

5 Benefits of IB

Why Choose IB?

Key benefits of the IB Diploma program include:

- Academic rigor. Students learn how to learn, analyze, and reach thoughtful conclusions. Diploma candidates function at a level of an introductory college student.
- Comprehensiveness. Students encounter rigor throughout all disciplines. They refine areas of strength, and developmentally improve areas of weakness.
- Internationalism. The program encourages students to think globally and the curriculum is based on international standards. Coursework and exams are graded by an international grading team.
- Taking all classes with peers with common ambitions.
- Consistent application of critical thinking skills to a wide range of subject matter.

Reasons cited by DCHS students for choosing the IB Diploma program include:

Most common:

... Challenge

Frequently mentioned:

... International perspective

... College credit

... Better prepared for college

... Be with other students with same goals and work ethic

... Encouraged (or forced!) by parents, teachers

... To improve self: smarter, wiser, develop life skills, investment for future, have a cultured and educated lifestyle

... Make the most of high school education

... Benefit for getting into college / a good college, getting a scholarship

Other reasons:

... An all-encompassing education (in all areas)

... Friends were doing it

... I'm an over-achiever

IB Teacher Training

All IB teachers are required to attend training sessions prior to teaching IB classes. These sessions serve to familiarize teachers with the rigor and expectations of the IB program as well as provide an international forum for exchanging ideas. Teachers find this training to be one of the most worthwhile professional development activities available. They return with practical lesson plans and an understanding of the significance of international education. Their eagerness to share their learning with students defines the excellence of our staff. IB teachers also receive ongoing IB training to continually update their skill set.

IB and College Admission

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. Universities are eager to attract IB Diploma students because they:

- ... Are recognized as being prepared to accept educational challenges
- ... Have self-confidence with university level material
- ... Have developed independent research and study skills
- ... Have sound thinking and communication skills
- ... Have engaged in extracurricular activities alongside academic studies
- ... Have global awareness and sensitivity, and an international orientation

IB and College Credit

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.

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 in 2005, Texas passed a law providing 24 hours of credit at its public colleges and universities. While other states may not have an official law for IB credit, momentum is gaining as public universities in Nebraska, Georgia, Oregon and Washington join others in official recognition of the IB diploma.

Each college and university differs in the course recognition it provides. The IBO maintains an online database of universities that recognize the IB diploma along with details of their IB recognition. All information should be verified at individual school websites, since current data is not guaranteed. See www.IBO.org.