



## International Baccalaureate Program (IB Diploma)

VS.

## Advanced Placement Program (AP Program)

### IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Noted for its exceptional credentials worldwide, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study that includes instruction and assessment in six different subject areas, an independent research project, an inquiry into the nature of knowledge, and engagement in service to the community.

### AP PROGRAM

A challenging academic program designed to provide motivated high school students with college-level academic courses. The AP program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities and is considered a standard for academic excellence in the United States.

### MISSION

To develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

To connect students to college success and opportunity. The College Board's AP program supports the principle that each individual school must develop its own curriculum based on a set of expectations that colleges and secondary school faculty nationwide have established for college-level courses.

### COURSES

IB course curriculum is developed by an international committee of university professors and master secondary teachers. IB Standard Level (SL) courses provide breadth while IB Higher Level (HL) courses provide specialization. All HL courses are two years. Some SL courses are two years and some are one year; these will also vary by school. IB requires 150 teaching hours for SL and 240 teaching hours for HL courses. Magnolia ISD offers 17 different IB courses at the HL and/or SL levels.

Individual teachers develop their own curriculum based on established course requirements and AP standards that must be approved by the College Board as part of the AP Course Audit process. University professors review the course syllabi for rigor and content to match college standards. All AP courses are one-year. Magnolia ISD offers a total of 25 different AP courses.

### WHY TAKE IB OR AP?

IB provides an intensive, comprehensive college preparatory program. It approaches curriculum and instruction from an inquiry model of learning, focuses on academic writing and research, and seeks to produce well-rounded, internationally-minded, life long learners.

AP provides a challenging educational program that prepares students for selective universities and colleges. AP is a rigorous program dedicated to educational excellence.

## TEACHER TRAINING

All IB teachers complete a comprehensive training that includes curriculum, teaching strategies and assessment. Teachers continue to attend workshops every 5 – 7 years.

All AP teachers complete comprehensive training that includes developing curriculum, teaching strategies and preparing the students for examinations. Teachers continue to attend workshops every 5 – 7 years.

## DIPLOMAS AND RECOGNITION

Students pursuing the IB Diploma take six IB courses in different areas: English, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Science, Math, and an Elective. Diploma candidates must take a minimum of three HL courses (maximum of four) with remaining classes taken at the SL. Diploma students also take the Theory of Knowledge course, write a 4000-word extended essay and complete an 18-month long community service project outside of class. A student must achieve a minimum score of 24 out of 45 points to be awarded the IB Diploma. Students may also take IB courses in areas of academic strength and interest. IB diploma course students take one or more IB courses and the associated exam(s) and receive certificates recognition for each IB exam with a score of 4 or better.

Students may enroll in as many individual AP courses as they wish based on academic strengths and interests. The College Board recognizes students with exceptional performance in the Advanced Placement program as follows:

- AP Scholar: 3 or higher on 3 exams;
- AP Scholar with Honor: Average 3.25 with a 3 on at least 4 exams;
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Average 3.5 with a 3 on at least 5 exams; and
- National AP Scholar: Average of 4 on all exams with a 4 on at least 8.
- Community service is a requirement of AP Government.

## EXAMINATIONS

Students take a series of internal assessments (assessed by the local teacher and moderated by an examiner) and external assessments (moderated by international standards). IB exams are scored on a 1-7 scale. The exam score consists of two parts: the Internal Assessment (assessed by the teacher and moderated by IB examiners) and the External Assessment which is taken at the end of the course and graded by IB examiners.

Students take an externally graded examination at the end of the AP course. AP exams are scored on a 1-5 scale and are graded by AP readers.

## TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS

Assessments include lab work for science; papers for English and the social sciences; oral presentations or exams in English and foreign (world) languages; portfolios in math and computer science; and various projects such as journals and art books in the electives.

Examinations include multiple choice questions and essays. Language exams include listening and speaking components. Art requires a portfolio, and music includes sight-reading.

## COLLEGE CREDIT

Many colleges offer credit for HL exams with scores of 4, 5, 6 or 7. All public Texas universities shall grant a minimum of 24 hours of credit for an IB Diploma. Some colleges offer additional credit to students who complete the IB diploma. Some colleges offer credit for SL exams with scores of 4, 5, 6 or 7. Most colleges list the credit policy on their websites. University recognition policies are also available on the IB website at [ibo.org](http://ibo.org) under “University Recognition.”

Many colleges offer college credit for AP examinations with scores of 3, 4 or 5. Universities and colleges list the credit policy on their websites. University recognition policies are also available on the College Board website at [collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy](http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/apcreditpolicy)

