



Notre Dame Academy

International Baccalaureate



Background

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is an academically-rigorous University-preparatory program that runs through the junior and senior years of high school. The program aims to develop critical thinking skills, research skills, and international-mindedness: an ability to respect those different from oneself, and a desire to make a difference in the world. The IB Diploma Program is well recognized and respected by U.S. universities, as well as institutions abroad. Many institutions give advanced standing and credit to IB students. IB students have also been shown to have a college admissions advantage over non-IB students.

School:	All Applicants:	IB Diploma Applicants:
Brown University	17%	21.6%
College of William and Mary	37%	66.4%
Cornell University	28.5%	51%
Dartmouth College	20.7%	33.3%
Harvard University	11%	14.8%
Johns Hopkins University	35%	68.8%
MIT	16.9%	26.2%
US Air Force Academy	12.1%	68.4%
US Naval Academy	11.7%	45.0%
University of Chicago	41.6%	59.1%
University of Michigan	49%	72.7%
Villanova University	14.5%	89.4%
Wellesley	47%	83.3%
Yale University	13%	18.9%

Note: Acceptance rates for all applicants were provided by each respective institution. Acceptance rates for IB applicants based on self-reported survey of over 5000 IB students in the US entering colleges as freshmen during fall, 2002.

Full Diploma Program



Students take IB courses in six core areas of study: Language A1 (English), Individuals and Societies (History), Mathematics, The Arts (Theatre Arts or Visual Arts), Experimental Sciences (Biology or Physics), and Second Language (Spanish, Latin, or Chinese). Core courses are offered in Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL). All courses run over two years.



Students participate in a two-year Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course. TOK is a philosophy course that focuses on how knowledge is acquired in different disciplines. It serves to form connections between the six core courses in which students will be participating.



Students participate in a Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) Program. Over two years, students will participate in and reflect on a variety of activities that are creative, action-oriented, and service-oriented, including at least one long-term project.



Students write a 4000-word Extended Essay (EE), a mini-thesis on a topic of their choice. Working closely with a mentor, students conduct research and compose an essay for submission to IB.

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All IB courses culminate with examinations that are scored by an external examiner. A passing grade in an IB course is determined based on a combination of internal (in-class) assessments and external examinations taken at the end of the junior and/or senior year.

If a NDA freshman is preparing to enter the IB Diploma Program, the following are recommended courses that will prepare her for the program.

9th Grade

Students must earn a minimum grade of a B (88%) in all academic courses for both semesters.

Honors English, Honors World History, and Honors Math I (or higher) are recommended.

Honors Spanish, Honors Latin, or Honors Chinese are required for the Full Diploma Program.

10th Grade

Required: Honors English II, AP Psychology, **PLUS ONE** additional Honors-level Course

Recommended: Honors Math II (or higher)

9th and/or 10th Grade

Required: Speech and Drama I (for Theatre Arts) **OR** Art I **and** Art II (for Visual Arts)

Recommended: Speech and Drama II (for Theatre Arts)

Over 25 teachers, counselors and administrators have received IB training throughout the United States in Florida, New Mexico, Texas, New York City, Missouri, Georgia, and California as well as Germany.

IB Courses for 11-12 include:

IB AP Biology
IB History HL
IB AP History HL
IB English HL
IB Mathematical Studies SL
IB Mathematics HL (Online)
IB Mathematics SL
IB Physics
IB Spanish SL
IB Theatre Arts SL
IB Theory of Knowledge
IB Visual Arts SL/HL

How the IB Program Benefits *Every* Student

- ◆ Qualified students have the option to earn a full diploma or a certificate only in an area of interest -- opening up more opportunities to participate.
- ◆ The large number of teachers and counselors trained (with more planned every year) insures that highly-trained teachers will use IB practices in all their classes benefiting every student's education.
- ◆ The IB Philosophy has already permeated the entire Notre Dame School culture with professional learning communities.
- ◆ All students will benefit from the fact that Notre Dame Academy will be recognized by colleges and universities around the world as an IB school.
- ◆ IB and its global perspective and partnerships will open doors of opportunity to NDA through exchange of ideas and collaboration.

The International Baccalaureate Program is well positioned to respond to the global challenges of the 21st century. IB is increasingly viewed as one of the best educational systems to prepare students for their future to help create a better world through intercultural understanding and respect.

For more information on the International Baccalaureate Program contact Ms. Angela Joseph, IB coordinator at 419-475-9359 ext. 3171 or ajoseph@nda.org

**Notre Dame Academy is the first, Catholic, all-girls, IB school in Ohio -
another academic achievement.**