OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate Program

LEARN MORE AT OLGCHS.ORG/IB

First Catholic high school in the area to offer the IB Program

95%

pass rate for IB Economics HL

100%

pass rate for IB History HL

100%

pass rate for IB Literature HL

Contact

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AP/IB Coordinator

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is recognized globally by top colleges and universities as one of the best available for high-achieving, highly motivated students. This two-year college preparatory course of study develops students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically. The curriculum is made up of six subject groups, and the IB core comprises Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) and the extended essay. Through the program's core, students reflect on the nature of knowledge, complete independent research and undertake a project that often involves community service.

This two-year college preparatory course of study requires students to take examinations in six subject areas:

- Primary Language (involving the study of World Literature and the English language)
- World Languages
- Social Studies (including World Religions)
- Experimental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Fine Arts or Electives

How do I apply for the International Baccalaureate Program?
Students apply to the comprehensive IB Program in the middle of their Sophomore year, and those who are admitted complete the two-year program in their Junior and Senior years. The application process is discussed with students and parents during the Sophomore year.

Are there prerequisites for the International Baccalaureate Program?
Students who take Xaverian Honors (Pre-AP/IB) courses in their first and second years are best prepared for the rigor of IB classes; however, Xaverian Honors (Pre-AP/IB) courses are not prerequisites for IB. Strong performance in previous classes and teachers' recommendations are the best indicators for admission into and success in the IB Program.

How is acceptance to the International Baccalaureate Program determined?
Admission to the IB Program is based upon one's academic performance as a GC student, an application essay and teacher recommendations.

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How is the International Baccalaureate Program different from the Advanced Placement Program?

Whereas AP courses focus on acquiring subject content that is then assessed by a major summative exam to determine "college readiness" in the subject, the IB Program is a two-year, integrated program of studies in which students dive deeply into topics to hone the skills necessary to approach problem solving and critical thinking. IB courses are inquiry-based, focusing on critical skills and completing assessments relevant to each academic discipline. Success in the IB Program can result in the awarding of the IB Diploma, a credential that can lead to receiving college credit and/or advanced standing upon entering university.

What additional tasks are required to earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma?

- A two-year interdisciplinary seminar called Theory of Knowledge in which students develop critical thinking and communication skills as they explore how perceptions are shaped
- A 4,000-word paper exploring an area of particular interest to the student; initiated, developed and completed during the first year through a guided research and writing course
- A demonstrated engagement with learning and growth outside the classroom through participation in extracurricular activities, service and individual areas of interest

How do colleges view the International Baccalaureate Program?

Most major universities recognize the rigor and quality of IB's approach to academics. Because IB courses are designed to develop skills as well as knowledge, colleges and universities welcome the IB student as someone who is particularly suited to the demands of the college curriculum. Colleges view students who complete the whole program more favorably than students who take isolated courses.

Colleges and universities attended by recent graduates of Good Counsel's International Baccalaureate Program:

- Bates College
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- Carnegie Mellon
- Duke University
- Durham University
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Tech
- Hollins University
- Howard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California
- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- Mount Saint Mary's University
- New York University, Stern
- Northwestern
- Oregon State University
- Penn State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rhodes College
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Skidmore College
- Spelman College
- St. John's University, Queens
- The Catholic University of America
- UCLA
- United States Naval Academy
- University of California — San Diego
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Miami, Coral Gables
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Tampa
- University of Tennessee
- University of Virginia
- Villanova University
- Virginia Tech
- Washington College
- Wesleyan University
- Williams College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

