



IB[®] & AP[®]

International
Baccalaureate[®]

Advanced
Placement Program[®]

What is the International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme?

The International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme (IB®) is a rigorous preuniversity program leading to assessments in six subject areas. Established in 1968, the IB offers a challenging curriculum noted for its depth and its international perspective. The two-year IB Diploma Programme provides a coherent and demanding educational experience across the full curriculum. Beyond completing college-level courses and examinations, IB students are also required to engage in community service, individual research, and an inquiry into the nature of knowledge.

As of November 2004, the IB Diploma is accepted as an admissions credential at universities in 102 countries. In addition, high scores on IB exams often entitle students to credit or placement at university. IB courses and exams are offered at 1,215 schools in 117 countries.

What is the Advanced Placement Program®?

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) is a challenging academic program designed to provide motivated high school students with college-level academic courses. Established in 1955 by the College Board, the AP Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. High school students who complete AP

courses demonstrate their mastery of subject material by earning qualifying grades on AP Examinations.

AP is considered a standard for academic excellence in the United States, where nearly 60 percent of secondary schools participate in the program. AP courses with qualifying exam grades are accepted for credit, advanced placement, or both, by most American colleges and universities. In addition, AP courses and exam grades are used in the admissions process in more than 500 universities outside the United States.

What is the IB® Diploma?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma, based upon best practices from national systems of education around the world, was designed to provide students from all countries an education credential that could be understood by universities in any country. IB assessment is varied and authentic, and takes place over the entire course of IB instruction. It culminates in a series of examinations, which were offered in 157 different subjects in 2001. These subjects are drawn from the following six subject groups:

- Language A1
- Language B, Language A2, Ab Initio
- Individuals and Societies
- Experimental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Arts

Full IB Diploma students must study one course from each of the first five groups, plus either an Arts course

or an elective from Groups 1–5. In addition, all diploma candidates must fulfill three central requirements:

1. Theory of Knowledge, an externally assessed course that contrasts ways of knowing in all six subject areas;
2. Extended Essay, an externally assessed, independent research project of 4,000 words in one of the six subject areas;
3. Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), active involvement in a minimum of 150 hours of community service, artistic, and physical activities.

IB assessments are scored on a 1–7 scale, with up to three additional points available for exemplary work on Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. To earn an IB Diploma, a student must achieve a minimum total score of 24 points without any failing conditions.

What is the AP® International Diploma?

The AP International Diploma (APID) was designed to accommodate American and international students at secondary schools in the U.S. and abroad who are applying to universities outside the United States. To qualify for the APID, students must earn AP grades of 3 or higher on four AP Exams in three of the five subject areas listed below. Students must take two exams in two different languages (Area I), either a Science or Mathematics exam (Areas II and III), and one or more exams from a subject area not already selected.

Area I: Languages

Area II: Sciences

Area III: Mathematics

Area IV: History and Social Sciences

Area V: Electives

Students do not formally apply for the AP International Diploma. It is automatically awarded to any AP student who resides outside the U.S. and who successfully meets the diploma criteria. U.S. residents who meet the APID criteria and request that their AP Examination results be sent to a university overseas will also be awarded an APID certificate. The APID is being revised for 2006.

Who creates the International Baccalaureate examinations, and how are the exams graded?

Generally speaking, the final IB grade of 1–7 consists of two major elements. Between 20 and 50 percent of the grade is based on internal assessment, classroom work done during the IB course and graded by IB teachers against specific published criteria. The remaining 50–80 percent of the grade is based on external assessments, which are developed by an international board of chief examiners, with input from IB teachers from around the world.

These criterion-based assessments are graded by an international body of 4,400 trained IB examiners, consisting of university professors and master secondary school teachers. The work of the examiners

is moderated by an examining board that is also responsible for ensuring that scoring is consistent across subjects and across the world. A final award meeting takes place in each subject at IB's Curriculum and Assessment centre in Wales, and results are issued each year in early July.

Who creates the AP Examinations, and how are the exams graded?

AP Examinations are created by a committee of experienced AP secondary school teachers and university professors specializing in each of the disciplines for which an examination is offered. The multiple-choice portion of AP Exams is scored by computer. The free-response sections of AP Exams are scored by AP teachers and university professors in a weeklong June scoring session. Detailed scoring rubrics are established for each examination by Chief Faculty Consultants for each discipline, who oversee the scoring of the free-response questions. Great care is taken by the Chief Faculty Consultants to ensure accuracy and consistency in scoring to result in a fair assessment of student free-response performances. Total composite scores for the combined multiple-choice and free-response portions of the exams are converted into AP grades of 1 (no recommendation) to 5 (extremely well qualified), which are released in mid-July to the students and the colleges and universities of their choice.

How do colleges and universities recognize International Baccalaureate courses and the IB Diploma?

IB has largely succeeded in its goal to be a universally recognized admissions credential. Specific agreements are in place with ministries of education and universities in 102 countries that recognize the IB Diploma as a valid means of earning entry to postsecondary study.

The IB Diploma is increasingly being viewed as a strong indicator of academic promise and achievement. IB students often have an advantage in the admissions process at selective universities. In addition, IB courses and exams are recognized for the purpose of advanced credit and/or placement at over 1,000 North American colleges and universities. In fact, nearly 120 postsecondary institutions now grant a full year of credit or its equivalent to students who have earned the IB Diploma.

How do colleges and universities recognize AP courses and the AP International Diploma?

Approximately 3,400 North American universities recognize AP courses and examinations. Students presenting qualifying grades on AP Exams may earn anywhere from 3 to 6 credits (for a single course) to one year of college credit and, on occasion, two years of credit, thereby earning second-year and sometimes third-year

standing. As universities in the United States and abroad differ regarding the exact nature of their acceptance policies, AP students are advised to inquire directly at the universities concerning their respective policies for specific AP Examinations.

AP courses and qualifying grades are also used as acceptance and admissions criteria by an increasing number of universities in identifying high-performing and highly motivated students. By taking AP courses, students demonstrate their mastery of a subject and their ability to work at the academic level required in higher education.

Students who have earned the Advanced Placement International Diploma fulfill university qualification requirements for selective universities worldwide, including those in Australia, Austria, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

What similarities exist between the AP and IB programs?

1. Both are rigorous programs devoted to educational excellence; each program sets high performance standards for students and faculty.
2. Both programs involve dedicated and creative teachers committed to their students, their disciplines, and their profession.
3. Both programs attract highly motivated students who wish to excel academically and attend the most selective colleges and universities.
4. Both programs provide for articulation with middle-school curricula, IB through its Middle Years and Primary Years Programmes, and AP through its Pre-AP® program and its SpringBoard™ initiative.
5. Both programs have attracted the attention of international educators, educational policy-makers, and the general public as ways to improve the quality of education around the world.
6. Both programs value students doing independent research, thinking, and writing. IB students are expected to produce a 4,000-word Extended Essay as a formal requirement of the IB Diploma. AP teachers and IB teachers typically require students in AP and IB courses to write extended research essays, papers, and reports that involve the use of both primary and secondary sources, and that also require independent thinking, analysis, and interpretation.
7. In support of the academic programs, both AP and IB offer extensive professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators worldwide.

Why do IB?

A High Level of Recognition

Universities in 102 countries welcome IB diplomas as well as individual courses for admissions, placement, and credit purposes. Individual IB courses are recognized as signifying a student's rigorous preparation in an academic discipline; the IB diploma signifies such preparation in all six academic disciplines, service to community, and development of an international perspective.

Fair and Balanced Assessment Using International Standards

IB assessment is of many types, occurs several times over the usual two-year duration of IB courses, and includes the classroom teacher as a partner. IB students' work is assessed by several examiners whose assessments are carefully moderated by an international examining board. IB teachers receive detailed formal feedback on every aspect of their students' IB assessment each year.

A Remarkable Degree of Flexibility

IB curricula and examinations are available in IBO's three official languages of English, Spanish, and French. The IB Diploma offers schools a wide variety of courses, teachers a wide choice of topics, and students a wide variety of assessments and areas of specialization.

Commitment to Authorized Schools

Schools must undergo an exhaustive application process for authorization to offer our courses. Once authorized, schools are required to participate in IB professional development on a regular basis and to be reviewed every five years by the appropriate regional IBO office.

Why do AP?

Extensive Recognition

AP is recognized by approximately 3,400 American colleges and universities, which grant credit, advanced placement, or both for AP courses and exam grades. More than 500 additional universities in more than 30 countries also recognize AP courses and exam grades in the admissions process. Colleges and universities recognize the value of AP for preparing students to succeed in rigorous university courses.

Affordability and Flexibility

AP is affordable, the only fee being the \$82 per examination, \$22 of which may be waived in cases of economic need. AP offers flexibility for schools, which can offer one or many AP courses, and different AP courses from year to year. AP also offers flexibility for teachers, who have latitude to determine their own curricula.

Access and Equity

AP promotes open access to students who may excel in only one or two academic disciplines. The AP Program is designed to give all students an opportunity to challenge themselves with a rigorous academic experience.

Exam Reliability and University Standards

AP emphasizes statistical exam reliability to ensure fairness in scoring, along with results that can be trusted by students, schools, and universities. Through regular surveys and comparability studies, the AP Program ensures that courses and examinations reflect actual university-level standards.

Comparative Data 2004

	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Exams	Number of Countries
IB	1,200+	56,000+	187,000+	117
AP	14,000+	1,100,000+	1,870,000+	100

IB & AP: An Overview

IB Programme Elements

Courses and Examinations
Teacher Professional Development
Centrally Moderated Assessment
TOK / CAS / Extended Essay

Recognition Abroad and in the U.S.

IB Diploma

Middle Years Programme

Primary Years Programme

162 Exams, 51 Disciplines

AP Program Elements

Courses and Examinations
Teacher Professional Development
Centralized Assessment
Scholar Awards / School Awards

Recognition in the U.S. and Abroad

AP International Diploma

Pre-AP Program Initiatives

34 Exams, 19 Disciplines

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For more information about the International Baccalaureate Programme®:

In North America and the Caribbean, please contact the IB office in New York at ibna@ibo.org.

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From the International Baccalaureate Organization Mission Statement:

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

The College Board Mission:

The College Board's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. We are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education.

For further information, visit

www.ibo.org

www.collegeboard.com