

What is the IB?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers a unique educational experience that challenge and motivate students, academically and personally. IB programs inspire a lifelong quest for learning, infused with enthusiasm and empathy. In addition to supporting cognitive development, IB programs address social, emotional, and physical well-being and encourage students to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners.

The IB program benefits students by:

- Developing balanced, well-rounded individuals who learn to respond to challenges with optimism and open-mindedness.
- Promoting open communication based on understanding and respect.
- Helping students become confident in their own identity.
- Joining learners together in celebration of our common humanity.
- Students are enabled to make ethical decisions in real-world, complex and unpredictable situations by applying what they learn in the classroom.

The **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)** is a two-year educational program which provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education and is recognized by many universities worldwide.

To be awarded an IB diploma, a candidate must fulfill three core requirements, in addition to passing his or her six subject examinations:

- **Extended essay (EE).** Candidates must write an independent research essay of up to 4,000 words in a subject of their choice exploring an academic area of interest to the student.
- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK).** This course introduces students to theories about the nature and limitations of knowledge (basic epistemology) and provides practice in determining the meaning and validity of knowledge (critical thinking). It is the one course that all diploma candidates are required to take. TOK requires 100 hours of instruction, the completion of an externally assessed essay of 1,600 words and an internally assessed presentation on the candidate's chosen topic.
- **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).** CAS aims to provide students with opportunities for personal growth, self-reflection, intellectual, physical and creative challenges, and awareness of themselves as responsible members of their communities through participation in social or community work (service), athletics or other physical activities (activity), and creative activities (creativity). The guideline for the minimum amount of CAS activity over the two-year program is approximately 3–4 hours per week, though "hour counting" is not encouraged.

Subject groups

Students who pursue the IB diploma must take six subjects:

- One each from Groups 1–5 and either one from Group 6 or a permitted substitute from one of the other groups, as described below.
- Three subjects must be taken at Higher level (HL) and the rest at Standard level (SL).
- The IB recommends a minimum of 240 hours of instructional time for HL courses and 150 hours for SL courses.

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature	<p>This is generally the student's native language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English A: Literature HL/SL • English A: Language & Literature HL/SL • Language A: Literature Self-Taught SL
Group 2: Language Acquisition	<p>An additional language than that of the student's native language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Ab Initio SL • Spanish Ab Initio SL • French B HL/SL • Spanish B HL/SL • Arabic B HL/SL
Group 3: Individuals and Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History HL/SL • Psychology HL/SL • Business & Management HL/SL • Economics HL/SL • Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) HL/SL
Group 4: Experimental Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry HL/SL • Physics HL/SL • Biology HL/SL • Design Technology HL/SL • Computer Science HL/SL
Group 5: Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Studies SL • Math SL • Math HL
Group 6: The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Arts HL/SL • Music HL/SL • Theater Arts HL/SL • Other group 3 or 4 subject

What is the IB Diploma vs. IB Certificate courses?

The IB Diploma is an external diploma awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization when a student has completed three HL classes, three SL classes, TOK, the EE, and CAS, and has passed the required examinations in May of the 2nd year of study.

The IB Certificate courses are when students complete one or more of the IB classes and pass the required examination(s) in May of the 2nd year of study, but do not complete all of the components of the IB Diploma course of study. For example, a student may take six SL courses but does not receive the IB Diploma because they did not take three HL classes, TOK, the EE, and CAS.

How do our student receive two diplomas (the American High School diploma and the IB Diploma)?

Every student who graduates from DAA will receive the American High School diploma. Students who are enrolled in the IB Diploma program will, in addition to the American High School diploma, receive the IB Diploma if they have satisfied all of the IB Diploma requirements. Students who choose this course of study will not have to take more classes, but instead the IB Diploma classes also count toward the American High School diploma credits.

Is the IB Diploma better than the IB Certificate courses?

No. Students should choose the best course of study to suit their university entrance requirements and their own personal academic passions. Students should be challenging themselves in whatever course of study they choose, but not to the point that they are struggling and not learning content.

While the IB encourages students to pursue the full IB diploma, the "substantial workload require a great deal of commitment, organization, and initiative." Students may instead choose to register for one or more individual IB subjects, without the core requirements. Such students will not receive the full diploma.