

## Common IB Terms and Acronyms

**IB Diploma Candidate:** Diploma candidates complete courses and test in at least six subject areas in addition to the EE, CAS, and TOK (see below). For more information on what specifically is needed for the Diploma please see the next page.

**IB Scholar:** Any junior or senior can enroll in an IB class and upon successful completion of the course take an exam with the potential to earn a “certificate” that can translate into college credit depending on the score achieved and requirements of the University in question.

**Extended Essay (EE):** A 4000 word research paper on a topic of the student’s choosing. Graded externally on a letter scale, a passing EE is required for the IB diploma. While done independent of any one class, students will work with a mentor who can offer insight into the chosen subject area. Link to subject brief: [International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief - Diploma Programme Core: Extended essay, including the world studies option](#)

**Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS):** In order to qualify for the full IB diploma, candidates engage in and reflect upon diverse extracurricular activities. Their senior year diploma candidates will plan and implement a “CAS project.”

Link to subject brief: [International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief: Creativity, Activity, Service](#)

**Theory of Knowledge (ToK):** A class centered around metacognition, reflection, and the philosophy of learning and knowledge. While mandatory for the full diploma, any IB scholar can choose to take it. Link to subject brief: [Diploma Programme core: Theory of knowledge](#)

**Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL):** Typically SL courses can be completed in a year while HL courses take place over two years of study. HL courses also include extra exams in the spring of the testing year. HL exams often have the potential for more college credit.

**External Assessments:** In May students sit for exams corresponding to the classes they took that year. These exams are graded externally, meaning not at the school site. Some classes may also produce essays and commentaries that are sent out for evaluation.

**Internal Assessment (IA) or Individual Oral (IO):** For each IB course students are tasked with completing either an IA or IO, depending on the subject area. While spring exams cover content, these papers and projects task students with showing a mastery of the skills of a particular subject. Students have a great deal of freedom in choosing a topic of interest to them to investigate further, providing it fits within the subject area criteria.

## Requirements for the IB Diploma

A rigorous two-year course of study taking place over a student's junior and senior years, the International Baccalaureate diploma curriculum is built around a holistic approach to education. Students are encouraged to push themselves across different disciplines, enriching their confidence as learners no matter the subject. In order to qualify for the full IB Diploma students need to complete a course and test in each of the following categories of classes:

1. **Studies in Language and Literature**
  - a. Current offerings include Literature and Language and Literature
2. **Language Acquisition**
  - a. Current offerings include French and Japanese
3. **Individuals and Societies**
  - a. Current offerings include History of the Americas and Philosophy
4. **Experimental Sciences**
  - a. Offerings are subject to change given student interest and instructor availability, but have included Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Systems and Societies, and Physics
5. **Mathematics**
  - a. Mathematics Applications and Interpretations
6. **A sixth subject**
  - a. Offerings are subject to change given student interest and instructor availability but have included IB Visual Arts, IB Music, or an additional class from one of the above categories (Ex: doubling up on History and Philosophy; or Biology and Environmental Systems and Societies)

It is important to note that the above is required only for **the full IB Diploma**. Non IB Diploma seeking students who show interest in a subject matter and have met prerequisites are encouraged to take and test in as many courses as they can fit in their schedule.

Further Details:

- Each evaluated course can result in a score of 1-7. The combined scores from the six subjects must total at least 24 points.
- At least three of the tested subject areas, but no more than four, must be HL.
- HL scores must total at least 12 points. Additionally, no HL score can be lower than a 3 to receive the diploma.
- Students can complete two SL courses their Junior year.
- In addition to the above, to receive the Diploma students **must** earn at least a D grade in ToK and the EE.