



# **CSHS IB Program Guide**

## **Class of 2028**

**Cactus Shadows High School**  
**International Baccalaureate Program**

5802 E. Dove Valley Road,  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327

## **WHAT IS IB?**

"Imagine a worldwide community of schools, educators and students with a shared mission to empower young people with the values, knowledge and skills to create a better and more peaceful world. This is the International Baccalaureate (IB).

IB Programmes aim to provide an education that enables students to make sense of the complexities of the world around them, as well as equipping them with the skills and dispositions needed for taking responsible action for the future. They provide an education that crosses disciplinary, cultural, national and geographical boundaries, and that champions critical engagement, stimulating ideas and meaningful relationships."

(IBO, "What is an IB education?", pg. 7)

## **WHY IB?**

The Diploma Program prepares students for effective participation in a rapidly evolving and increasingly global society as they:

- develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically
- acquire depth and breadth of knowledge through a course of study that includes six subject areas across a rigorous and internationally-minded curriculum
- develop the skills and positive attitude toward learning that will prepare them for higher education
- develop an awareness and appreciation of a variety of perspectives of people from diverse cultures through the study of two languages
- make connections across traditional academic disciplines and explore the nature of knowledge through the program's unique Theory of Knowledge course
- engage in independent research on a topic of personal interest, which relates to one of the student's six DP subjects through the Extended Essay
- show initiative, demonstrate perseverance, develop collaboration, problem solving and decision-making skills, as well as make positive contributions to their local community through the CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) Program.

Additionally, recent research provides evidence that Diploma Program graduates pursue, and successfully complete postsecondary studies in higher proportions than other high school graduates. (Shah, Dean and Chen, 2010; HESA, 2011; Caspary, 2011; Edwards and Underwood, 2012; Coca et al, 2012)

## **THE IB AND UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION**

The IB diploma is widely recognized by colleges and universities around the world as superior preparation for students to succeed at post-secondary institutions.

"One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated programme, well established, well known, and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific." **-Christoph Guttentag, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University**

"IB is well known to us for excellent preparations. Success in an IB programme correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript." **-Marilyn McGrath Lewis, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Harvard University**

"It is the 'best' high school prep curriculum an American school can offer." **-Marilee Jones, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

"I don't think there is anyone who does not respect the IB." **-Panetha Ott, Admissions Officer, Brown University**

"A transcript that reveals a student's enrollment in International Baccalaureate courses serves notice to the admissions officer that the applicant is someone who accepts rather than avoids educational challenges. Further, a successful IB student will enroll at Michigan with some advantages over students who have taken less intensive programs...Unquestionably, a school that graduates each year a number of students with IB diplomas has demonstrated its commitment to high educational standards and that commitment will serve to influence the admissions decisions at the University of Michigan." **-Cliff Sjogren, former Director of Admissions, University of Michigan**

"...IB students who attended that university (Virginia Tech) as freshmen significantly outperformed all other freshmen, including students who had taken Advanced Placement courses." **-Eugene Carson, former Associate Provost at Virginia Tech**

IB credit policies vary by university or college. ASU, U of A, GCU and NAU all offer credit for HL and some SL exams with scores of 4 or above. Additionally, GCU offers *automatic acceptance* into their honors program to any student who earns the IB Diploma. Further, a number of universities and colleges award 30 credits to students who passed their diploma program with 30 or more points.

School	IB Average Score per Exam	Possible Credit Awarded	Approximate Cost of Tuition (24 Credit Hours)	Cost of IB Exams (six exams @ \$124 each)	Potential Savings
ASU	5	28	\$12,388	\$744	> \$11,644
U of A	5	31	\$12,694	\$744	> \$11,950
NAU	5	31	\$11,896	\$744	> \$11,152

*Exams taken: English HL (3 credits), Spanish HL (8 credits), History HL (6 credits), Economics SL (ASU and U of A, no credit; NAU - 3 credits), Biology HL (8 credits), Math SL (ASU and NAU, 3 credits; U of A, 6 credits)*

Institution	General Acceptance Rate	IB Diploma Acceptance Rate
MIT	7.2%	23.1%
Stanford	4.65%	17%
Harvard	5.1%	12.2%
Cal Tech	8%	28.3%
University of Chicago	7.9%	60.3
Cornell	14.1%	47%
Univ. of Pennsylvania	9.4%	31.6%
University of Michigan	28.6%	70.8%
University of Wisconsin	49%	75%

# **THE IB PROGRAM AT CSHS**

The IB Program at **Cactus Shadows High School** offers Juniors and Seniors the opportunity to earn either the full Diploma, or Certificates in individual courses. Diploma Candidates must select one course from each of six subject groups, with a minimum of three studied at the Higher Level (HL), and three at the Standard Level (SL). Additionally, Diploma Candidates are required to complete the three core components of the IB program: a two-semester Theory of Knowledge course; an Extended Essay; and a CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) project.

## **Program Options**

- *Diploma Candidates* - students take six IB courses, in addition to the three DP core requirements (Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and CAS)
- *Course (or Certificate) Candidates* - take one or more IB courses based on the student's interests, aspirations and responsibilities outside of school

IB Courses are offered at the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL) within each of the IBO's six subject groups. HL courses are taken over two years, whereas SL courses are typically one year in length (exceptions include IB Chinese SL, IB Theater SL, and IB Dance SL).

## **Diploma Candidate Requirements**

Diploma Candidates must successfully complete and pass the three Core Subjects (TOK, CAS, and the Extended Essay) as well as:

- Three (3) Higher Level subject exams and three (3) Standard Level subject exams OR
- Four (4) Higher Level subject exams and two (2) Standard Level exams

The six subject areas include:

- Group One: Studies in Language and Literature
- Group Two: Language Acquisition
- Group Three: Individuals and Societies
- Group Four: Experimental Sciences
- Group Five: Mathematics
- Group Six: The Arts (a Group Six subject may be replaced with a second subject from Group Two, Group Three, or Group Four)

Each of the six subjects is graded on a scale of 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest grade. Those grades are also used as points in determining the award of the diploma. TOK and EE are graded

A-E, with A being the highest grade. Those two grades are combined to contribute between 0 and 3 points to the student's total points. The overall maximum points that may be earned across the six subjects, TOK and EE is 45:  $((6 \times 7) + 3)$ . The minimum number of points required to earn the diploma is 24.

Additional Diploma Stipulations:

- All CAS requirements have been met
- There is no "N" awarded for TOK, EE or one of the six subjects
- There is no grade E awarded for TOK and/or the EE
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level
- There are no more than two grade 2s
- There are no more than three grade 3s
- The student has gained 12 or more points on HL subjects
- The student has gained 9 or more points on SL subjects
- The student has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee

(IBO, Diploma Programme Assessment Procedure 2021, Section A2.2 Award of the Diploma, [ibo.org](https://ibo.org))

## Course (or Certificate) Requirements

In order to receive credit for individual IB courses, students must remain enrolled for the entire length of the course (either one or two years). Additionally, students are required to register for, and take the appropriate IB exam. Certificates will be awarded to all students who achieve a passing score on their subject-specific IB exams (4 or more points).

## The Three DP Core Requirements

In addition to the DP curriculum, all Diploma students must complete IB's three core components during their Junior and Senior years.

### Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS)

According to IBO, "CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development by learning through experience. It provides opportunities for self-determination and collaboration with others, fostering a sense and accomplishment and enjoyment from their work. At the same time, CAS is an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the DP."

(<https://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/creativity-activity-and-service/>)

The program is organized around three strands:

- **Creativity:** exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance
- **Activity:** physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle
- **Service:** collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need

The aim of the program is to develop students who:

- Enjoy and find significance in a range of CAS experiences
- Purposefully reflect upon their experiences
- Identify goals, develop strategies and determine further actions for personal growth
- Explore new possibilities, embrace new challenges and adapt to new roles
- Actively participate in planned, sustained, and collaborative CAS projects
- Understand they are members of local and global communities with responsibilities towards each other and the environment

(IBO, *Creativity, Activity, Service Guide*, pg. 8, 10)

### The Extended Essay

The Extended Essay (EE) is an in-depth study (4,000 words) of a focused topic chosen from the list of available Diploma Program subjects – normally one of the student’s six chosen subjects for the IB Diploma. It is intended to promote academic research and writing skills, and provide students with an opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their choice, under the guidance of a supervisor, all of which leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing, in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner. Throughout the process, students are required to undertake three reflection sessions with their supervisor, which includes a short, concluding interview, or *viva voce*. The EE is assessed against common criteria, interpreted in ways appropriate to each subject.

(IBO, *Extended Essay Guide*, 2022)

### Theory of Knowledge

“Theory of Knowledge is a required two-semester, interdisciplinary study within the IB curriculum. Students engage in critical reflection and analysis as they explore relationships and philosophical perspectives across multiple disciplines. The course is focused on a self-study of learning theory, thought and written expression. The year includes didactic teaching of subject matter, coaching that produces the skills of learning, and Socratic questioning in seminar discussion. Extended Essay guidance will be included in the course.”

TOK is a YEAR-LONG CALENDAR COURSE that spans across the 11th and 12th grade academic years.

## **IB Exams and Exam Fees**

Normally, IB students test in one subject, their IB elective choice, in May of their Junior year, and take the remaining five exams in May of their Senior year. Every subject area has its own testing regimen, which consists of both internal assessments (administered by the teacher) and external assessments (administered by the IB organization). IB exams are scored on a 1-7 scale. The minimum number of points required to earn the IB diploma is 24. An additional 3 points may be earned from the combination of TOK and Extended Essay scores, which are then added to the student's total score (a total of 45 points possible). Some circumstances exist in which a candidate may not be awarded a diploma even though 24 points have been earned.

Currently the full regimen of IB testing costs approximately \$868 (7 exams x \$124 fee per exam), with \$124 due at the start of Junior year, and the remainder due at the start of Senior year. Exam fees are paid by the student and are non-refundable. IB fees are similar to those of AP and Dual Enrollment fees. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch may qualify for an IB fee waiver.

## **CSHS Course Offerings for Class of 2028**

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

- Language A: Literature HL

Group 2: Language Acquisition

- French SL/HL
- Spanish SL/HL

Group 3: Individuals and Society

- History HL
- Global Politics SL

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

- Physics SL/HL

Group 5: Mathematics

- Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL/HL

Group 6: The Arts

- Dance SL
- Theater SL

Theory of Knowledge



## IB Diploma Program 4-Year Academic Plan

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<b>English</b>	English 9 Honors	English 10 Honors	IB English HL (Jrs.)	IB English HL (Srs.)
<b>World Language</b>	French or Spanish	French or Spanish	IB French SL/HL (Jrs.) or IB Spanish SL/HL (Jrs.)	IB French SL/HL (Srs.) or IB Spanish SL/HL (Srs.)
<b>Social Studies</b>	AP Human Geography	AP US Government/AP Macroeconomics	IB History HL	IB History HL
<b>Math #1</b>	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	IB Math SL w/Honors Pre-Calc	AP Calc AB or AP Stats or IB Math HL (if no IB test at the end of Junior year)
<b>Math #2</b>	Honors Algebra II	Honors Pre-Calc	IB Math HL (Jrs.)	IB Math SL (Srs.)
<b>Science</b>	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry or AP Chemistry	IB Physics SL/HL (Jrs.)	IB Physics SL/HL (Srs.)
<b>Elective</b>	PE/Health	Fine Art or other elective (or Honors Geometry)	IB Global Politics SL (one year course that they be taken either Junior or Senior year) or IB Dance SL or IB Theater SL	IB Global Politics SL (one year course that may be taken either Junior or Senior year) or IB Dance SL or IB Theater SL

- IB Electives include:
  - IB Global Politics SL (no prerequisite)
  - IB Dance SL (prerequisites: Dance and Advanced Dance) - 3 semester course
  - IB Theatre Arts SL (prerequisites: Theater 1-2) - 3 semester course
- CSHS offers IB History of the Americas and IB 20th Century World History in alternate years.
- Theory of Knowledge is a required course for all Diploma Candidates. The class meets online during Spring Semester (Junior Year) and the Fall Semester (Senior Year).
- Additional Diploma Program requirements include CAS (Creativity, Action, and Service) and the Extended Essay, both of which are completed outside the school day.
- Students who take Algebra 1 H in 9th Grade are advised to complete BOTH Algebra 2 H and Geometry H during their 10th grade year.
- AP U.S. Government and AP Macroeconomics fulfill CSHS graduation requirements.
- Students will be placed into higher levels of world language according to ability.
- It is advised that students who wish to enroll in IB Visual Arts, IB Theater Arts, or IB Dance as Juniors, enroll in the pre-requisite classes during their 9th and/or 10th Grade years.

## **PROGRAM STATS**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Diplomas Earned</b>	<b>Diploma Candidates</b>	<b>Success Rate</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>Diplomas Earned</b>	<b>Diploma Candidates</b>	<b>Success Rate</b>
<b>2023</b>	6	6	100%		<b>2015</b>	18	18	100%
<b>2022</b>	7	6	85.70%		<b>2014</b>	11	10	90.90%
<b>2021</b>	15	15	100%		<b>2013</b>	28	27	96.40%
<b>2020</b>	13	10	76.90%		<b>2012</b>	22	20	90.90%
<b>2019</b>	26	21	80.70%		<b>2011</b>	22	17	77%
<b>2018</b>	10	10	100%		<b>2010</b>	23	18	78%
<b>2017</b>	21	17	80.90%		<b>2009</b>	18	9	50%
<b>2016</b>	14	12	85.70%					

### **College Acceptances - IB Diploma Class of 2022**

Arizona State University

Auburn University

Belmont University

Northern Arizona University

Vanderbilt University

Texas Christian University

University of Arizona

University of Michigan

University of Mississippi

University of North Carolina

University of Oklahoma

University of South Florida

University of Washington