Preparing for the "AP Computer Science A" Exam with CompuScholar's "Java Programming" Curriculum

This document outlines the steps needed to offer an "**AP Computer Science A**" class in your school or homeschool. The College Board's AP CSA exam allows students to earn college credit by demonstrating mastery of computer science.

The CompuScholar **Java Programming** curriculum is **endorsed by the College Board** as a primary resource for an "**AP CSA**" course.

Schools or homeschool families are responsible for signing students up for the AP CSA Exam. The exam is not administered as part of CompuScholar's curriculum. Public/private school teachers should work with their school's AP Coordinator.

Homeschool families can review the AP Course Ledger to find local schools authorized to administer the AP CSA exam. You must contact these schools to inquire about support for homeschooled students and register your student for the exam through an authorized school before November 15 to avoid late fees. We encourage you to identify a school willing to accommodate your homeschooled student EARLY in the school year to ensure the student will be able to take the exam.

CompuScholar is recognized by the College Board as an endorsed provider of curriculum and professional development for AP® Computer Science A (AP CSA). Using an Endorsed Provider affords schools access to resources including an AP CSA syllabus pre-approved by the College Board's AP Course Audit, and officially recognized professional development that prepares teachers to teach AP CSA. This endorsement affirms only that components of CompuScholar's offerings are aligned to all the AP Curriculum Framework standards and the AP CSA assessment

The Big Picture

Successful execution of an "AP Computer Science A" class includes these steps:

Step	Description
Complete the AP Course Audit process	Schools or homeschool families who wish to designate a class as "AP" (or access the secured College Board resources) must complete the Course Audit process with the College Board.
Locate your test venue and register for the exam	Public/Private school students will sign up for the exam in conjunction with your school's AP coordinator. Homeschool students must register to take the exam through a local, authorized school that will accommodate homeschool students (see page 1). **Complete this step EARLY in the school year to avoid late fees and ensure a testing venue is available! Check the College Board's website for registration deadlines and late fees.**
Complete the *Java Programming* course	Students will learn programming concepts and skills required for the "AP Computer Science A" exam, including sufficient lab work and programming activities.
Take practice AP Exam questions	Test preparation includes using publicly available examples and practice tests, including resources published by the College Board.
Take the exam	Students must take the exam at a school authorized to administer the exam.

Complete the AP Course Audit Process

To be listed as an "AP" course on a transcript – or to access the secured College Board practice resources - a teacher must complete the AP "**Course Audit**" process, renewed annually. Submitting a syllabus to meet the College Board requirements is the responsibility of the teacher or school.

CompuScholar's **Java Programming curriculum** is endorsed by the College Board. This means you can simply select the CompuScholar option from the list of endorsed providers during the Course Audit process.

Course Audit schedules and high-level information can be found here:

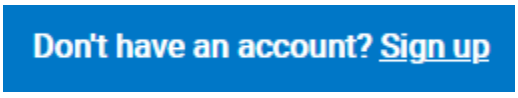
https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-course-audit

Note that completing the course audit process merely lets you list the course as "AP" on a transcript. It does not automatically enroll your students in the AP exam or guarantee any particular grade on the exam. Only scores from the AP exam are considered by colleges when assigning credit.

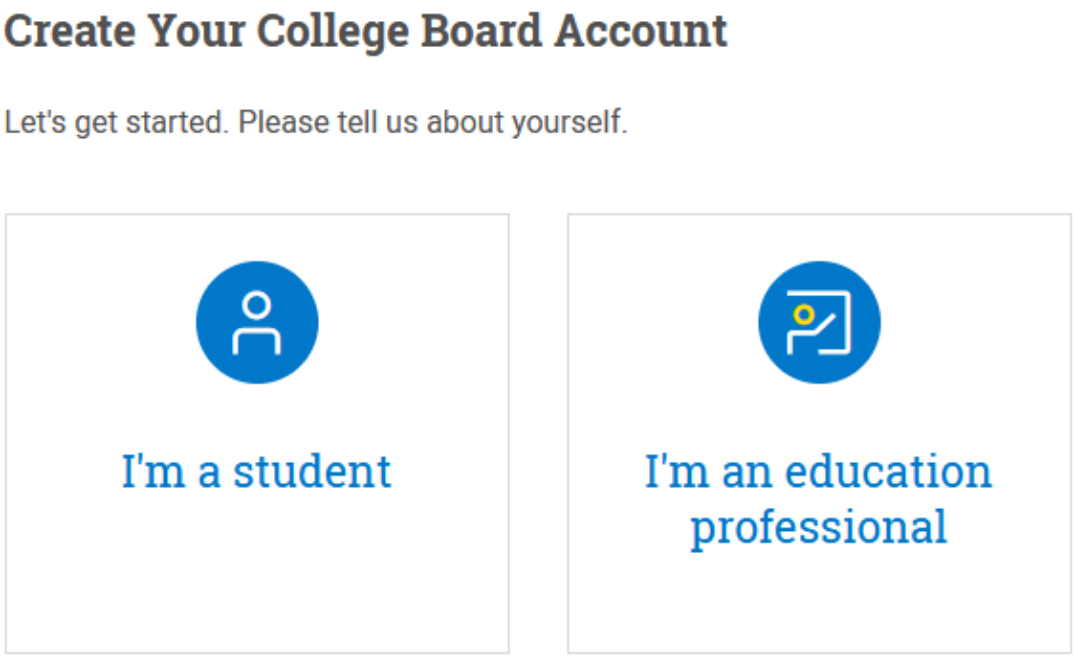
Step-by-Step Instructions – Creating a College Board Teacher Account

If you do not already have a teacher account at the College Board, you can create one as follows:

1. Go to the main College Board website (https://www.collegeboard.org/) and look for the sign-up link near the top.

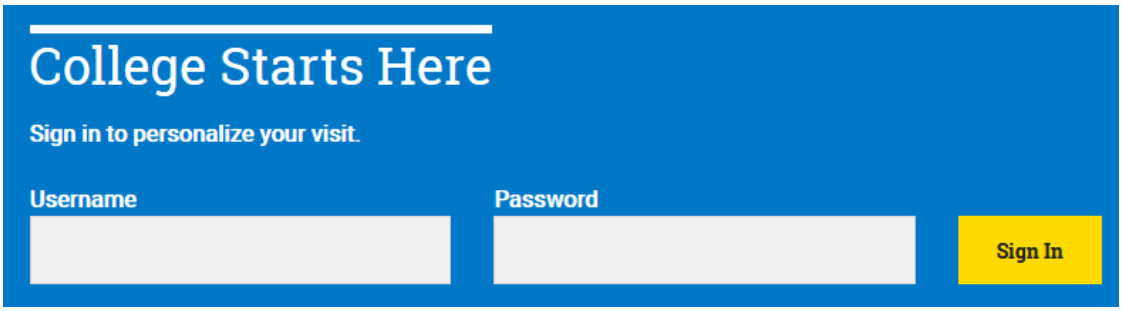


2. Select "I'm an education professional" on the next page



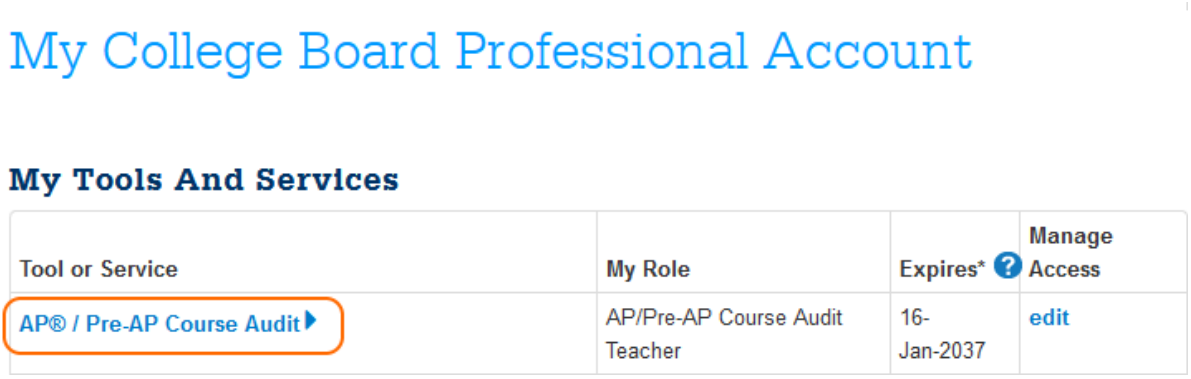
3. Fill out the registration form and complete any additional registration steps as instructed by the College Board. When prompted for an organization, **homeschool parents** should select a **"homeschool" organization** for your state (do not enter "CompuScholar"). If you are unable to find the homeschool entry for your state, please contact the College Board for assistance. The College Board may need to verify your homeschool status with your state.

4. Once registered, you can log in as needed at https://www.collegeboard.org/.



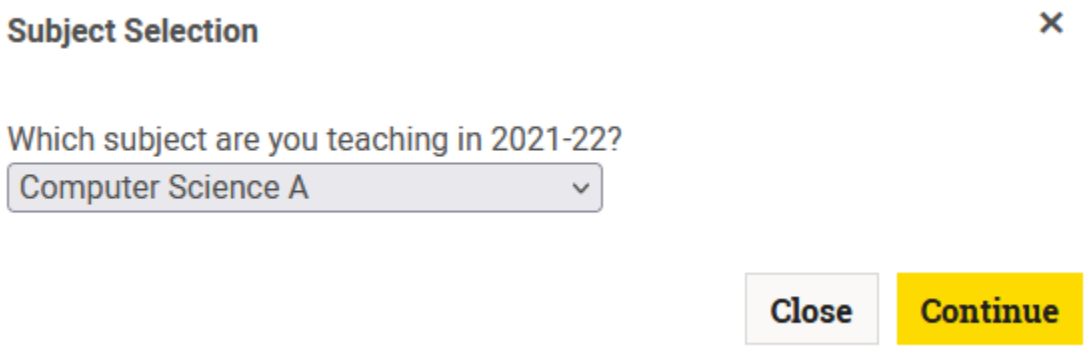
Step-by-Step Instructions – Completing the Course Audit

1. To complete the Course Audit, first log in with your teacher account at the College Board website.
2. On your teacher dashboard, click on the link for "**AP / Pre-AP Course Audit**".

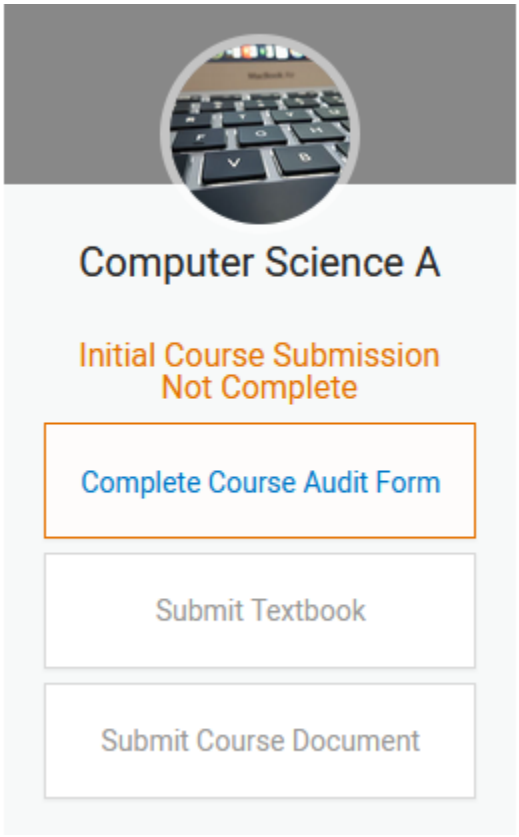


3. Click the "+Add Course" button

4. Select "Computer Science A" from the drop-down, click "Continue", and confirm your selection in the next prompt.

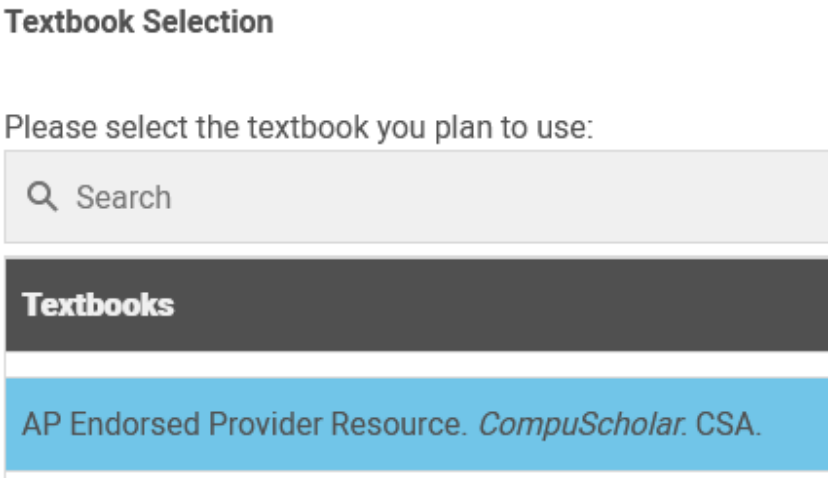


5. When complete, you will see a new panel for "Computer Science A" on your Course Audit page.



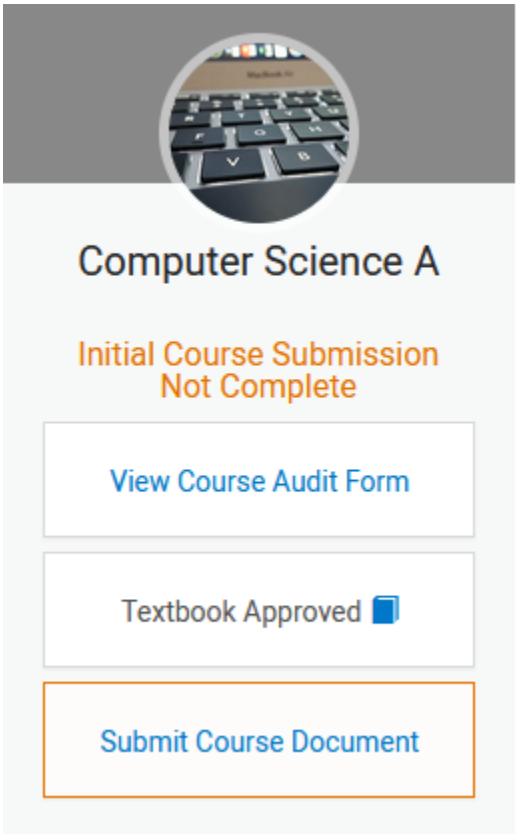
6. Next, click on "**Complete Course Audit Form**". Review the bulleted points and check "I Agree" to the right of each point.

7. In the Textbook Selection area, click "Select Textbook" and choose the **"AP Endorsed Provider Resource, CompuScholar"** for CSA.

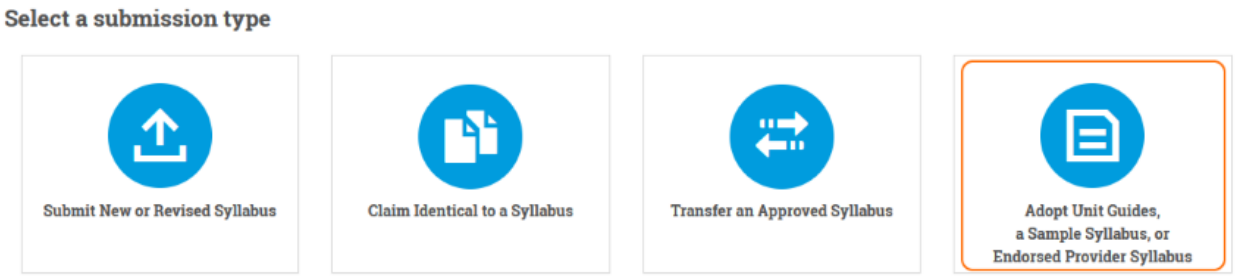


8. Fill out and submit the remainder of the form.

9. After the Audit form is submitted, your Computer Science A panel will update to show your textbook is approved. Click on "Submit Course Document" to complete the remaining step.

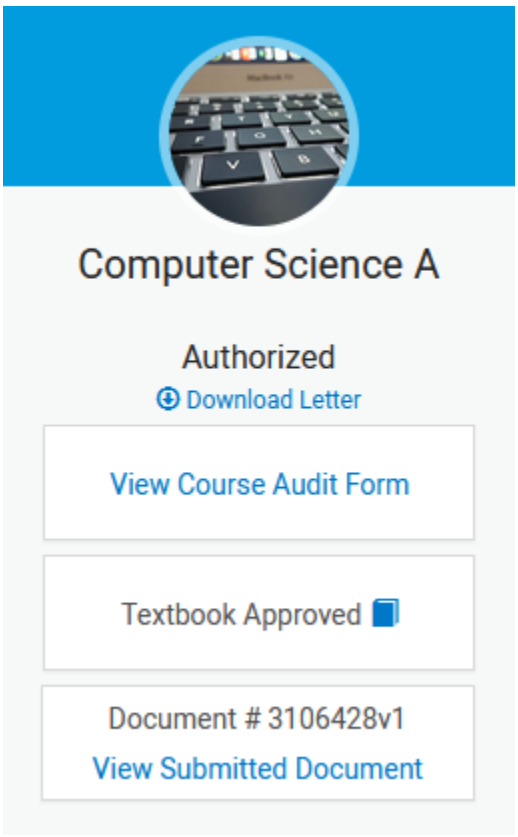


10. Because CompuScholar is an endorsed AP CSA provider, you do not need to create your own syllabus. For the submission type, select the "Endorsed Provider Syllabus" option.



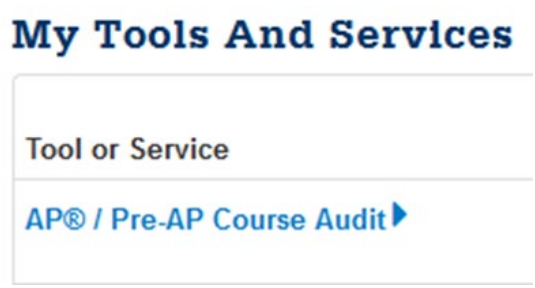
11. Select the "CompuScholar Sample Syllabus"'

12. Click the "Download" button to get a PDF copy of the syllabus, then click "Submit" to use that syllabus.
13. When finished, your Course Audit page will show your Computer Science A course is "Authorized". Your Course Audit is complete!



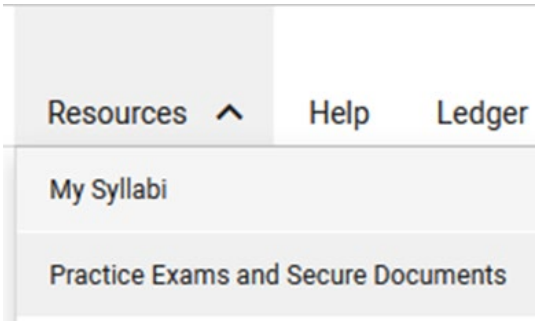
Accessing Secured College Board Resources

(Sample Labs, Practice Exams, etc.)

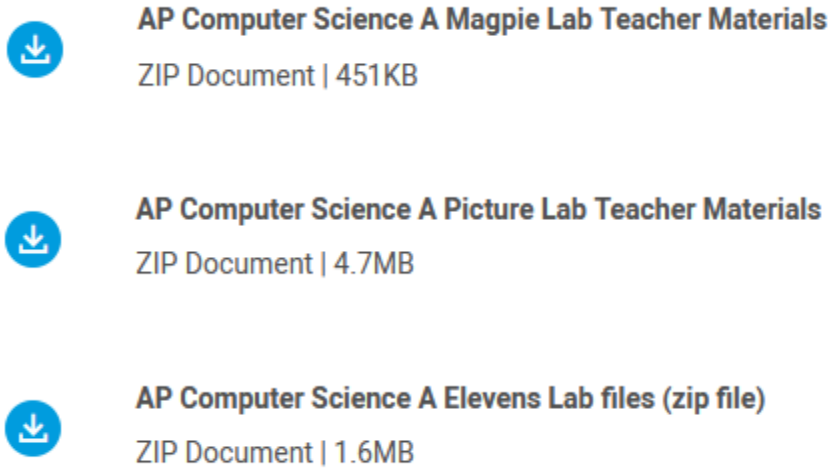


Once you have completed the course audit process with an approved syllabus, you can access the Secure Documents area from your College Board account.

From https://www.collegeboard.org, sign into your account, then select the "**AP / Pre-AP Course Audit**" option from the list at the top of your College Board dashboard. Next, select "**Resources**" and then "**Practice Exams and Secure Documents**" from the top menu.



The list of secure documents under your "**Computer Science A**" heading will include download ZIPs for many sample labs, e.g.:



... plus additional practice exams. Be sure to carefully read and follow the conditions of use for all material provided by the College Board.

Complete the CompuScholar Java Programming Curriculum

The **Java Programming** curriculum covers all required computer science concepts, Java language topics, Java class subsets, and College Board example labs. The "AP Exam Topic Cross-Reference" document on our website lists every topic and the corresponding location within the curriculum.

https://www.compuscholar.com/docs/java/AP_Exam_Cross_Reference.pdf

You can additionally review the course syllabus and pacing guide for a list of chapters with required AP CS A topics.

https://www.compuscholar.com/docs/syllabus/AP_Java_Planner_Syllabus.pdf

AP Classroom

The College Board publishes numerous optional practice problems, daily videos, and other resources for AP CSA in their "**AP Classroom**". Teachers who have completed the Course Audit can enroll their students in AP Classroom and grant access to this additional practice material. Teachers and students can access AP Classroom at the link below.

https://apclassroom.collegeboard.org

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these practice opportunities throughout the year.

What's on the Exam?

The "AP Computer Science A" exam lasts approximately 3 hours and will consist of two main parts: a multiple-choice section and a free-response section. Both sections will test conceptual programming skills, knowledge of the AP Java Subset, and ability to read and modify complex programs.

The exam includes a quick reference document that lists all the Java classes that students should expect to use during the exam.

Multiple-Choice Questions – 90 minutes – 40 Questions – 50% Weighting

The first part of the exam contains 40 different multiple-choice questions that will test student knowledge of programming concepts, design, and usage of the Java AP subset, and. The score students receive on this section will be worth half of their overall score on the exam.

Free-Response Questions – 90 minutes – 4 Questions – 50% Weighting

The second half of the exam will consist of 4 main questions. These questions will further test a student's ability to solve larger problems requiring analysis of existing Java code, the ability to write new code based on stated requirements, and the ability to decipher program outcomes based on given code. The score received in this section will be worth half of the overall score on the exam.

Please carefully read the College Board's exam description for additional details.

Schools or homeschool families are responsible for signing students up for the AP CSA Exam. The exam is not administered as part of CompuScholar's curriculum. Public/private school teachers should work with their school's AP Coordinator. Homeschool families must contact a local school authorized to administer the exams to inquire about support for homeschooled students.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can I list the CompuScholar *Java Programming* curriculum as an "AP" class on my school transcript?**
   You need to complete the College Board "Course Audit" process to certify your class. **Java Programming** is the curriculum you will select to teach your course.

2. **Is the AP Exam given and scored as part of this curriculum?**
   No, students must register for and take the exam per the instructions on the College Board website, in conjunction with your school's AP coordinator.

3. **Are students guaranteed any particular grade on the AP Computer Science A exam?**
   No, the responsibility for successful examinations rests with students and teachers. We provide the curriculum necessary to prepare students with the skills tested on the exam.