



International Baccalaureate Organization



The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Message from the Coordinator

Welcome to the International Baccalaureate Program at Shawnee Mission North High School. We are pleased and excited that you have expressed interest in the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Certificate Programs. The International Baccalaureate Program is the highest level of academic achievement available for high school students in the world today. The IB curriculum will challenge you to push yourself further both as a student and as a person. The central core of the IB Program aims to develop students into individuals who are ready to face the world in the 21st century.

IB is geared to build on the strengths of all students. Students must be willing to work hard, manage their time and challenge themselves. The IB Diploma Program requires students to commit to a two-year plan of study in their junior and senior years. In addition to the Diploma Program, students at Shawnee Mission North High School can also take individual IB courses and receive a certificate by taking the IB exams. Many colleges and universities offer advanced standing or course credit to students with strong IB exam results.

Please review the IB handbook that explains the basic elements of the IB Program. The decision to take IB courses, whether for a certificate or the full diploma, should be made with the guidance of both parents and counselors. Ultimately what is most important is that you pursue a path that interests and motivates you. All students who are motivated by academic excellence, inspired to do research and explore, and willing to become active in the school and outside community are perfect for IB. I look forward to meeting and working with every one of you as you take on this wonderful opportunity.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

EE	Extended Essay	A 3000-4000-word independent research paper submitted by full diploma students during the senior year. Students formulate an argument, use research to support that argument and reach a conclusion.
HL	Higher Level	Designates a course that is 240 hours or 2 years in length: taken junior and senior year.
SL	Standard Level	Designates a course that is no less than 150 hours in length. Usually over one year, but some classes are given over a year and half or two years.
CAS	Creativity Action Service	Students must attain at least 150 hours among the 3 categories- Creativity, Action, and Service- in extracurricular activities during the course of two years.
IBO	International Baccalaureate Organization	IB Organization as a whole, which includes offices in Geneva, Switzerland, New York, Vancouver, Cardiff, and various regional offices. Contact www.ibo.org .
TOK	Theory of Knowledge	A required course for diploma and candidates. Students explore the basis for knowledge and judgment. Course is taken in both junior and senior year.
IA	Internal Assessment	Evaluative work (presentations, oral interviews, papers, etc.) that is assigned and scored by the North IB teachers using IBO's scoring criteria. The IA is then externally moderated by external examiners.
EA	External Assessment	Work sent to examiners and moderators of the IB Organization to be evaluated. Work is sent to examiners in over 100 different countries. IB exams (papers) are graded this way.

Why IB?

As the Diploma Coordinator here at North, I am often asked "Why should any kid do IB?" The folks who ask me this are usually looking at the amount of work required versus the payoff, or benefit, in college admissions. They ask a fair question, and so here's my brief response.

There is a lot of work involved in IB, especially for our diploma students. Six exams over two years, one hundred and fifty hours of community service and a 4000-word extended essay are the diploma requirements. Even students who take only one exam will be working harder and at a higher level than in other classes that they could take. Whatever else it might be, IB is not a program for students who are looking to avoid work.

The second part of the question - the college admission part - is what is often of most interest to both parents and students. To put it bluntly, the International Baccalaureate program is not about getting anyone into college. The IB [mission statement](#) shows that it has a focus on developing students who examine the world critically and who understand their place in a global community. Students who choose to take IB classes or complete the IB diploma will definitely work harder than their peers, and they may or may not get into the same colleges.

Instead, IB students - all IB students - are exposed to a world view that underscores the importance of education not only in their own lives but also to the world at large. Whether students take one IB testing class or six, they come away realizing that other students throughout the world are taking essentially the same classes at essentially the same time. They will be exposed to curriculum that is simply unavailable in any other program currently offered in American high schools. Most important, IB students are expected to understand their lives in a global context - as part of much more than just Kansas or even the United States of America. This context requires that students go beyond their own comfort zones to learn about other cultures and peoples throughout the world.

The IB world view is not without benefits. What IB does for students is prepare them very well for whatever college they attend. I've heard this too many times from too many students to doubt it; our kids have a relatively easy time with the academic side of college life once they get there. They know how to study, how to speak up during seminars and how to address their instructors with confidence and clarity. We as a faculty feel proud of these facts and proud of the students who go on to represent the school at colleges all over the world.

My response to the question "why IB?" is the following: "Because being prepared for college is at least as important as getting accepted. Because, whether we like it or not, the world is getting smaller and understanding your own place in it helps you and the rest of us. Because life is about the choices we make now, and IB is the best high school curriculum offered anywhere."

Frequently Asked Questions

This is a longer entry specifically designed for those people who are considering the Shawnee Mission North IB program but who are still unsure or have questions. I'm including the most common questions I get asked, along with my responses.

How much homework will my student have in this program?

This is always the first question students and parents ask about IB at North. The answer, unfortunately, is it depends. If your student is doing the most rigorous program within IB at North, then he or she can expect a fairly heavy homework load each and every year. Sixty to ninety minutes a night is not uncommon for students who choose to accelerate in both math and science in the freshman year. IB students who are not so accelerated generally face a lighter homework load, but it can still be sixty to ninety minutes a night during the most intense times. Students who learn early on to manage their time can usually even out the homework by starting long term projects on the day they're assigned.

What are the entrance criteria?

The North IB program is open to all students. Students who have taken challenging coursework prior to their IB courses have experienced the most success. For students interested in the IB Diploma, being on pace for pre-Calculus by 11th grade as well as beginning a foreign language prior to high school are most encouraged.

Will my student be so busy that he or she won't have a social life?

IB students do, contrary to popular opinion, have pretty active social lives. The difference is that most of their social time is spent on class projects and study groups. As our IB students get into the junior and senior year, they select how involved they wish to be in IB. Diploma students are the most involved, and their social lives seem most directly tied to school. ML Associate students are taking two fewer exams than the diploma kids, and so they have more time for sports and traditional high school activities. Certificate students are taking fewer than four exams and they seem to be the most social of all.

Will the IB program help my student get into an Ivy League college?

The truthful answer is "probably not". Every year students get accepted to the Ivy Leagues with very high grades and outstanding test scores. They do extra community service and write engaging, wonderful essays. What IB does for students is to help prepare them for whatever college they attend.

How expensive is the program?

Over the years IB has increased its fees for all testing students. The full IB diploma generates about \$700 in exam fees over two years. We do have financial assistance available for North students who qualify.

What role do parents/guardians play in the IB program at Shawnee Mission North?

IB Parents are critical to the success of our program and for the success of students in the program. One of the key components of the IB program is the intent for rigorous coursework to facilitate vigorous learning. Two important aspects of acclimating to this growth process are deadlines and failure. Supporting students by promoting adherence to deadlines and by allowing them to engage in productive struggle and coping with failure will enhance the collaboration between home and school.

We have not yet had the interest to support an IB Parents Organization but having one could be a benefit in raising funds for the program, providing volunteers for all sorts of tasks that must take place, provide support for teachers and students and work hard to ensure that the benefits of IB are available to all qualified students at North.

How large are IB classes?

Shawnee Mission North is a public school and is therefore under the same rules as any other public school for staffing ratios. However, our administration has been supportive in keeping classes sizes small where possible. However, this also means that practicality may determine that courses be combined or offered at times that will require choosing between two options.

Is there any special screening for teachers of IB classes?

IB teachers all go to special training sessions every four or five years. These trainings focus on the philosophy of IB and also on the day to day details of running an IB program.

Should my student plan on taking summer school if he or she wants to do IB?

Students may need to take summer school in order to be better prepared for entrance into the Diploma Program. The most frequent summer school class taken has been Health/PE.

IB Academic Honesty

According to International Baccalaureate Organization Academic Honesty “must be seen as a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment. It is influenced and shaped by a variety of factors including peer pressure, culture, parental expectations, role modeling and taught skills. An authentic piece of work is one that is based on the student’s individual and original ideas with the ideas and work of others fully acknowledged. Therefore, all assignments, written or oral... must wholly and authentically use that student’s own language and expression. Where sources are used or referred to, whether in the form of direct quotation or paraphrase, such sources must be fully and appropriately acknowledged.”

Academic Dishonesty

- **Cheating**- Copying another's work either paper or electronic, such as homework, class work, or answers to a test. This also includes allowing someone else to copy or cheat off of your work and passing information related to a test.
- **Plagiarism**- this is defined as the representation of the ideas or work of another person as the candidate's own.
- **Collusion**- this is defined as supporting malpractice by another candidate, as in allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.
- **Paraphrasing**- using an author's ideas by rewording or rearranging the author's original words. Paraphrased materials still require the student to acknowledge the source.

Please refer to the IBO General Regulations and the policy posted on the IB portion of the North website for further information.

IB Student-Parent Guide

The International Baccalaureate Program

The IB Program offers a wide range of academic choices and challenges for students at Shawnee Mission North High School. Please review the benefits it provides for our students.

Benefits for the students:

- IB students become active learners. All courses, especially the Theory of Knowledge (TOK), encourage students to understand how they learn, how they connect learning, and how they apply learning.
- *IB ensures a world-class education through a standardized curriculum and a balanced array of assessment methods.*
- IB offers a comprehensive curriculum. Many programs of rigor for gifted and motivated students focus on one or more select academic areas, while IB gives students a solid base in all areas of knowledge. *IB is a "full service" curriculum and teaching philosophy aimed at developing a student as a whole.*
- IB attracts motivated students, and when introduced in public schools and used like many magnet programs, it promotes access for underprivileged students.
- The *community service component* throughout all IB curriculum which fosters a sense of responsibility and *involvement in the students' communities.*
- In addition to an internationally oriented curriculum, IB gives students first-hand experience of being part of an international community and of having a common bond with students all over the world.

· The rigorous curriculum and inquiry-based approach to learning *prepare students to move to the next level of their education.*

· IB diplomas and certificates are widely respected by colleges and universities. Participation in the Diploma Program signals a student's hard work and dedication and often leads to acceptance to competitive universities and advanced college placement.

Who is IB for?

IB is for students who are willing to work hard. The IB program draws upon a wide range of interests, abilities and talents attracting many different types of students. Students need to be able deal with several demanding classes simultaneously, have a willingness to develop self-discipline, learn to manage their time more effectively, have the ability to think critically, want a more internationally minded outlook, and have a desire to become fluent in a second language. The IB Program is open to any and all students.

IB Diploma Program at Shawnee Mission North

Requirements for an International Baccalaureate Diploma

Three Higher Level Courses

Three Standard Level Courses

One course from each of six core curriculum groups

Group 1: Language A (English)

Group 2: Language B (Language Acquisition)

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Group 4: Experimental Science

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: The Arts and electives

Theory of Knowledge

Extended Essay

CAS

- **Each course is graded on a scale of 1 to 7; 24 points are required to get an International Baccalaureate Diploma.**
- **Higher grades in one course may be used to make up for lower grades in another course, provided that the total points are 24+ and the 3 HL's average at least 4 points.**
- **ToK and the Extended Essay may contribute Bonus Points (up to 3) to the Diploma.**
- **Please note- for their sixth subject, in addition to the courses offered in Group 6, they may also do a second course from Groups 3 or 4.**

Colleges and the IB Diploma Program

Students who elect to pursue the International Baccalaureate Program will help themselves be prepared for further academic study at the post-secondary level. Successful completion of the Diploma allows students to be considered for admission to many universities and they may often receive advanced credit and/or placement for some of those courses depending on the received a 5, 6 or 7 score. Ultimately, different colleges and universities have different policies. Please refer to individual university documentation or www.ibo.org for current recognition policies.

Fee Schedule

Both Diploma and Course students pay the following fees:

\$119 per exam taken.

Students only pay the fee for those subjects in which they will take the IB exam for that school year. For example, a junior taking Chemistry SL, English HL and History of the Americas HL will only pay for the Chemistry SL this year; he or she will pay for their English HL and HoA HL in their senior year, when they have completed their two-year sequence.

Assessment in the IB Program

Student achievement is assessed according to specific performance criteria established by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Assessments of IB value both content and process, creating a balanced assessment approach that builds on students' strengths. There are a variety of assessments used by IB which reflect different learning styles and diversity. Most subjects require both internal and external evaluation.

External Assessment

Written examinations are externally set by IB and evaluated by over 2,000 examiners from all over the world. These examinations may include essay questions, short answer topics, document-based and multiple-choice questions.

Internal Assessment

According to the requirements IB sets for individual subjects, assessment may take the form of major written assignments, or lab and project work in Mathematics and the Sciences. Internal assessment is first carried out by the teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, and then goes to an external IB moderator to ensure that uniform standards of evaluation are maintained.

Types of Assessment

- **Research work of the student.** Students must conduct independent work within in each subject. This work is then internally assessed by their teacher, with selected work being sent to IB for review. In addition, students must independently complete the Extended Essay (with faculty advisor) which is then externally assessed by IB.
- **Written Examinations.** IB exams are held in May. These examinations may include essay questions, short answer topics, and document-based questions. Only Chemistry has a multiple-choice section. Internal exams will be administered and graded by the SMN teacher with some of these exams being sent to IB to ensure grading consistency.

- **Oral Examinations.** These exams are given by the teacher and at times may be sent to the IBO for calibration and evaluation.

The assessments go beyond the traditional testing applications of memorization and recall. The assessment designs of IB measure a student's ability to integrate knowledge, demonstrate skills, and effectively communicate an understanding of the subject.

The Award of the IB Diploma

The assessment for IB examinations consists of 7 grade points per subject. These grades represent both the internal and external assessments for the IB course.

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|------------------|----------------|
| 7- Excellent | 6- Very Good |
| 5- Good | 4-Satisfactory |
| 3- Below Average | 2- Poor |
| 1- Very Poor | |

Up to three additional points may be awarded for a student's combined performance in the extended essay and Theory of Knowledge papers. The Diploma is awarded to any student who meets or exceeds 24 points (45 max.).

The Diploma will not be awarded if students fail to complete all aspects of the IB Diploma Program including:

- CAS required hours
- Extended Essay

Students who receive a grade of 1 in any Higher or Standard Level courses or any student who receives a total of more than three grade 3's or below will also be ineligible from receiving an IB Diploma. Students who fail to satisfy the requirements of the full diploma do receive certificates for courses they finish successfully.

Ways to Participate in the IB Program

The IB Program offers two pathways for students: (a) the Diploma Program or (b) one or more IB subject certificates.

To earn an IB Diploma, a student must successfully complete:

1. Students must complete six IB courses during their 11th & 12th grades. One course from each of the six groups- three must be High Level (HL) courses and three must be Standard Level (SL) courses.
 - Higher Level courses require intensive, in-depth study over two years. These courses should reflect student's interests and strengths.
 - Standard Level courses require a full year study.
 - Both levels lead to exams administered by IB. In addition to these exams, students are evaluated on a portion of their regular course work and internal assessment administered by their teachers by moderated by IB.

1. Complete the Theory of Knowledge course and assessments.

1. Submit to IB an original Extended Essay. This is an in-depth study of a topic chosen by the student and supervised by a mentor. Extended Essays must be:
 - Within one of the six subject areas
 - No more than 4,000 words
 - 40 hours of work

1. Complete a Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) Plan
 - At least 150 hours divided among the categories completed over two years.

Testing Requirements for the *Diploma Program*

Diploma students must test in all courses except the Theory of Knowledge.

To earn the IB Diploma, students must receive a total of 24 points (out of a possible 45), and the three HL scores must total 12 or more points. If a 2 is scored on one HL, or the three Higher levels total 11 points, then a total score of 28 is required. Students may also earn up to 3 extra points for their Extended Essay and TOK marks. Failure to complete the EE and TOK requirements or elementary scores in either of these assessments will lead to the failure to earn the diploma.

Individual Subject Certificates

Students who complete one or more IB courses, but do not complete an Extended Essay, CAS or Theory of Knowledge requirements are IB Course candidates and will receive certificates from IBO in a given subject and may earn college credit or advanced standing.

Personal Organization and Deadlines a General Overview

The students are advised, by their subject teachers and the IB Coordinator on the Internal and External deadlines they will have to meet over the two years of the IB Diploma. Students will receive calendars at the beginning of each year. These calendars give details of the due dates

for the most important assignments that count towards their final grades, such as the Extended Essay, the Language orals, The Group 4 project, the Internal Assessment Assignments and the Literature essays.

The purpose of these deadlines is to spread the major pieces of work the course, to avoid having them all due at one time. Students who abide by these deadlines find the programme less stressful. These deadlines are non-negotiable and are set to ensure the school has necessary time to process the student's work and forward it to the IB for marking or moderation.

The school reserves the right not to enter students for the IB Diploma if they are failing to meet the assessment criteria or failing to meet the deadlines set by the school. Students will then receive certificates in their individual subjects but will not pass the IB Diploma. We will always support students who are working to the best of their ability and demonstrating a diligent approach to their studies.

Below is an overview of the timeline for Diploma course studies – with a specific example of the deadlines for this year's Grade 11's and 12's above.

Year DP1

- Teachers explain subject requirements
- Critical deadlines for subject assessment are outlined
- Any minor alterations to the options choices are finalized by early September
- The CAS Coordinator introduces students to the CAS programme and guides them through the process of performing CAS activities and keeping their records updated
- Quarter and Semester reports are issued
- Subject assessment is ongoing
- Some subject assessment meets Internal Assessment requirements for individual subjects
- Extended Essay is introduced to students in January and supervisors allocated
- December and June school examinations are held
- Examinations cover the syllabus taught following IB Diploma standard and format
- The Group 4 activity takes place at the end of the academic year

Year DP2

- Internal Assessment deadlines for individual subjects are ongoing
- Semester reports, mock examination results and quarter reports are issued
- Formal examination entries are completed in November
- Complete Extended Essays sent to IB Coordinator in late November
- The EE Viva Voce takes place in December
- Language A1, A2 and B orals conducted in December to February
- Mock Examinations take place in February and are intended to:
- Most Internal Assessments are completed by February and March and forwarded to the IB
- Conditional and unconditional university placement offers are made
- Final reports are issued in April
- Students go on study leave in late April

- IB Diploma examinations begin in early May and conclude by late May
- Graduation Ceremony held in mid-June
- IB results are issued around July 5 and then results available online

The IBO Philosophy emphasizes the importance of students taking responsibility for their own learning; they are preparing for university and for life after formal education, therefore they will not be “spoon fed”. Teachers show them what is necessary to achieve high standards, such as reading, research, preparing for class and following up from class, prioritizing their use of time and the best ways to use library and computer facilities. Thereafter it is the responsibility of the student to plan, work and meet targets.

Students are advised early on of the importance of self-discipline and organization. They are advised particularly to keep a homework diary and plan ahead for upcoming deadlines. The key to success in the IB Diploma programme is for students to develop effective work strategies that work for them. This is one reason the IB Diploma is recognized as the excellent preparation for university.