

AP Career Kickstart

AP Cybersecurity: What Families Need to Know



Your student has the opportunity to take AP[®] Cybersecurity, a course that builds skills for in-demand career fields and offers the chance to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, plus an employer-endorsed credential.

What Is AP Cybersecurity?

AP Cybersecurity is a yearlong Advanced Placement[®] course. Your student will learn how digital systems are attacked and how to defend them, covering networks, devices, data, applications, and physical security. It's a college-level course taught in high school, built around real-world scenarios, with no prior coding experience required.

What Can My Student Earn from This Course?

Your student can earn three things: college credit, advanced placement, or both with a qualifying AP Exam score; and the AP Cybersecurity Credential, an employer-endorsed credential, with that same qualifying score.

Is This Course Right for My Student?

This course is designed for broad access, like the other AP Career Kickstart[™] courses. AP Cybersecurity doesn't require coding knowledge or prior computer science coursework. If your student is curious about technology, problem-solving, or how organizations protect themselves from digital threats, they may be a great fit for this course.



Invite students to visit
[cb.org/explore-AP](https://collegeboard.org/explore-AP)
to tell us they're interested.

What Kinds of Careers Does This Course Connect To?

Cybersecurity connects to a wide range of in-demand careers. Information security analyst, one of the roles this course connects to, has a median annual wage of \$129,180 and is projected to grow 21% through 2035 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Career paths include Information Security Analyst, Network and Computer Systems Administrator, Digital Forensic Analyst, Junior Information Security Engineer, and Compliance Manager.

Course Highlights

- No coding required; designed for any student curious about technology and digital safety
- Developed with college faculty and industry leaders; aligns to the NICE Workforce Framework and NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- Three skill themes spiral through the whole course: Analyze Risk, Mitigate Risk, and Detect Attacks
- Can fit into a career and technical education (CTE) program of study or be offered as a standalone elective

Talk to your student's school counselor to sign up. Ask about AP Cybersecurity during the next course selection conversation.