



Career Kickstart

Offer AP in high-demand career pathways.



A stronger CTE pathway can include both career preparation and the opportunity to earn college credit. AP® Career Kickstart™ gives students access to college-level learning within in-demand career pathways, so career readiness and academic rigor reinforce each other rather than compete for space in the schedule.

Developed with both colleges and industry leaders, these courses combine college-level content with applied learning. They build professional career skills and are designed to accelerate high school students on their paths to in-demand careers. Easily tailored to fit into existing career and technical education programs of study, these AP courses give students the opportunity to earn college credit and gain stackable employer-endorsed credentials.

They can help schools extend AP into areas not traditionally part of an AP program and make advanced coursework more relevant to students who are interested in specific careers or who prefer applied learning. Schools can add an AP Career Kickstart course within existing CTE programs of study, as singletons, or as new elective offerings, using current staff, schedules, and structures. Each AP course stands on its own, so your school can start with one and add more over time.



Courses

AP Business with
Personal Finance

AP Computer Science
Principles

AP Cybersecurity

AP Networking

What These Courses Enable

- **Alignment:** Stronger connection between your AP offerings and your school's career goals
- **Availability:** Chance for more students to earn college credit before graduation
- **Dual Growth:** Focused way to grow both CTE and AP at your school
- **Student Outcomes:** Skill-building that applies to both college and careers

Why These Courses Work

Course	What students learn	Projects	CTE program of study	Employment / industry value
AP Business with Personal Finance	How businesses grow and compete – and how to manage money, credit, and personal finances	Students complete an entrepreneurial Business Canvas project and a Financial Advisor project.	Business / Finance / Entrepreneurship	Connects directly to careers in business, finance, and entrepreneurship – including an employer-endorsed credential earned in high school
AP Computer Science Principles*	How technology, like AI, works – and how to build, program, and create with it	Students design and develop a computing solution to a real-world problem, and design an AI-based solution, through two performance tasks.	Information Technology / Computer Science	Builds foundational computing, problem-solving, and AI-readiness skills used across a wide range of tech careers
AP Cybersecurity	How to identify risks, defend systems, and respond to cyber threats	Students analyze vulnerabilities and respond to realistic cybersecurity scenarios and incidents.	Cybersecurity / Information Technology	Prepares students for high-demand roles in cybersecurity, aligns to industry frameworks, and includes an employer-endorsed credential
AP Networking	How to configure, secure, and troubleshoot networks	Students complete hands-on networking tasks and scenarios, including building and managing networks.	Networking / IT Infrastructure	Develops practical skills used in network administration and IT support roles – including an employer-endorsed credential earned in high school

*While AP Computer Science Principles does not offer an employer-endorsed credential, it builds essential technology skills that align well with this career-focused course set.

How These Courses Can Work in Your School

- **Replace, not rebuild:** Swap an existing course with its AP equivalent—using the staff, schedule, and structures you already have.
- **Enhance what you offer:** Add an AP course to an existing CTE program of study.

How Your Teachers Get Started

- 1** Review the course and exam description.
- 2** Schedule a free 1:1 Zoom Chat to talk through course content and skills.
- 3** Initiate the AP Course Audit.
- 4** Request a grant to attend professional learning.
- 5** Register for an AP Summer Institute.

Take the Next Step



Learn More

Explore this approach and learn more about this set of AP courses at:
cb.org/apcareerkickstart



Get Connected

Scan the QR code and complete the short AP Interest Form to get connected.