



Start with One AP

A practical, early way to expand access to advanced coursework



One well-placed AP® course in grade 9 or 10 can open advanced coursework to more students earlier, while strengthening the access to rigor reflected in your school's accountability goals. Students are more likely to begin AP when they can start with one course early, rather than taking several at once later.

Design your school's AP program so that at least one of these courses is available early in high school. That gives students a clear entry point into advanced coursework and gives your school a practical way to broaden participation without rebuilding the full schedule at once. These courses have no or minimal prerequisites and can support a broad range of learners.

They also build skills students will use across AP courses—working with data, evaluating evidence, and building arguments—so students are better prepared for what comes next. Because each AP course stands on its own, schools can start with one and add others over time. When at least one of these courses is available early, AP becomes a realistic first step for more students.

What These Courses Enable

- **Alignment:** Strengthen the connection between your AP program and your school's accountability goals.
- **Program Coherence:** Move from limited entry to advanced coursework to a connected program where key skills are introduced early with AP.
- **Availability:** Help more students find an early on-ramp to advanced coursework.
- **Growth:** Focus growth in advanced coursework by adding the AP courses that are right for your school.



Courses

AP Business with
Personal Finance

AP Computer Science
Principles

AP Human Geography

AP Seminar

AP Seminar: English

AP Spanish Language
and Culture

AP World History: Modern

Why These Courses Work

Course	What students learn	Why it works as a first AP
AP Business with Personal Finance	How businesses grow and compete — and how to manage money, credit, and personal finances	Connects to real career skills and everyday financial decisions
AP Computer Science Principles	How technology, like AI, works — and how to build, program, and create with it	Opens access to advanced coursework for students interested in STEM pathways
AP Human Geography	How to use maps, landscapes, and data to explain geographic connection and change	Builds early experience with data, spatial thinking, and real-world analysis
AP Seminar	How to investigate questions, evaluate evidence, and build arguments	Builds skills used across all AP courses
AP Seminar: English	How to read literature and nonfiction critically, analyze evidence-based arguments, and build writing and communication skills	Opens access to advanced coursework through familiar English Language Arts content and skills
AP Spanish Language and Culture	How to communicate, connect, and explore cultures across the Spanish-speaking world	Expands access to advanced coursework while strengthening real-world communication skills and cultural fluency
AP World History: Modern	How people, ideas, conflicts, and innovations shaped the modern world	Strengthens the thinking, reading, and writing skills used across AP

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.

Extend what you offer: Add an AP course after an existing sequence in social studies, computer science, English, world languages, or career and technical education.

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/ap-start-with-one



Get Connected

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