



...About the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program...

In 1998, Dobbs Ferry High School became the first “IB World School” in Westchester, a distinction that is officially authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). At the time, the IBO was still relatively unknown as an academic organization, yet its concept of a uniform international curriculum was far ahead of its time. Today, the IBO is internationally regarded as an academic model, firmly rooted in its commitment to providing students with opportunities to develop the skills necessary to succeed in a globally interdependent world. While “AP” courses have traditionally been the benchmark of academic superiority in the United States, one comparative drawback is that each AP course is taught in isolation, whereas the IB Diploma Program’s interdisciplinary approach is one that is widely viewed by colleges and universities around the world as a more comprehensive approach to higher education preparation. The rigorous curriculum, authentic assessments, promotion of international mindedness, and thorough teacher training are among the many reasons why the IB Diploma Program has become a desirable pursuit, and why it has attracted media attention all over the world.

Students have the following two choices when considering the IB Program offered at Dobbs Ferry High School:

- *Option 1:*
Students can take the most rigorous approach and pursue the IB Diploma (see requirements on the following page).
- *Option 2:*
Students can choose to take individual IB courses in any of the six groups shown on the following page.

Students who pursue the IB Diploma understand that it is a comprehensive, two-year, pre-university course of study beginning in eleventh grade. The coursework is rigorous, intellectually stimulating, and leads to examinations in May of each school year in which students must demonstrate mastery of subject matter. The District is currently exploring the IB Middle Years Program which will extend down through Grade 6.

IB courses are open to all students. Students should consult teachers, guidance counselors, and the IB Coordinator in order to make informed decisions. Furthermore, passing an IB course does not guarantee that a student will earn college credit. It is strongly recommended that students and parents research how IB course credit would be applied on the college level and the scores required for college credit.

Please contact Marion Halberg, IB Programme Coordinator, at (914) 693-1500 should you have any questions 



Requirements for the IB Diploma Program

A MINIMUM OF 24-28 TOTAL DIPLOMA POINTS DERIVED FROM SCORES IN...

The Six Groups

1. English
2. Spanish, French or Italian
3. History
4. Biology or Physics
5. Mathematics
6. Art or Film

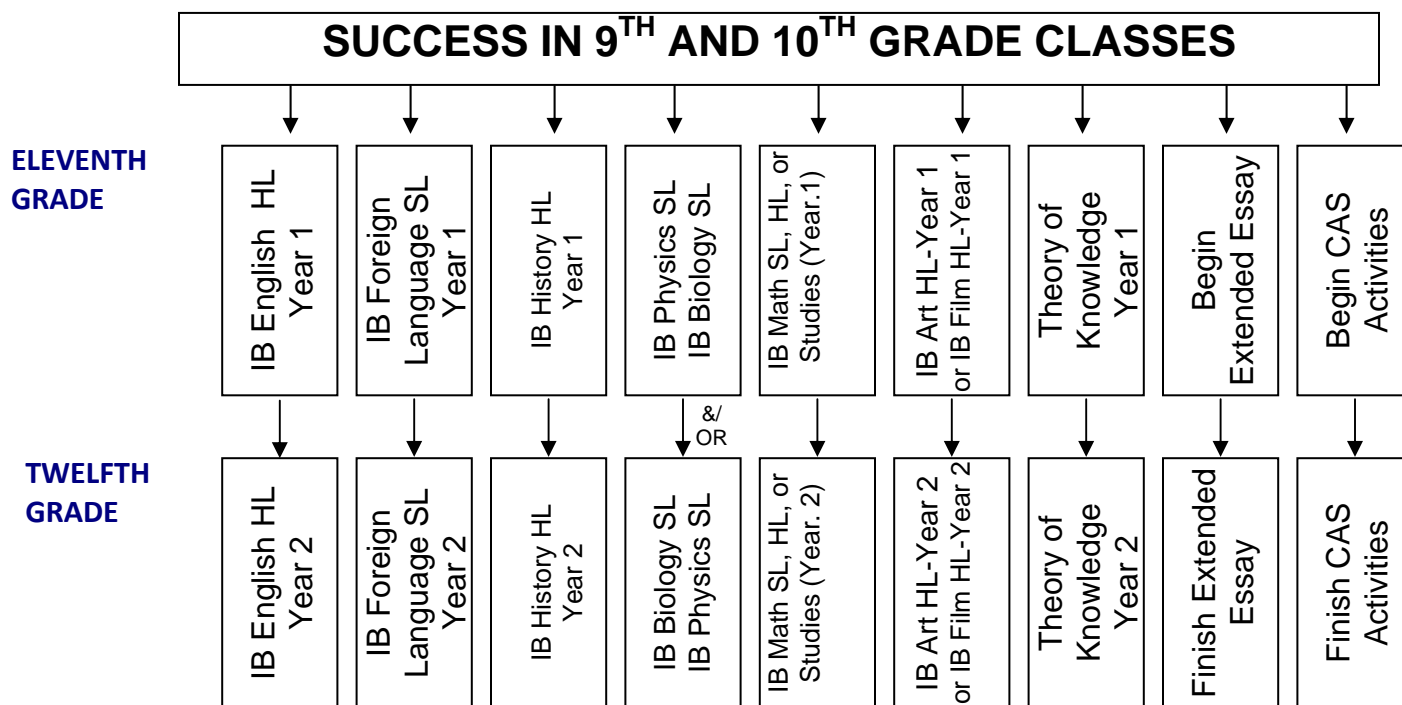
Three of the above courses from the six groups must be Higher Level (HL) courses.

Three Additional Requirements

1. Theory of Knowledge Course
2. Extended Essay (Independent Study)
3. CAS — (Creativity, Action, Service)

Extended Essay (EE) and CAS will be reflected as a P/F grade on the student's report card in the 3rd and 4th marking periods of their Junior year and the first 3 marking periods of their Senior year as the student meets the quarterly requirements set by the school. No credit is earned towards the EE and CAS except in regard to earning the IB Diploma as stated above.

Typical Course of Study for the IB Diploma Program





Frequently Asked Questions About the IB Program

1. **What are the other requirements for an IB Diploma besides taking IB courses?**

At the core of the IB Program are three central elements called Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity-Action-Service (CAS), and an Extended Essay. Students who seek to earn an IB Diploma must complete the requirements of these three parts of the IB Program.

2. **What is Theory of Knowledge (TOK)?**

TOK is a course that is open to Juniors and Seniors. It is an interdisciplinary course designed to help students question and understand *how* they know what they know. Students study how individuals from various disciplines view the world to develop their own ways of thinking. By stimulating critical reflection and analysis of knowledge and experience across disciplines, TOK seeks to bridge and unify the academic subjects, in essence, to help students make sense of school and the world.

3. **What is Creativity-Action-Service (CAS)?**

CAS is an experiential learning component of the IB. Students seeking to earn an IB Diploma must complete a minimum of 150 hours of participation over their Junior and Senior years. A wide variety of activities fulfill this requirement, including many extracurricular, community service, and athletic activities. A handbook detailing the CAS program is available.

4. **What is the Extended Essay?**

The Extended Essay introduces students to the demands and rewards of independent work. Emphasis is placed on engaging in personal research and communicating ideas effectively in order to write a 4,000-word essay (about 18 pages) in an area of personal interest to the student. Each student seeking to earn an IB Diploma must write an extended essay over the course of his or her Junior and Senior years. A guide to the Extended Essay is available.

5. **How do students get evaluated in the IB Program?**

Students enrolled in IB courses still get grades from their classroom teachers, still take tests, do homework, complete projects, and take midterms—the same as any other student. In addition, students enrolled in IB courses take formal exams in May. Working in partnership with local teachers, the IB Organization works to ensure that students have ample opportunity to demonstrate what they know

and are able to do. The IB Organization compiles information about students from their teachers, from work students do over the course of the year, and from the end-of-course exams given in May to determine a final score on a 1 to 7 scale. Diploma students need a total of at least 24-28 points to earn the full diploma.

6. **What are the advantages of taking IB courses?**

The major advantages include a challenging learning environment, excellent preparation for university-level studies, recognition of IB course work by college admissions officers, the possibility of earning college credit or advanced standing, and the benefit of receiving a well-rounded, world-class, liberal arts education.

7. **Do students have to take advanced courses to qualify for the IB Program?**

Students are not required to take advanced courses in preparation for IB courses; however, to be better prepared for the rigor of the courses, students should consider taking the most rigorous challenges during 9th and 10th Grades. One may choose to take an IB course because of the desire to pursue learning in an area of particular interest or strength. The majority of our upperclassmen are enrolled in at least one IB Course.

8. **What do students do if they find an IB class too challenging?**

Numerous support services are offered to help students gain confidence and learn the required skills to manage their work and responsibilities. Support services include conferences with teachers, individual counseling and guidance, peer tutoring, and various levels of academic support. Although IB classes are more challenging than standard classes, colleges recognize IB course work, admire the rigor and challenge of the IB Program, and regard successful completion of an IB course as a credential of exceptional merit. Also, as with AP classes, IB course work can lead to college credit. Given the right support, students should consider the advantages of staying in an IB class.

9. **How much homework will students have?**

The amount of homework varies in the IB Program. Students should expect about ten to twenty hours of homework every week. Time management is essential because homework often consists of long-term assignments and a great deal of reading and writing.



Frequently Asked Questions About the IB Program (continued)...

10. What is the benefit of taking individual IB courses?

While the IB Organization suggests that students attempt a full diploma, not all students will take the full IB course load leading to an IB Diploma. Some students may choose selected courses where they have particular interests or strengths, similar to honors and Advanced Placement classes. Students who satisfactorily complete an IB course will earn a certificate from IB, and the course will be noted on their permanent transcript.

11. How widely accepted is the IB Diploma?

The IB Diploma is an internationally accepted standard of excellence, accepted by universities and other institutions in over eighty countries. Besides global recognition, most schools to which Dobbs Ferry graduates have been admitted recognize the IB Program. The IB website lists colleges and universities that grant credit, scholarships, and/or advanced standing for IB diplomas and certificates. When students are applying to universities, decisions about admissions will be partially based on their high school transcripts, not on whether they earn the Diploma. The most important factor in admissions will be the work in IB classes, not scores on the IB exams. However, IB exam scores will be important in decisions about placement and credit, so it is important to do well on IB exams, too.

12. Will students still have to take a Regents Exam in an IB course?

Yes. If a Regents Exam is normally given in the course related to the IB course, such as American History, then students will also take the regents exam. To maximize student performance on both exams, teachers take into account Regents curriculum requirements as well as IB requirements when planning their courses.

13. What are the main differences between the IB Program and the Advanced Placement (AP) Program?

As a general rule, the IB and AP Programs are roughly equivalent in their academic rigor. However, there are some differences in the content and tests. Content differences vary by subject. In general, the IB Program is more comprehensive and focuses on multiple methods of assessment as opposed to AP courses where a student is evaluated by the results of a single end-of-course exam. Depending upon the course, special attention may be necessary to certain topics so that a student who completes the course will be prepared to take either or both exams.

14. Will students who take an IB course have to take the exam?

Yes. As with AP classes, students who are enrolled in an IB course will be expected to prepare for and take the exam at the end of the course or IB credit will not be granted.

Useful Resources

The International Baccalaureate Organization

<http://www.ibo.org>

The IBO's Online Curriculum Center

<http://occ.ibo.org/ibis/occ/guest/home.cfm>

School's IB Webpage

http://www.dfsd.org/group_profile_view.aspx?id=8247cb57-d1a1-4f50-bc62-d01fd13310ba

Oxford Study Courses and Resources for IB students

<http://www.osc-ib.com/index>