

# AP Capstone and Independent Study & Mentorship

## A Side-By-Side Comparison

	<b>AP Capstone</b>	<b>ISM</b>
<b>LENGTH</b>	2-Year Program (option to take 1 <sup>st</sup> year only)	1-Year-Program (option to repeat 2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
<b>START</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	6.0 Grade Point Scale	5.5 Grade Point Scale
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	Open	Application and Interview Process
	<b>YEAR ONE: AP SEMINAR</b>	<b>FIRST SEMESTER: ISM</b>
<b>REAL-WORLD ANALYSIS</b>	Analyze real-world issues from multiple perspectives	Analyze real-world careers with professional interviews and mentorship
<b>RELEVANT RESEARCH</b>	Topic-based research (strong emphasis on research & technical writing)	Career-based research (strong emphasis on interviewing skills and professionalism)
<b>PROJECTS &amp; PRESENTATIONS</b>	Team & individual projects and presentations	Individual projects & progressively longer presentations
<b>RIGOROUS ASSESSMENTS</b>	Team and individual research papers and presentations, AP Exam components	FISD Business Symposium, FISD Research Showcase; Research assessments, original work project
<b>GUIDANCE</b>	Teacher-guided topics transition to student-selected topics	Student-selected careers and student-selected mentors
<b>FINAL PROJECT</b>	Major research essay, AP exam (3 components)	Field-specific, original work
<b>LOCATION</b>	Classroom-based learning	Classroom and off-campus interviews and mentor visits
	<b>YEAR TWO: AP RESEARCH</b>	<b>SECOND SEMESTER: ISM</b>
<b>YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION</b>	Students design, plan and conduct research on student-selected topic or problem	Continue mentorship in student-selected career; Development of research portfolio
<b>FINAL PRESENTATION</b>	Final academic presentation & paneled oral defense	Final presentation of student-generated project; evaluated by professional mentor
<b>FINAL PRODUCT</b>	Academic thesis paper (~5,000 words) on student-selected topic	Professional field-specific final product & research portfolio on student-selected career
<b>TEACHER</b>	AP Teacher (specially trained by CollegeBoard®)	ISM Teacher and Medical/Professional Mentor
<b>MENTOR</b>	Optional	Required