



A Parent's Guide to the Elgin High School Gifted and Talented International Baccalaureate Academy Diploma Programme

A Parent's Guide to the IB Diploma Programme

This resource is designed to be a companion to other available documents and resources which cover in greater detail the logistics of the Elgin High School Gifted and Talented Academy IB Diploma Programme (DP). The aim of this document is to answer some frequently asked questions regarding the IB DP and what the program means for students. If there is something which is not currently addressed but you would like to see it added to this document, please let us know: cristinacabrera@u-46.org (Diploma Programme coordinator).

The IB Programme: The Basics

IB Group/Title	Subjects Offered
Group 1 Studies in Language and Literature	English A Literature HL Spanish A Literature SL
Group 2 Language Acquisition	Spanish ab initio French ab initio Spanish SL/HL French SL/HL
Group 3 Individuals and Societies	Global Politics HL Social and Cultural Anthropology SL
Groups 4 Sciences	Chemistry HL Physics SL/HL Environmental Systems and Societies SL
Group 5 Mathematics	Analysis and Approaches SL
Group 6 The Arts	Visual Arts SL (taught in Spanish) Music SL

The IB Curriculum Framework consists of 6 groups with courses in each offered at either the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL). Students seeking the Full Diploma

must take a minimum of 3 HL courses (maximum 4) during their coursework.

In addition to earning their Elgin High School Diploma, students participating in the IB Diploma Programme have the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma after successful completion of all IB required Diploma Coursework, IB Diploma Core (EE, CAS, TOK) and successful completion of exams.

The successful completion of IB Diploma Coursework for a “**Full Diploma**” student consists of taking courses in all six groups (or two group 3 courses to replace group 6), must complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, complete an Extended Essay (EE), and complete the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) outside the school day.

EHS Academy Diploma Programme students are not required to seek the Full Diploma, they **must enroll in 2 IB courses** of their choosing in order to **maintain their Academy status** while also enrolling in the academy core classes of Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies (see sample course selection tables for options).

Academy non-Diploma-seeking students who earn successful scores on end of course exams will be awarded a “Certificate of Mastery” which is recognized by colleges and universities around the world for college credit.

The option to take an IB course of student interest is also open to any Elgin High School student who would like to challenge themselves; to be a certificate student one does not have to be an Academy student.

Students who choose to enroll in a course subject but not the Full Diploma are not eligible to take the TOK, CAS, or EE.

Any student enrolled in any IB course is required to complete all internal and external assessments for those courses.

FAQs

Are the IB Courses only available to the Academy students?

No, the IB courses are open to any student who would like to challenge themselves and explore content that is only available via IB coursework.

What does a student need to be successful in the IB courses?

The key to any upper level course (AP/IB/Dual Credit) is to be a student who is organized, manages their time well, and can handle a variety of deadlines on their own. Time management and motivation are two key indicators of success in the IB DP. Students who frequently lose track of deadlines may find the pace of courses and the independence needed to self-govern a challenge. There will be assistance along the way, but it is good to know ahead of time if this will take more effort on the student's part.

What does Year 1 and Year 2 mean?

All IB courses at Elgin High School occur over the course of 2 academic years. In order to meet the instructional hours required for IB course as well as meet the requirement of concurrency of instruction, IB course curriculum takes 2 academic years to complete.

Year 1 indicates that the course will cover one portion (roughly one half) of the IB curriculum for that course. Students must enroll in Year 1 of any course to be eligible to enroll in Year 2.

Do I have to enroll in Year 2 of a course I took Year 1?

Short answer: no.

Long answer: **Students will only be eligible for college credit for the full completion of any IB course.** End of Course Exams are taken at the end of Year 2, while some Internal Assessments are completed in Year 1. The IBO takes the results of both the Internal and External exams to determine a final score for the course, which colleges translate into credit much like how AP credit earned is based on the score received. For AP Credit students can typically earn college credit for a score of 3, 4, or 5. For IB Credit, students can typically earn college credit for a score of 4, 5, 6, or 7.

What do you mean by Internal and External Exams?

Internal exams are exams which are prescribed by the IBO and administered and scored by the classroom teacher. These assessments will be sent off for moderation from the IBO to make sure that the teacher scoring is calibrated to the international standard.

External exams are those given at the end of the course(end of Year 2) and scored externally by the IBO. Students will take the exams at Elgin High School, and like all other standardized exams, will be sent off for scoring from an external body. In this case, the exams are scored at various locations around the world by IB trained graders.

The combined results of the Internal exams and the External exams are what determine the end of course score which can be given to Colleges and Universities to determine potential college credit earned (See table at end for a sample of these earned credits).

If I am planning on doing the Full Diploma Programme, can I start on any of the long-term projects before officially being in the IB classes?

No. The Creativity, Activity, Service(CAS) and the Extended Essay need to be completed during grades 11 and 12. As they are part of the IB Core(along with Theory of Knowledge), the expectation is that they are completed with the coursework. It is expected that the CAS and EE will be informed by the coursework students are completing and the work on the CAS and EE should enhance student’s ability to engage with coursework as well.

What does it mean to “earn the IB Diploma”?

The IB Diploma is a recognition for those students who enrolled as a Full Diploma candidate - taking all 6 course areas, 3-4 courses at HL, and the remaining 2-3 at SL, TOK, CAS, and EE. At the completion of the Full Diploma requirements, if the student earns a combined score of 24 or better on all of their course exams and does not have a failing condition for any component of the courses or the IB Core, the student will earn the IB Diploma. The IB Diploma is widely recognized in the US as an indicator of college preparedness, and it allows US students to seek admission to universities around the world as the IB Diploma enables a student to have their high school education recognized globally.

How will this help with students preparing for specific selective enrollment programs/direct admit programs/other specialized post-secondary plans?

Many DP subjects are uniquely situated to help students prepare for future professional goals. Following is a list of commonly studied majors and the DP subjects that may benefit students who intend to pursue these areas. This list is not exhaustive and is meant to be a guide, not a mandate.

Area of Study	Suggested IB Courses
Architecture	Visual Arts SL, Physics SL
Engineering	Math SL/HL, Physics SL/HL or Chemistry HL
Law	Global Politics HL, English A Literature HL, Social and Cultural Anthropology SL
Medicine(any field)	Chemistry HL, Physics SL/HL, Math SL
Liberal Arts	One subject from each group - HL courses where offered/appropriate.

Are there exam or course fees with IB?

No. There are costs for the exams and for registration, but the school covers those costs to be sure that all students have an equal opportunity to take part in the Full Diploma or selected courses so that cost is not a barrier to participation.

Are the teachers prepared to teach IB?

Yes, all teachers who are teaching IB courses have undergone rigorous training prior to being able to administer an IB course. Teachers are also on a professional development cycle to match the revision of courses and exams so that they are continually prepared to meet the expectations of the IB coursework and prepare students.

the IB varies from school to school just as it does for the AP. Please see following pages for more information regarding Colleges and Universities and the IB.

I have heard that students can earn a Bilingual Diploma. What does that mean?

Students who complete the Diploma requirements in multiple languages may be eligible for earning a Bilingual IB Diploma. “A bilingual diploma is awarded to candidates who complete and receive a grade 3 or higher in two languages selected from the DP course studies in language and literature.

Students who gain a grade 3 or higher in studies in language and literature and a grade 3 or higher in an individuals and societies or science subject, completed in a different language, will also receive the bilingual diploma.”¹

Do Colleges and Universities recognize IB preparation like they recognize AP preparation?

Yes. US College and Universities, as well as colleges and universities around the world recognize the IB Diploma Programme and reward students for having completed the programming. The level of recognition for

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<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/understanding-ib-assessment/>

Earning the IB Diploma²

Grades

Performance in each subject is graded on a scale of 7 points (maximum) down to 1 point (minimum). The maximum total number of points a student can earn for his/her coursework is 42. Performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay are each graded on a scale of A (maximum) to E (minimum). The CAS requirement is not assessed.

For the IB Diploma, a maximum of 3 points is awarded for combined performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay. The maximum total DP points score is 45. **A student needs only 24 points to earn the IB Diploma.**

The Diploma Points Matrix

		Theory of Knowledge					
		Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	No Grade N
Extended Essay	Grade A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade B	3	2	2	1	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade C	2	2	1	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade D	2	1	0	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade E	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition
	No Grade N	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition

Award of the IB Diploma

All assessment components for each of the six subjects and the additional Diploma requirements must be completed in order to qualify for the award of the IB Diploma.

The IB Diploma will be awarded to a candidate provided all the following requirements have been met.

- CAS requirements have been met.
- The candidate's total points are 24 or more.
- There is no "N" awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject.
- There is no grade E awarded for theory of knowledge and/or the extended essay.
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL).
- There are no more than three graded 3s or below awarded (HL or SL).

² <https://www.iamacomb.org/academics/earning-the-ib-diploma/>

- The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects) for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest graded count).
- The candidate has gained 9 point or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).
- The candidate has not received a penalty of academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

A maximum of three examination sessions is allowed in which to satisfy the requirements for the award of the IB Diploma. The examination sessions need not be consecutive.

Appendix A: Some US Colleges & Universities that Reward IB Coursework ³

Ball State University - generously awards credits for students who have successfully completed IB coursework

Bard College - A student with IB Diploma may be allowed to accelerate for up to 32 credits (normal full year) A score of 5 or higher on an International Baccalaureate exam will earn 8 credits for each higher level course and 4 credits for each standard level course.

Barnard College - A maximum of 16 credits are allowed to transfer for IB students. Students can receive credit for each exam taken earning a 5 or better on the exam- see link above for official credits awarded.

Bryn Mawr College - Bryn Mawr awards students up to eight (8) academic units for qualifying scores on the International Baccalaureate (IB) test:

- 2 units of credit per honors score on a higher-level exam (see below)
- 2 units of credit for the IB diploma if either of the following conditions are met:
 - An overall score of 35 or higher, OR
 - An overall score of 30-34 AND 3 Honors Scores on Higher Level exams.

Drake University - Des Moines, IA. Students who have completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma will receive approximately one year of credit toward graduation.

Evergreen State College – Olympia, WA - will award up to 45 college credits for IB Diploma. A score of 4 or better will be awarded credit for any standard-level (SL) or higher-level (HL) IB exam. 5 credits will be awarded to every SL exam. 9 credits will be awarded to every HL exam.

Fashion Institute of Technology - Students who take IB courses and receive grades of 4 or higher may be awarded up to 30 semester hours of transfer credit upon receipt of the official IB transcripts.

Florida Atlantic University - Boca Raton Students who have been awarded the IB Diploma will be awarded up to thirty (30) semester credits. Students with a score of 4 on subject areas will receive 3-4 credits for each examination. Students with a score of 5 or above will receive 6-8 credits. Full Diploma students can earn an IB Scholarship of up to \$6,000/year.

Florida Gulf Coast University – Fort Myers - For diploma and no-diploma holders, students with IB scores of 4 or higher on IB exams will be awarded up to 30 semester hours of credit in FGCU courses. IB Diploma holders will have the opportunity to apply to FGCU’s Honors Program (which includes priority registration, honors scholarships, priority housing, book stipends, and select Honors classes.)

Franklin and Marshall College - Lancaster, PA IB Diploma recipients with a total score of 30 or more are awarded 8 course credits (one full year) toward a degree at Franklin and Marshall. Students who have an IB Diploma normally enter the college with sophomore standing.

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Goucher College - Baltimore, MD -
Goucher will grant credit for IB exam scores of at least 5 in higher-level subject areas. Course placement is determined by the individual academic program.

Hofstra University - Hempstead, NY -
Students in the full International Baccalaureate program may receive up to 30 credits. In order to receive the full 30 credits the following conditions must be met: The International Baccalaureate diploma must be completed with a score of 30 or more points and the student must complete at least 3 higher level examinations with a score of 5 or higher.

Sarah Lawrence College Students entering the College with a full IB diploma may earn 30 credits toward a Sarah Lawrence degree. Non-diploma IB students who score 5 or above on higher-level exams may request three credits for a maximum of three subjects or a total of nine credits. No credit will be awarded for tests taken after the completion of high school. Only credit for higher-level IB examinations with scores of 5 or above may be applied toward distribution requirements.

Towson University - Students who earn an IB Diploma will be eligible for sophomore standing and will be awarded 30 college credits toward their Bachelor's degree. Some of these credits may also be applicable toward Towson's general education requirements; each student's IB credits will be individually evaluated for general education applicability.

University of Chicago - Credit earned for courses in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme may be applied to certain general education requirements or to electives as described below. Credit will not

be granted for other exams. Course credit is only granted for grades of 7 on Higher-Level IB Examinations (HL). The Language Competency Requirement may be satisfied with grades of 5, 6, or 7 on Standard-Level or Higher-Level IB Examinations in languages other than English.

Appendix B : Some US Colleges & Universities that Generously Reward the Receiving of an IB Certificate with a Certain Grade Score

American University - awards credit for IB Higher level examinations successfully passed with a grade of 4 or better. Students usually earn 6-8 credits per exam, depending on the subject. Contact the Office of Admissions for more specific information.

Boston University - Students receive credit for a higher level exam with scores of 5, 6 or 7. A maximum of 8 credits, the equivalent of two courses, will be awarded for each higher level exam.

Cornell University - Students can receive anywhere from 3 to 8 credits depending on the Higher Level subject area taken for score of 6 -7's.

George Mason University - recognizes the IB Program and awards credit for scores of 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the higher level (and some standard level) exams. To receive credit for Higher Level Exams, students must notify the IB Organization and have scores sent directly to the Admissions Office at George Mason University.

Ithaca College - Ithaca, NY - Students will receive 6-8 credits per Higher Level examination for scores ranging from 4-7

New York University-IB higher level examinations passed with grades of 5 or above may be accepted for credit and/or placement depending on the area of study and/ or program requirements. Typically, 8 semester hours of credit (equivalent to two terms or one academic year of a specific subject) will be awarded for each higher level examination meeting the requirements of NYU.

SUNY Stony Brook - Stony Brook University will award six credits for International Baccalaureate higher level exams with scores of 5 or better for year-long courses.

University or college	IB candidates acceptance rate	Total population acceptance rate	IB candidates versus total population (percentage points)
University of Florida	82%	42%	+40%
Florida State University	92%	60%	+32%
Brown University	18%	9%	+9%
Stanford University	15%	7%	+8%
Columbia University	13%	9%	+4%
University of California - Berkeley	58%	26%	+32%
Harvard University	10%	7%	+3%
New York University	57%	30%	+27%
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	71%	51%	+20%
University of Miami	72%	30%	+42%
Cornell University	31%	18%	+13%
Duke University	28%	16%	+12%
University of Pennsylvania	24%	14%	+10%
Yale University	18%	7%	+11%
University of Central Florida	90%	47%	+43%
Boston University	70%	58%	+12%
University of California - Los Angeles	48%	23%	+25%
University of Virginia	64%	32%	+32%
UNC Chapel Hill	63%	32%	+31%
Princeton University	16%	8%	+8%