



FAQ's

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can take IB courses?

ALL juniors and seniors

What are the prerequisites for IB courses?

- IB Business Management SL -- none
- IB Chemistry HL -- complete NGSS Biology and NGSS Chemistry
- IB Computer Science SL -- take AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A (Java)
- IB French SL -- complete French 3
- IB History of the Americas HL -- must complete AP World History or World Studies
- IB Language & Literature HL -- must complete English 10
- IB Math SL -- complete DE College Algebra or AP Precalculus
- IB Psychology HL - none
- IB Spanish SL--complete Spanish 3
- IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science HL -- complete NGSS Biology and NGSS Physics
- IB Theatre SL -- Intermediate Theatre Arts
- IB Visual Art SL/HL--complete Art 1
- IB World Religions SL -- none
- IB Theory of Knowledge -- only available to students who take at least two other IB courses

Can I take just one or a few IB classes?

Yes, although the Diploma Programme is the most

recommended by universities and by GBHS. There are three options:

- IB A La Carte* -- one or two classes
- IB Certificate of Merit* -- complete SL 1 & 2 and/or HL 1 & 2 of three to five classes & take official IB exams; recognized at GBHS graduation by RJUHSD
- IB Diploma Programme* -- most prestigious and well-known international education program, six classes plus the IB Core (Theory of Knowledge course, Extended Essay research paper, CAS personal goal setting and self-reflection); recognized at GBHS graduation by IB and RJUHSD and around the world.

For the IB Diploma Programme, what do I have to take in 9th and 10th grade?

- Be finished with English 10; AP World History/World Studies. Finish IM 3, DE College Algebra or AP Precalculus, and Spanish 3/French 3.
- For students who want to take Chemistry HL - take NGSS Chemistry sophomore year; (you can skip NGSS Physics if enrolling in IB Chemistry HL)
- For students who want to take IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science HL instead of Chemistry HL -- be finished with NGSS Biology and NGSS Physics.

Can I take an SL 2 or HL 2 course without taking SL1 or HL 1 first?

If you take AP US History, you may take IB History of the Americas HL 2 senior year. For all others, you have to take HL1 or SL 1 first.

Could I take a class without taking the exams?

It is strongly recommended that students complete the exams, but it isn't required unless you are pursuing the full IB Diploma or the IB Certificate of Merit.

Are there fees for taking IB exams?

In the 2025-26 school year, IB charges \$124 for each subject. (and there are progressive late fees.) We have a financial aid application process for scholarships. Fees are paid only in the year that exams are taken.

Could I take other AP courses while pursuing the full Diploma?

Possibly. We do not recommend it and neither do college admissions officers. They recognize that the IB Programme is already rigorous and well-rounded as it involves taking seven upper level courses. (13 - 16 terms altogether, depending on course choices)

Program information as of November 2025

