

IB & AP PATHWAYS

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SDHS LIBRARY

6:00 P.M.

ALL SDHS STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO BOTH IB & AP COURSES
BUT HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH PATH TO TAKE?

- The Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs are both high school programs that offer college-level courses and the opportunity to earn college credit.
- The AP Program was developed in the US to help high school students prepare for college by taking advanced courses. Students could take just one or even a dozen AP classes, depending on their school, schedule, and goals.
- In contrast, IB was developed in Switzerland to be an internationally recognized diploma. To earn the diploma, you have to take a certain amount of courses in a range of subjects. It is possible to just take a few IBs without earning the diploma, but IB was developed to be a set program of courses.
- So what's the difference between AP and IB? Does one look more impressive than the other? Which will improve your odds of getting into a top school the most?

IB & AP HAVE DIFFERENT PROGRAM GOALS

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- More emphasis on writing and developing critical thinking skills not just on the exams themselves.
- The IB diploma also requires the extended essay, a 4000 word independent research paper.
(Coursework students may also choose to complete an EE)
- The IB diploma requires students to also complete CAS and TOK.
(Coursework students may choose whether to complete these components.)

Advanced Placement (AP)

- Focused on teaching students specific content and testing their knowledge on the exams.
- There is more multiple-choice and emphasis on meeting certain content goals.

DIPLOMA OR COURSEWORK? PATHWAY DIFFERENCES

IB Diploma Holistic Pathway:

6 IB Courses in 6 IB Specific Subject Areas.

1. Language & Literature
2. World Language (French/German/Spanish)
3. Individuals and Societies (History/Econ)
4. Sciences (Bio/Chem/Physics)
5. Mathematics
6. IB Arts or IB Elective

Additional Required Components:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay
- C.A.S

IB Coursework Pathway:

Design Your Path: Students can pick any subject areas to take IB coursework.

1. Language & Literature
2. World Language (French/German/Spanish)
3. Individuals and Societies (History/Econ)
4. Sciences (Bio/Chem/Physics)
5. Mathematics
6. IB Art or IB Elective

Optional Components:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay
- C.A.S.

AP CAPSTONE



HOW ABOUT COST?

Type of Course:	Description:	Benefits:	Costs:	Pre-Requisites:	Grades:	More Information & Resources:
AP Advanced Placement	Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board that offers college-level curriculum & exams to students in high school. AP classes provide a high quality, accelerated educational opportunity for students. All AP courses are year-long. The end-of-course AP exam is administered during the 1st two weeks in May.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted credit. • Potential college credit. • College readiness & preparation. 	\$94.00 per exam. *\$5.00 per exam. \$40.00 unused exam fee. \$40.00 late fee.	Pre-Requisites apply to some courses. Check with your school counselor for more information on course sequencing.	9th - 12th	www.collegeboard.org Students must complete & submit the " AP Registration Packet " including all fees by the March 6th, 2019 deadline.
AVID	AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) helps to prepare every student for college readiness and success in a global society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer tutoring. • Focused note-taking. • Collaboration. • Embedded soft skills. • College readiness. 	No cost to students.	No.	9th - 12th	www.AVID.org
CC Community College	Community college coursework provides advanced academic opportunities and ensures a smoother transition from high school to college by providing students with greater exposure to the collegiate curriculum & atmosphere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted credit. • College credit. • College readiness & preparation. 	Courses offered through the SDHS/City College agreement have no cost to students.	Pre-Requisites apply to some courses. Check with your school counselor for more information on course sequencing.	11th & 12th	SD City College Enrollment Info.
Honors	An Honors course is a an accelerated course that moves a little faster and covers more material compared to a regular course. Successful completion of this course earns recognition on honors (i.e. weighted) credit by the University of California. Honors courses are comparable in workload and emphasis to AP, IB, or introductory college courses. All honors courses will have a district-prepared, comprehensive end-of-course exam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted credit. • College readiness & preparation. 	No cost to students.	No.	10th - 12th	
IB International Baccalaureate	The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a two-year educational programme that provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into college and is recognized by many universities worldwide. All IB exams are administered during the first three weeks in May.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted credit. (Class 2021) • Possible college credit. • College readiness & preparation. 	\$119 Exam Fee *\$5.00 per exam.	Pre-Requisites apply to some courses. Check with your school counselor for more information on course sequencing.	11th - 12th	www.IBO.org Students must complete & submit the " IB Registration Packet " including all fees due in Mid-October.
CCTE Pathway College Career Technical Education	CCTE courses are offered in industry sectors tied to local economic and workforce needs. Courses are comprised of a sequence of courses, exploratory, foundation, intermediate, advanced. These courses provide high school students with skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary/college education, entry level employment, & career advancement. The instructional integration of academic and workplace skills provides career awareness and exploration, including internship opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many courses are UC approved. • Technical skills & training. • Internship opportunities. • Develop employability skills. 	No cost to students.	No.	9th - 12th	San Diego Unified CCTE Info. SDCOE CCTE Info. CDE CCTE Info.

*\$5.00 per exam for students who qualify for a fee waiver. Not all students will qualify. See your school counselor for more information.

COMPARE IB VS AP

- Only IB requires you to enroll in classes. You can take AP exams without being enrolled in a class, but you have to be enrolled in an IB class to take an IB exam. If you have proficiency in a language not offered by your school, or if you want to self-study for example in a subject like Science, Math, World Language, or Art History, the AP program gives you more flexibility.
- IB offers higher-level and standard-level courses. To get an IB diploma, you have to take at least three higher-level courses.
- AP courses are offered at a single level, though there are certain subjects, like calculus and physics, that have different course options.
- IB higher level is at some high schools considered harder than AP. Most colleges give credit for AP exams and higher-level IB exams, but not all give credit for standard-level IB exams.

WHAT DO COLLEGES THINK OF IB AND AP?

- Colleges don't automatically consider AP or IB harder or more impressive on a transcript. Since IB is a rarer program, they can't penalize students for not taking it. Plus, there are huge differences in how both AP and IB courses are taught and graded at high schools across the country.
- Because of the differences in IB/AP course grading, colleges—especially the most selective ones—just want to see you have taken the most challenging course load available at your high school. That means instead of worrying about AP versus IB, you should worry about taking the most rigorous classes your high schools offers.
- Colleges and universities seem to be more interested in how hard your schedule is considered at your school rather than whether you chose AP or IB so consider your high school's offerings and how challenging your schedule (including extracurricular) looks in comparison.
- One thing to keep in mind is that the IB diploma shows you are challenging yourself in all subject areas, whereas with the AP program you could just pick subjects you are strong in. Colleges will notice this. If you can, try to take AP classes in a broad range of subjects while digging deeper into subjects you are passionate about.

COLLEGE CREDIT!

- AP and IB credit are both widely accepted, but there are lots of slight differences in credit policies. We suggest looking up policies at your target schools since the credit policies can differ.
- If a school you're really interested in seems to vastly favor one program or the other, you should take that into consideration when weighing the two programs.
- Also, keep in mind you only get credit in most cases if you have a 5 or higher on IB exams or a 4 or higher on AP exams. So whether you take AP or IB, remember to focus on doing well and passing!
- You can search the AP credit policy of various colleges at [AP Credit Policy Search](#). The IB program doesn't have a similar database, but you can look up the IB credit policy of any college or university by searching "Name of College/University IB Credit."

HOW DO THEY FIT WITH YOUR SCHEDULING AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

Questions to Consider:

- What college/university are you interested in attending?
- What career path are you interested in pursuing?
- Are there subject areas that you are exceptionally interested in?
- Would doing the IB diploma prevent you from a certain extracurricular, like yearbook, sports, or band?
- Are you ready to commit to an IB diploma or do you want more flexibility?
- Are you interested in taking community college courses?
- Are you part of a pathway academy on campus like AOF, Med-Tech, or Geo-Tech?

These are questions you will want to consider when thinking about taking either AP or IB classes.

Be sure to work with your San Diego High School counselor who can give you an idea of what your schedule might look like and how it could conflict with extracurricular or other activities you want to participate in.

[San Diego High School Counselor Contact Information, click on this link](#)

BOTTOM LINE: AP VS IB

- Taking either AP or IB classes will look very good on your applications, as it shows you are challenging yourself with college-level courses.
- There is no real preference or benefit from doing one or the other, as long as you do well in your chosen courses.
- As one admission officer at Northwestern University said, “one qualification AP vs IB is not better than another.”
- **BALANCE.** You want to make sure you are doing well in all your classes and not overloading. There is no point in taking on 10 AP classes or the IB diploma if you get a low GPA and don't pass the exams.
- Be sure other parts of your college application is strong, especially your ACT/SAT score. Along with your transcript and GPA, your ACT/SAT score can have an enormous impact on your admission chances, especially at selective schools.

QUESTIONS