy of the *Bulletin for AP Students and Parents* and agrees to administer the AP Exam in a fair and secure environment as outlined in the *AP Coordinator's Manual*.

I, _____, agree to the conditions outlined above. I understand that a fee of \$_____ will be collected if the student fails to take the AP Exam.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

AP Teacher Signature

Date

AP Coordinator Signature

Date

The student is responsible for collecting the required signatures and returning this agreement to the AP coordinator by _____. A separate agreement must be submitted for each AP course a student takes.

PLEASE NOTE: The College Board does not require that students enrolled in an AP course take the corresponding AP Exam, EXCEPT students enrolled in AP Capstone classes such as AP Seminar and AP Research. This agreement is for school use only based on AP Exam administration policies established locally by school officials.

AP Exam Parent Information Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is currently enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course at Piedmont Classical High School. Each AP course has a culminating comprehensive exam that is administered nationally during the month of May. **Students are required to be present for this exam. A no-show fee of \$15.00 will be charged if a student fails to attend the May administration.**

Performance on the AP exam could qualify your student for advanced placement opportunities in college or may earn college credit. However, the score a student receives on the national AP exam does not affect the final grade in the class. All students enrolled in AP classes will receive a higher quality point for the grade earned in the course, regardless of the AP exam score. For more information about the benefits of taking AP exams, please visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/for-parents>.

In 2020-2021, the state of North Carolina started covering the full cost of the AP exam (\$91.00) for any student taking the corresponding AP course. This investment is indicative of the state's support of college readiness and opportunity. Students may opt to take an AP exam without being enrolled in the AP course, but, in this case, the full cost of the exam will be incurred by the family.

Please initial beside the following statements to indicate your understanding then sign below.

_____ Students are required to attend the AP exam administration in May for each enrolled AP course.

_____ Students who fail to attend the AP exam will be charged a \$15.00 no-show fee.

_____ There is no cost for AP exams for students enrolled in the corresponding course. If not enrolled in the course, the exam cost is \$91.00.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

For questions regarding AP exam registration or administration, please contact Alex Tyler, PCHS Academic Advisor at ATyler@PiedmontClassical.com.

AP Class Drop Agreement

The Advanced Placement Program is an academic program of college-level courses and examinations for high school students. Students enrolled in AP courses take the College Board AP Exam and have an opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced standing in college based on their scores on the AP Exam. The curriculum of

an AP course is challenging and goes into greater depth with the academic material than regular courses. AP courses require students to use analytical thinking, reading, writing, and problem-solving skills. AP courses are taught using college level materials and teaching strategies.

These demanding classes require more effort, time & skills than Honors or Regular level classes and are recommended for highly motivated students. We are delighted that you are considering enrolling in an AP class. However, we want all parents & students to completely understand the rigor of the class & the commitment required by the student. For this reason, we require that the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) read and sign this agreement. Unlike most high school curriculums that are separated by semesters, learning AP course material is an ongoing process culminating in the AP Exam.

***Students who sign this agreement are committing to remain in an AP class for the entire year & commit to take the AP Exam. If a student withdrawal after the ten-instructional-day window at the beginning of the school year you will receive an F on your transcript. ***

AGREEMENT:

My child and I have read the agreement and my child would like to enroll in an AP course. We understand the level work required and the policies explained on the previous pages and are prepared to fulfill these requirements. We also understand that if the student drops the course after the ten-instructional-day enrollment period, they will receive an F on their transcript.

Student (PRINT) _____

Student (SIGN) _____

Parent/Guardian (SIGN) _____

Date _____

Grade Level _____

School Year _____

Please list the AP Courses registered for:

Athletic Eligibility Form

At Piedmont Classical High School, *academics* is one of our three pillars. However, we do realize that athletics and extracurriculars are things that our students also enjoy participating in. Those enrolled at PCHS need to recognize that in the term “student-athlete,” the word “student” comes first.

As a result, Piedmont Classical High School will be implementing the following expectations in regard to academic eligibility:

- Any student participating in an athletic sport or club activity is expected to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average;
- At no time should any student participating in an athletic sport or club activity be failing a class.

Any student who does not fulfill these expectations (i.e. has lower than a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or an F in one or more class), will be ineligible for participating on their team or club activity until their grades improve. Participants should still attend games and competitions to support their team but should be using practice and meeting times getting caught up on their schoolwork so they can once again become eligible.

Grades will be checked on a bi-weekly basis for athletic eligibility but may be checked and decisions regarding eligibility made more often at the coach’s discretion.

I understand and agree that I am held to high academic expectations in order to be considered eligible for participating in extracurricular athletic and club activities.

I understand that if my cumulative GPA is below a 2.0 and/or if I am failing a class, I will be considered ineligible to participate in games or competitions until my grades and GPA improve.

I understand that I will still need to attend games or competitions to support my teammates, but that I should be spending practice or meeting times studying, doing homework, getting caught up, or participating in tutoring hours to make me eligible for participation.

I understand that my academic performance will be checked on a bi-weekly basis, or more often at my coach’s discretion, which will determine my eligibility.

Student Name Date

Parent Name Date

Coach’s Name Date