

AP Computer Science Principles Application

2026-27 School Year

Course Overview

The Advanced Placement Program enables a student to take a college level course while still in high school. The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory college computing elective course.

This course is open to students in **9th through 11th** grade. 12th grade students interested in Computer Science are encouraged to apply to [AP CSA](#) instead. The end of course requirements are **not a good fit for the Senior schedule**.

Please familiarize yourself with the curriculum of this course by visiting the following link:

- <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-computer-science-principles>

Next, please read the following prerequisites and expectations for the course. Both the student and parents must sign that they understand the expectations before the student will be considered to take the course.

Prerequisites

- It is strongly recommended that students complete Algebra I with a final grade of B or higher prior to enrolling in this course.
- Students must have strong writing skills in place, and must **request an evaluation from their English teacher**. This request should be made respectfully through email, and the email should be copied to rebeccastacey@mckeelschools.com. The teacher will then be provided with the link for the recommendation.
- Candidates must submit an **original** program that solves a problem, enables innovation, explores a personal interest, or expresses your creativity.
 - This program should highlight your ability to think algorithmically, which is being able to take a larger problem, break it down into smaller parts, and write clear, unambiguous instructions to solve it step-by-step. The program may be as long or short as needed to solve the problem. **There are no requirements as to how many blocks or lines of code you need.**
 - The program may be written in any high-level language, whether blocks-based or text. (NXT-G, EV3-G, RobotC, Scratch, Alice, Python, Javascript, Java, etc.)
 - Please include the following written information:
 - (150 words or less) Clearly explain the intended purpose of your program, and how it could be socially useful. Discuss at least two specific lines or a specific block of code that play(s) an important role in your program, and explain how this code contributes to the overall functionality of the program.
 - (250 words or less) Explain why you want to take AP Computer Science. Include your goals for the future, and how Computer Science could play a part. Why is Computer Science important to you, and why is it important to society, the economy, and culture? Identify a current problem in the field of Computer Science, and explain how it might be solved.

- Completed programs and written responses must be submitted through email by March 27, 2026, to rebeccastacey@mckeelschools.com.

Expectations

Homework/Pace/Grading

Because it is a college-level course, the pace will be quick. Students will need to be consistently attentive and on task. ***Many students have the tendency to be off task when using an electronic device. Those students will have difficulty keeping up with the college-level pace of the curriculum.***

Students must be willing to work diligently on all assignments. Students who manage their class time effectively will have very little homework. Students who cannot manage their time effectively will quickly fall behind.

Attendance in each class is vital. Students who are absent frequently may struggle. It is expected that the students will do their assignments promptly.

It is vital that students be self-directed problem solvers. Students will routinely deal with frustrating problems in their research, coding, and project design. They must be able to deal with this frustration effectively and proactively. They may need to spend a great deal of time on a particular aspect of their program before it is what they want, so perseverance is a must!

The AP CSP Exam

The course will require students to create an online digital portfolio with the College Board and submit a performance task consisting of an original program. The College Board deadlines are hard and fast, there can be no late submission of these projects. Failure to turn in a performance task on time immediately eliminates the possibility of earning a passing AP score.

The course will conclude with a 3-hour multiple choice/multiple answer/written response final exam in May.

Equipment

It is important that students have access to a laptop or desktop computer at home so that they can work there when necessary. ***An iPad is NOT sufficient.***

Summer Preparation

Students will receive information about required summer work upon their acceptance.

Agreement/Acknowledgement

If both the student and the parents understand these expectations and are committed to the effort necessary to succeed in AP CSP, please sign below and return to Mrs. Stacey. All application materials must be turned in by March 27, 2026.

Please make a copy for your records

Student (Print) _____

Student(Sign) _____

Date _____

Parent(Sign) _____

Date _____

~~~~~*Do not write below this line*~~~~~

Original program submitted: Yes / No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reflection submitted: Yes / No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

English Teacher Recommendation requested: Yes / No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_