

# AP Cybersecurity

Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>) Cybersecurity gives students a future-proof career that helps them stay ahead in tech, solve real-world problems, and make a meaningful impact protecting people, companies, and even nations from digital threats.

## What Students Will Learn About

- Common threats and vulnerabilities in the digital world and how they combine to create risk.
- How individuals and organizations manage risk and how risk can be mitigated through a defense-in-depth strategy.
- Specific vulnerabilities, attacks, mitigations, and detection measures across a variety of domains including physical spaces, computer networks, devices, and data and applications.
- Throughout the course, students consider the impact of cybersecurity on individuals, organizations, societies, and governments.

Students get real-world, everyday experiences with authentic cybersecurity **scenarios**. Each unit includes between one and five scenarios that highlight professional career situations and require students to practice the use of the skills and course content within that unit.

Work-based scenarios include:

- Conduct a physical vulnerability assessment of a new lab.
- Recommend and diagram a set of security features for three LANs on a naval submarine.
- Assess the risk from possible vulnerabilities of internet-connected farm equipment.
- Set access to proprietary research and development on an air-gapped computer.

## Course Development

All AP courses are developed with expert high school educators and college faculty. In addition, AP Cybersecurity and the other AP career courses are developed with input from industry experts and associations.

## AP Exam and Industry Credential

The course will launch with an AP Exam in the 2026-27 school year. In addition to earning college credit and/or placement, as is typical for AP courses, students with a qualifying score on the AP Exam have the opportunity to earn an employer endorsed credential, signaling students' attainment of essential cybersecurity workplace-ready skills valued by employers.

## CTE Pathway Alignment

AP Cybersecurity is an AP course designed for a CTE pathway in Information Technology, Computer Science, and/or Cybersecurity.

Content and skills taught in the course align with the professional skills outlined in the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Workforce Framework.

## About the Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement Program brings relevant and engaging college-level work to high school students from all backgrounds, creating pathways to college and career. All AP courses are anchored in a framework of learning objectives, include free student and teacher resources, and culminate in an exam or project portfolio for college credit. Wherever students enter an AP classroom, they have access to the same high-quality course material and exam.