

Q & A

Question: Which colleges offer credit for IB students?

Support of IB Diploma graduates continues to grow as universities and colleges come to a greater understanding of the rigor of the IB program. IB recognition policies are improving, and many institutions are strengthening their recruitment of IB students.

Currently, similar to the way credit is given to students for AP testing, most colleges award credit for IB courses. In most cases, credit is given for high-level IB courses only, when the college offers similar courses. However, some colleges also provide credit for standard level courses (although more credit is provided for the HL). As with AP tests, a minimum IB test score must be achieved, generally a score of 5 or higher. (IB exams are scored on a range of 1 - 7.) But for some schools, even a score of 4 may satisfy a core class requirement, particularly in the case of foreign languages.

Increasingly, states are passing laws to award sophomore status to IB diploma graduates, as they attempt to keep their brightest students from fleeing to out-of-state schools. Colorado was one of the earliest, when in 2003, a law was passed awarding a minimum 24 semester hours credit to those with an IB diploma (with 4+ minimum score on all exams) who attend Colorado state schools. Florida provides similar credit at its state schools. And Texas just passed a law this past summer also providing

24 hours of credit at its public institutions, again for diploma students with scores of 4+ on their exams. (The Texas Education Agency has yet to issue detailed implementation guidelines, so the schools do not yet reflect this information on their websites. If you are interested, individual colleges should be contacted.)

Each college and university differs in the course recognition it provides. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) maintains a database of universities that recognize the IB diploma along with details of their IB recognition, at www.ibo.org (select "Services", then "Universities and Governments" and scroll down). All information should be verified at individual school websites, since current data is not guaranteed. IB-North America (IBNA) website also keeps tabs on recognition trends and issues in the U.S. and posts semi-annual newsletters on its site (<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/ibourti/issues/>).

Below is a sampling of schools that provide outstanding recognition of IB coursework. Note that obtaining the diploma itself does carry extra weight, allowing in many cases for a student to essentially gain credit for SL coursework rather than just HL. *If you have knowledge of other colleges that offer exceptional recognition, please let us know so we can publicize it!*

Oregon State University

Diploma: guaranteed admission
w/30 score: sophomore standing, scholarship
No diploma: credit for HL scores of 5+

University of Tulsa

Diploma w/28 score: sophomore standing
Diploma w/24 score: 10 hrs. credit
No diploma: credit for HL/SL scores of 5+

DePaul University

Credit for HL scores of 5+ (and some 4+)
Credit for some SL exams also offered

University of Wisconsin

Credit for HL exams scores of 4+
Diploma: 3 extra hours elective credit

University of MN--Twin Cities

Diploma w/30 score (all test scores 4+): 30 hours
No diploma: credit for HL scores of 5+

University of Denver

Diploma w/30 score: may receive 45 qtr hours credit
No diploma: credit for HL scores of 4+

Colorado College

HL scores of 5+: 2 units (1 unit = 1 class)
HL scores of 4+: 1 unit
SL scores of 5+: 1 unit

Pacific Lutheran

Diploma: 30 semester hours credit
No diploma: credit for HL scores of 4+

Bryn Mawr

Diploma w/30 score (minimum HL scores required):
1 year credit

University of CA System

(includes UCLA, Berkeley, Davis, SF, SD and others)

Diploma w/30 score: 20 semester credits
No diploma: credit for 5+ score on selected exams