



# AP<sup>®</sup> & IB<sup>®</sup>

Advanced  
Placement  
Program<sup>®</sup>

International  
Baccalaureate<sup>®</sup>

## What is the Advanced Placement Program®?

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) is a challenging academic program designed to provide motivated high school students with college-level academic courses. Established in 1955 by the College Board, the AP Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. High school students who complete AP courses demonstrate their mastery of subject material by earning qualifying grades on AP Examinations.

AP is considered a standard for academic excellence in the United States, where nearly 60 percent of secondary schools participate in the program. AP courses with qualifying exam grades are accepted for credit, advanced placement, or both, by most American colleges and universities. In addition, AP courses and exam grades are used in the admissions process in more than 400 universities outside the United States.

## What is the International Baccalaureate®?

The International Baccalaureate® Diploma Program (IB®) is a rigorous preuniversity program leading to assessments in six subject areas. Established in 1968, the IB offers a challenging curriculum noted for its depth and its international perspective. The two-year IB Diploma provides a coherent and demanding educational

experience across the full curriculum. Beyond completing college-level courses and examinations, IB students are also required to engage in community service, individual research, and an inquiry into the nature of knowledge.

The IB Diploma is accepted as an admissions credential at universities in 102 countries. In addition, high scores on IB exams often entitle students to credit or placement at university. IB courses and exams are offered at 1,217 schools in 113 countries.

## What is the AP® International Diploma?

The AP International Diploma (APID) was designed to accommodate American and international students at secondary schools in the U.S. and abroad who are applying to universities outside the United States. To qualify for the APID, students must earn AP grades of 3 or higher on four AP Exams in three of the five subject areas listed below. Students must take two exams in two different languages (Area I), either a Science or Mathematics exam (Areas II and III), and one or more exams from a subject area not already selected.

- Area I: Languages
- Area II: Sciences
- Area III: Mathematics
- Area IV: History and Social Sciences
- Area V: Electives

Students do not formally apply for the AP International Diploma. It is automatically awarded to any AP student who resides outside the U.S. and who successfully meets the diploma

criteria. U.S. residents who meet the APID criteria and request that their AP Examination results be sent to a university overseas will also be awarded an APID certificate. The APID is in the process of being revised.

## What is the IB® Diploma?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma, based upon best practices from national systems of education around the world, was designed to provide students from all countries an education credential that could be understood by universities in any country. IB assessment is varied, authentic, and takes place over the entire course of IB instruction. It culminates in a series of examinations, which were offered in 157 different subjects in 2001. These subjects are drawn from the following six subject groups.

Language A1  
Language B, Language A2,  
Ab Initio  
Individuals and Societies  
Experimental Sciences  
Mathematics  
Arts

Full IB Diploma students must study one course from each of the first five groups, plus either an Arts course or an elective from Groups 1–5. In addition, all diploma candidates must fulfill three central requirements:

1. Theory of Knowledge, an externally assessed course that contrasts ways of knowing in all six subject areas;
2. Extended Essay, an externally assessed, independent research project of 4,000 words in one of the six subject areas;
3. Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), active involvement in a minimum of 150 hours of community service, artistic, and physical activities.

IB assessments are scored on a 1–7 scale, with up to three additional points available for exemplary work on Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. To earn an IB Diploma, a student must achieve a minimum total score of 24 points without any failing conditions.

## Who creates the AP Examinations, and how are the exams graded?

AP Examinations are created by a committee of experienced AP secondary school teachers and university professors specializing in each of the disciplines for which an examination is offered. The multiple-choice portion of AP Exams is scored by computer. The free-response sections of AP Exams are scored by AP teachers and university professors in a weeklong June scoring session. Detailed scoring rubrics are established for each examination by Chief Faculty Consultants for each discipline, who oversee the scoring of the free-response questions. Great care is taken by the Chief Faculty Consultants to ensure accuracy and consistency in scoring to result in a fair assessment of student free-response

performances. Total composite scores for the combined multiple-choice and free-response portions of the exams are converted into AP grades of 1 (no recommendation) to 5 (extremely well qualified), which are released in mid-July to the students and the colleges and universities of their choice.

## Who creates the International Baccalaureate examinations, and how are the exams graded?

Generally speaking, the final IB grade of 1–7 consists of two major elements. Between 20 and 50 percent of the grade is based on internal assessment, classroom work done during the IB course and graded by IB teachers against specific published criteria. The remaining 50–80 percent of the grade is based on external assessments, which are developed by an international board of chief examiners, with input from IB teachers from around the world.

These criterion-based assessments are graded by an international body of 3,500 trained IB examiners, consisting of university professors and master secondary school teachers. The work of the examiners is moderated by an examining board that is also responsible for ensuring that scoring is consistent across subjects and across the world. A final award meeting takes place in each subject at IB's Curriculum and Assessment centre in Wales, and results are issued each year in early July.

## How do colleges and universities recognize AP courses and the AP International Diploma?

Approximately 3,000 North American universities recognize AP courses and examinations. Students presenting qualifying grades on AP Exams may earn anywhere from 3 to 6 credits (for a single course) to one year of college credit, and on occasion, two years of credit, thereby earning second-year and sometimes third-year standing. As universities in the United States and abroad differ regarding the exact nature of their acceptance policies, AP students are advised to inquire directly at the universities concerning their respective policies for specific AP Examinations.

AP courses and qualifying grades are also used as acceptance and admissions criteria by an increasing number of universities in identifying high-performing and highly motivated students. By taking AP courses, students demonstrate their mastery of a subject and their ability to work at the academic level required in higher education.

Students who have earned the AP International Diploma fulfill university qualification requirements for numerous selective universities in Australia, Austria, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

## How do colleges and universities recognize International Baccalaureate courses and the IB Diploma?

IB has largely succeeded in its goal to be a universally recognized admissions credential. Specific agreements are in place with ministries of education and universities in 102 countries that recognize the IB Diploma as a valid means of earning entry to postsecondary study.

The IB Diploma is increasingly being viewed as a strong indicator of academic promise and achievement. IB students often have an advantage in the admissions process at selective universities. In addition, IB courses and exams are recognized for the purpose of advanced credit and/or placement at over 900 North American colleges and universities. In fact, over 150 post-secondary institutions now grant a full year of credit to students who have earned the IB Diploma.

## What similarities exist between the AP and IB programs?

1. Both are rigorous programs devoted to educational excellence; each program sets high performance standards for students and faculty.
2. Both programs involve dedicated and creative teachers committed to their students, their disciplines, and their profession.
3. Both programs attract highly motivated students who wish to excel academically and attend the most selective colleges and universities.
4. Both programs provide for articulation with middle-school curricula, IB through its Middle Years and Primary Years Programmes, and AP through its Pre-AP® program and its K–12 initiative.
5. Both programs have attracted the attention of international educators, educational policy-makers, and the general public as ways to improve the quality of education around the world.
6. Both programs value students doing independent research, thinking, and writing. IB students are expected to produce a 4,000-word Extended Essay as a formal requirement of the IB Diploma. AP teachers and IB teachers typically require students in AP and IB courses to write extended research essays, papers, and reports that involve the use of both primary and secondary sources, and that also require independent thinking, analysis, and interpretation.
7. In support of the academic programs, both AP and IB offer extensive professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators worldwide.

## Why do AP?

### Extensive Recognition

AP is recognized by approximately 3,000 American colleges and universities, which grant credit, advanced placement, or both for AP courses and exam grades. More than 400 additional universities in 27 countries also recognize AP courses and exam grades in the admissions process. Colleges and universities recognize the value of AP for preparing students to succeed in rigorous university courses.

### Affordability and Flexibility

AP is affordable, the only fee being the \$82 per examination, \$22 of which may be waived in cases of economic need. AP offers flexibility for schools, which can offer one or many AP courses, and different AP courses from year to year. AP also offers flexibility for teachers, who have latitude to determine their own curricula.

### Access and Equity

AP promotes open access to students who may excel in only one or two academic disciplines. The AP Program is designed to give all students an opportunity to challenge themselves with a rigorous academic experience.

### Exam Reliability and University Standards

AP emphasizes statistical exam reliability to ensure fairness in scoring, along with results that can be trusted by students, schools, and universities. Through regular surveys and comparability studies, the AP Program ensures that courses and examinations reflect actual university-level standards.

## Why Do IB?

### A High Level of Recognition

Universities in 102 countries welcome IB diplomas as well as individual courses for admissions, placement, and credit purposes. Individual IB courses are recognized as signifying a student's rigorous preparation in an academic discipline; the IB diploma signifies such preparation in all six academic disciplines, service to community, and development of an international perspective.

### Fair and Balanced Assessment Using International Standards

IB assessment is of many types, occurs several times over the usual two-year duration of IB courses, and includes the classroom teacher as a partner. IB students' work is assessed by several examiners whose assessments are carefully moderated by an international examining board. IB teachers receive detailed formal feedback on every aspect of their students' IB assessment each year.

### A Remarkable Degree of Flexibility

IB curricula and examinations are available in IBO's three official languages of English, Spanish, and French. The IB Diploma offers schools a wide variety of courses, teachers a wide choice of topics, and students a wide variety of assessments and areas of specialization.

### Commitment to Authorized Schools

Schools must undergo an exhaustive application process for authorization to offer our courses. Once authorized, schools are required to participate in IB professional development on a regular basis and to be reviewed every five years by the appropriate regional IBO office.

# Comparative Data 2003

	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Exams	Number of Countries
AP	14,000+	1,000,000+	1,737,000+	100
IB	1,200+	55,000+	190,000+	113

## AP and IB: An Overview

### AP Program Elements

Courses and Examinations

Teacher Professional Development

Centralized Assessment

Scholar Awards / School Awards

Recognition in the U.S. and Abroad

AP International Diploma

Pre-AP Program Initiatives

34 Exams, 19 Disciplines

### IB Programme Elements

Courses and Examinations

Teacher Professional Development

Centrally Moderated Assessment

TOK / CAS / Extended Essay

Recognition Abroad and in the U.S.

IB Diploma

Middle Years Programme and  
Primary Years Programme

162 Exams, 51 Disciplines

Copyright © 2003 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved. College Board, Advanced Placement Program, AP, Pre-AP, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board. Other products and services mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective owners. Visit College Board on the Web: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).



For more information about the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>, contact:

Robert DiYanni, phone: 212 373-8713; e-mail: rdiyanni@collegeboard.org

Bernie Longboy, phone: 212 373-8733; e-mail: blongboy@collegeboard.org

Clay Hensley, phone: 212 373-8723; e-mail: chensley@collegeboard.org

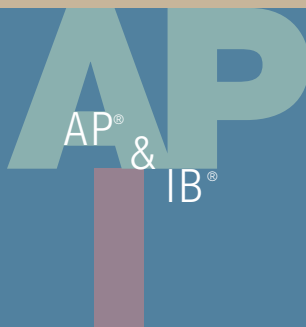
For more information about the International Baccalaureate Programme<sup>®</sup>:

In Europe, Africa, or the Middle East, please contact the IB office in Geneva at [ibaem@ibo.org](mailto:ibaem@ibo.org).

In Asia/Pacific and Australasia, please contact the the IB office in Singapore at [ibap@ibo.org](mailto:ibap@ibo.org).

In Latin America, please contact the IB office in Buenos Aires at [ibla@ibo.org](mailto:ibla@ibo.org).

In North America and the Caribbean, please contact the IB office in New York at [ibna@ibo.org](mailto:ibna@ibo.org).



**The College Board Mission:**

To be a great educational organization dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college success and opportunity, with a commitment to excellence and equity.

**From the International Baccalaureate Organization Mission:**

Through challenging programmes of international education and assessment, IBO seeks to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people, who will become compassionate citizens seeking a better and more peaceful world.

For further information, visit

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)