

AP Career Kickstart

Counselor FAQ



1 How do I know if a student is ready for an AP® Career Kickstart™ course?
AP Career Kickstart courses are designed to be accessible with no prerequisites while still maintaining college-level rigor through the AP framework.

2 How do these fit with what we already offer?
These courses can add:

- College credit opportunities
- Employer-endorsed credentials

They can complement what you already offer, whether or not your school has career and technical education (CTE) pathways.

3 How do these courses relate to CTE?
AP Career Kickstart connects college-level AP coursework with career-connected learning. These courses align to both college expectations and workforce needs, helping students keep multiple pathways open.

4 How do these courses support students' college plans?
These courses support college plans by:

- Providing college credit opportunities
- Building transferable skills
- Supporting both two-year and four-year pathways

5 What kinds of students should I recommend this to?
These courses are ideal for:

- Students exploring career interests
- Students who prefer applied learning
- Students new to AP
- Students who want to connect their learning to career fields

6 Do students need prior experience?
No prior experience is required for any of the three courses: AP Business with Personal Finance, AP Cybersecurity, or AP Networking.

7 Is AP Networking available now?
Not yet at most schools. The 2026-27 school year is AP Networking's final pilot year, and it launches broadly in 2027-28. This is a good year to start building awareness with students so the course is already on their radar when next year's course selection comes around.

8 How do these courses fit into a schedule?
AP Career Kickstart courses can be tailored to a school's existing CTE program of study, but that is not a requirement. They work just as well as a standalone elective, with no CTE pathway needed. We designed them to complement—not replace—existing CTE pathways where a school already has them, but having one is not a prerequisite for offering the course.

9 How does this fit alongside our other AP offerings?
AP Career Kickstart courses can easily fit within a school's existing AP program. They're aimed at reaching students who want the benefits of AP in courses that interest them.

These courses:

- Welcome students who are new to AP
- Give students another entry point into AP, not a substitute for the ones you already offer
- Connect directly to in-demand careers alongside the depth your other AP courses already provide

Recommend it in addition to your other AP courses, not instead of them. This is about growing who takes AP, not shifting students away from existing courses.

Quick Counselor Positioning Statement

"AP Career Kickstart gives more students a way into AP by connecting college-level coursework to career fields."



Invite students to visit cb.org/explore-AP to tell us they're interested.

