

AP Career Kickstart

AP Networking: What Families Need to Know



Your student may soon have the opportunity to take AP® Networking, a course that builds skills for in-demand technology fields and offers the chance to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, plus an employer-endorsed credential.

What Is AP Networking?

AP Networking is a yearlong Advanced Placement® course launching in the 2027-28 school year. Your student will learn how devices, networks, and the internet stay connected, from a single device up to global infrastructure. It's a college-level course taught in high school, built around real-world scenarios, with no prior coding or networking 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 Networking 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 Networking doesn't require coding knowledge or prior computer science coursework. If your student is curious about how technology connects and communicates, they may be a great fit for this course.

What Kinds of Careers Does This Course Connect To?

Networking connects to a wide range of in-demand technology careers. Computer systems analyst, one of the roles this course connects to, has a median annual wage of \$105,850 and is projected to grow 8% through 2035 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Career paths include Network and Computer Systems Administrator, Computer Network Support Specialist, Information Security Engineer, and Computer Systems Engineer or Architect. Growth outlooks vary by role, and these roles typically require education beyond high school.

Course Highlights

- No coding required; designed for any student curious about how devices and networks connect
- Four units cover personal devices, shared networks, larger managed networks, and global connectivity
- 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 about AP Networking when you build next year's schedule.



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