



Earl Wooster High School



Frequently Asked Questions about International Baccalaureate (IB)

What is IB?

The IB Program is recognized as a world-class college preparatory program. Students are challenged to become independent inquirers through a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes the global nature of learning. The IB philosophy encourages students to become knowledgeable, inquirers, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, courageous, balanced and reflective individuals.

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. International Schools got together to create the program intended to help internationally mobile students prepare for university through internationally standardized courses and assessments. Now, the IB works with 3,698 schools in 147 countries to offer IB program to approximately 1,151,000 students.

What kind of students enroll in IB?

IB is for motivated students who like to be challenged and have a love of learning.

What do students get out of IB?

Students gain valuable college and career skills of critical thinking, problem-solving, time management, writing and research. Access to Top Tier Universities, Also preparing students for graduate school, Opportunity to Earn College Credit, A Complete High School Experience

What is the difference between AP and IB?

Both are great programs that challenge the students

- ☐ IB is an integrated program of study
 - Critical thinking (within classes and in TOK class)
 - Emphasis on writing skills (must write a 4,000 word essay)
 - Essay exams, free response
 - Must take the class in order to take the exam
 - Must take entire program of courses (6 of them) + the Core to earn diploma
- ☐ AP allows students to choose off of the “a la carte” menu
 - Content based
 - Very limited time to teach writing and research skills in an AP course
 - Multiple choice 50% and essay exams 50%
 - Don't need to take the class to take the exam
- ☐ Many IB students also take AP exams
- ☐ The general consensus is that the programs are of roughly equal value and that the choice between them should be an individual one based on the needs, interests and educational goals of each student.

The IB is a rigorous pre-university program leading to assessments in six subject areas. The two-year IB Diploma program provides a coherent and demanding educational experience across the full curriculum. The IB Diploma is accepted as an admissions credential at universities in 102 countries. In addition, high scores on IB exams often entitle students to credit or placement at university.

Are IB students excluded from taking AP exams?

No. For every core subject in IB (English, Foreign Language, History, Math, Science, Art and Music), students can, and do, concurrently take the corresponding AP exam in that subject area in order to maximize their opportunity in college.

Can students earn college credit with IB?

Yes. IB students have earned as many as 42 semester hours, depending on the institution. See "University Recognition" at www.ibo.org.

Does it cost anything to do IB?

Students pay per exam fee (approximately \$110/exam) as well as a diploma registration fee (approximately \$160.00). These fees are not due, however, until IB exams are taken in the junior and senior year (you have time to save).

What is the difference between IB Certificate and IB Diploma?

With the IB Certificate students can take as few as one IB course, or as many as six. The IB Diploma requires students to take all six IB subject areas, as well as completing community service, the Extended Essay, and Theory of Knowledge course.

When do students actually study IB?

IB starts in the junior and senior years of high school. To prepare for the rigors of this program, students first take Baccalaureate Prep courses (Honors) in the freshman and sophomore years, which are roughly 30% of the actual IB curriculum.

How much homework do IB students have?

Students are expected to put in on average one half hour of homework per night per class.

Do students have a life outside of class work in IB?

Yes. By learning time management, they are able to participate in many extracurricular activities and sports like other high school students do. Most of our IB students participate in several activities.

Can anyone teach an IB class?

No. All teachers must first be trained certified at designated IB workshops.

How can students do IB if they are not zoned to attend Wooster?

IB is a District supported magnet program, and transportation will be based on available funding and students will be picked up from their zoned high school.

Can students visit Wooster and see the IB Program?

Yes. Interested students are invited to come and shadow IB students in their classes for an entire school day.

How can I find out more about the IB Program at Wooster?

Go to the following link:

www.woostercolts.com, click on "Academics," click on "International Baccalaureate."

General Information:

- ☑ Wooster is currently the only IB World School in northern Nevada
- ☑ In 2014 543 IB and Baccalaureate Prep students are enrolled in grades 9-12
- ☑ There are currently Four IB schools in Nevada. Wooster High School in Reno, and Palo Verde, Valley High School, and Green Valley in Las Vegas
- ☑ There are 1100 U.S. IB World Schools, and over 2,800 in 138 countries.

For more information contact:

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