

# What is the difference between IB and AP?

IB develops students around the IB Learner Profile and develops who are: Knowledgeable, Reflective, Caring, Inquirers, Open-minded, Thinkers, Balanced, Communicators, Principled, and Risk-Takers.

An **international perspective** is part of every IB subject.

**The IB full diploma is a program**, not a single (or several “singles”) course as is AP. Students take courses in six areas over the junior and senior years.

Most important distinguishing factor: At the **core of the IB Diploma Programme** is

**TOK – Theory of knowledge** class. This is an interdisciplinary course where connections are made across the IB curriculum, and students are encouraged to express their ideas and beliefs.

**Extended Essay** -- An investigative research paper – similar to the research paper required in junior and senior English. This paper is written on a subject of your choice and you will be provided with a mentor teacher in the subject area in addition to your English teacher to assist in the research and writing process. Students frequently present their EE to college admissions committees and can discuss the topic with authority (which may be the student’s choice of major for college).

**CAS – Creativity, Action, and Service.** Colleges like to see the community service requirement of IB. This enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning.

## **College Admissions and Credit:**

- Many universities (Stanford, Princeton, Duke, MIT, Emory, Notre Dame, etc.) include “TOK and EE additional points... in admissions decisions.”
- The IB TOK curriculum and Extended Essay are “criteria for admission” to universities such as Harvard and Stanford.
- Students with the IB diploma are 21% more likely to gain acceptance to a more selective school.
- In **Texas**, the state legislature has mandated that all public colleges and universities award a minimum of **24 hours of college credit to students who receive the IB Diploma (with scores of “4” or higher in each subject on a scoring scale of “1” to “7”)**.
- IB graduates report that in addition to the college credits earned, the most important benefits of the program were time-management skills and learning to write well. They felt like the transition to college was seamless and that they developed life-long friends because of the shared experience.

## **IB Coursework and Exams:**

- IB Exams allow students to choose topics in their area of expertise and express a depth of knowledge in writing vs. multiple choice.
- In IB courses, both “Internal Assessments” and “External Assessments” determine the student’s final grade/college credit in a course. AP grades, however, are determined by one exam taken at the end of the school year. For example, students take the IB exam in May of the junior and/or senior year. This is an External Assessment and comprises about 50% of the student’s IB grade (depending on the subject). The other 50% (sometimes more) is determined by written, oral, and/or portfolio work.

## **Benefits of IB include:**

- Every IB Diploma Candidate has excelled in six or more advanced subjects.
- All IB courses are 6.0 weighted which not only builds academic skills but helps to boost GPA and class rank.
- All full diploma students receive training in time management, test taking strategies, note taking and PSAT practice.
- IB students have experience conducting university level research.
- IB students actively participate in the community.
- IB students develop lifelong skills in time management, self-discipline, and intrinsic motivation.
- IB students are articulate, well informed, and carry their “IB skills” into the workplace.
- Many universities give preferential admissions and scholarship consideration to IB Diploma students because they understand the quality of work produced by IB diploma students
- If the full diploma is not an option for you, it is possible to take single IB courses.