IB and AP, side by side

Advanced Placement

- Approach to learning: breadth, memorization emphasized over depth and application or transfer

- One year courses, cafeteria approach, unless AP Capstone that is modeled on IB writing and research skills

International Baccalaureate

- Approach to learning: depth, acquisition of content to be applied and transferred to new contexts

- Two year program, with "whole person" development, curriculum philosophy, writing and research skills

- Independent studies demonstrate a statistically significant effect on college/university GPA

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

- Accepted for university equivalent credit with marks of 4, 5, depending on selectivity of university and the subject; some universities accepts 3s.

- Units range from 3-4 units to 8-10 units, per course, depending on university and subject.

- Possible to obtain one year of advanced standing by combining 6+ AP courses with high unit equivalencies and scores of 4-5 on all of them.

- HLs (Higher level courses) accepted for university equivalent credit with marks of 5, 6, 7, depending on selectivity of university and the subject; some accept 4s.

- Units range from 3-4 units to 10-12 units per course, depending on university and subject.

- Advanced standing with 27+ diploma points at the UCs and unis in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Michigan, Florida; Harvard, Brown, and Boston College; possible to obtain advanced standing with sufficient course equivalencies.

- SLs (standard level courses) accepted by about 40% of colleges/universities for course credit but are used as part of full diploma for advanced standing.

Both AP and IB: More highly selective departments or universities limit the amount of units or credits, giving IB a significant advantage at those universities who grant advanced standing for total diploma points. Limits on equivalent units or that require taking courses in the major apply equally, moderating the effect of fewer universities who grant equivalency for SLs since they tend to also limit total units.