

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PTLW Capstone

What is PLTW Capstone?

PLTW Capstone is a culminating course offered by Project Lead The Way (PLTW), designed to give high school students the opportunity to apply what they've learned throughout their PLTW pathway—whether in Engineering, Biomedical Science, or Computer Science. This course challenges students to draw on their accumulated knowledge and skills to complete a comprehensive project. It acts as a platform for students to showcase their readiness for future educational pursuits or careers, encouraging innovation, problem-solving, and collaboration.

What does this mean for the Engineering Design and Development course?

The introduction of PLTW Capstone represents a transition of this course. EDD, previously a course within the PLTW Engineering pathway, has been adapted into the broader PLTW Capstone course. PLTW Capstone is a unified course designed to encompass the core aspects of the original Engineering Design and Development (EDD) course while extending its reach to include all three of our high school pathways: Biomedical Science, Computer Science, and Engineering. Essentially, the EDD course has evolved to become part of a larger, more comprehensive capstone experience that serves as the culmination of a student's PLTW education, offering them a chance to apply and showcase their skills in a broader context.

Why did PLTW evolve Engineering Design and Development (EDD) into PLTW Capstone?

PLTW evolved Engineering Design and Development (EDD) into PLTW Capstone, aligning with the trend of interdisciplinary teaching among PLTW educators. This shift expands the realms of innovation and problem-solving to now include the Biomedical Science (BMS) and Computer Science (CS) programs, echoing the national movement towards transdisciplinary STEM education that tackles real-world issues. Through this transformation, PLTW is providing a holistic learning experience, equipping students for the intricacies of modern STEM disciplines and highlighting the critical role of capstone experiences in promoting academic and professional growth. Learn more about the push for transdisciplinary STEM education [HERE](#).

Where can I find more information about PLTW Capstone?

The PLTW Capstone course is now listed on www.pltw.org as part of each High School program. There, you will find the Standards Connections, Course Outline, and Course Resume. For ease of access, these documents can also be accessed using the links below:

- [Standards Connections](#)
- [Course Outline](#)
- [Course Resume](#)

This FAQ continues on the next page...

How will EDD and BI educators be affected?

For educators teaching Engineering Design and Development (EDD), this transition marks the integration of their course into a wider, interdisciplinary capstone that spans all PLTW pathways, including Engineering, Biomedical Science, and Computer Science. The course format remains unchanged, offering familiarity to those who have previously taught EDD. This evolution is designed to enrich the curriculum by fostering inclusivity and offering students a platform to apply their skills across various disciplines.

Meanwhile, BI educators will see the PLTW Capstone as an additional offering rather than a replacement, allowing them to continue teaching BI while also having the option to explore and teach the new capstone course. This transition offers both EDD and BI educators the opportunity to engage with a wider curriculum and prepare students for a comprehensive capstone experience that culminates their PLTW education.

What training will be required to teach PLTW Capstone?

Educators who have previously been trained in Engineering Design and Development (EDD) or Biomedical Innovations (BI) will be automatically credentialed to teach PLTW Capstone, recognizing their existing expertise and experience. This transition offers a seamless pathway for these educators to adapt to and embrace the new curriculum.

For those not previously credentialed in EDD or BI, completing the PLTW Capstone PLTW Core Training is required. This training is designed to equip educators with the ability to guide students from varied backgrounds and skill sets through the capstone experience, encouraging student project groups to broaden their perspectives beyond just engineering disciplines. It also ensures that all teachers, regardless of their previous PLTW teaching experience, have access to the resources and methodologies needed to provide a high-quality educational experience that aligns with the goals of the PLTW Capstone course.

PLTW Capstone Core Training options can be found [HERE](#).