

Diploma Programme Information Guide

Introduction

Congratulations on having a student heading to 11th grade. This document provides you with an overview of the Diploma Programme (DP). It also provides important information regarding course selection and paths to graduation. Please make sure you review the full document including each of the highlighted sections. At the end of this guide is a list of contacts should you have any questions for the content teachers. The School Counselor, Ms. Reid and the Head of School, Dr. Michael Lowe are able to assist as well.

Understanding the IB Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) is the most academically challenging credit-based transition program offered in American schools. The goal of the DP is to help students prepare for university demands (both academically and socially) through rigorous coursework in 6 subject areas as well as areas of critical and existential thinking, creativity, activity, and service, and personal interest research.

A recent study found that 82.2% of Diploma Programme (DP) graduates enroll in post secondary institutions immediately following high school graduation, in comparison with the 66% of all high school graduates. In addition, DP students were more likely to apply and gain acceptance to *more selective* (defined by the number of accepted applicants versus total applicants) colleges and universities than non-DP students. Students exposed to Diploma Programme (DP) coursework-both full diploma and course students- were more likely to have stronger plans in place to attend college, had higher self-efficacy, and were more prepared in terms of personal responsibility than their non-DP classmates.

By completing courses within the Diploma Programme (DP) your student will prepare for college by

- Being exposed to college level content
- Experiencing a college level workload
- Participating in simulations, labs, and discussions at a higher level
- Reading and writing extensively
- Potentially qualifying for college credits

The Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the DP core, comprising of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS), and the Extended Essay (EE).

Diploma Programme (DP) Subject Groups

1. Studies in Language and Literature
2. Language Acquisition
3. Individuals and Societies
4. Sciences
5. Mathematics
6. The Arts

Diploma Programme (DP) Core

- Theory of Knowledge
- Creativity, Activity, and Service
- Extended Essay

Courses in the Diploma Programme (DP) are offered on two levels: Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL). The differences and requirements for these levels vary from course to course. Please see the course descriptions for more information.

Paths to Graduation

All students at the York Academy participate in the International Baccalaureate curriculum on their path toward graduation. While all students are eligible for a York Academy diploma upon graduation, students also have the option to earn DP Course Certificates or the IB Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Organization. At the end of their sophomore year (10th grade), students select one of two paths toward graduation and through the Diploma Programme (DP): Each path is explained in more detail below:

DP Certificate Candidates	OR	IB Diploma Candidates
Course Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DP courses (11th & 12th grade) may be taken at the Standard Level or Higher Level based on students' academic readiness and interests.• Students complete the Theory of Knowledge course during their 11th & 12th grade years.		Course Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three DP courses (11th & 12th grades) must be taken at the Higher Level• Three DP courses (11th & 12th grades) must be taken at the Standard Level• Students complete the Theory of Knowledge course during their 11th & 12th grade years.
Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students complete external assessments in any of the six courses where they are a DP Course Candidate. Colleges/universities award college credit based on course level and scores from the IBO.		Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students complete external assessments in all six courses. Colleges/universities award college credit based on course level and scores from the IBO.
Successful completion of non-credit requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DP Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) OR DP Extended Essay		Successful completion of non-credit requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) AND DP Extended Essay

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Selecting a Path

Each path has its own benefits and drawbacks. It is important for students to speak with teachers, counselors, and parents/guardians when selecting a path. Studies have shown that students elect to be IB Diploma candidates have higher success rates in college than their peers. Depending on your university of choice, you may receive substantial college credit if you are awarded the IB Diploma.

As you select a path, you should look into how the university of your choice accepts credits. For example state universities like Millersville and Shippensburg award credit for HL exams that score 4+. Other schools, like Towson in Maryland, accept the full diploma and award up to 30 credits and sophomore standing. All universities are different. [This document](#) and [this publication from the IB](#) outline some of the schools and their IBDP credits. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it is a good place to start. We have also included some additional resources below:

- [IBO Blog](#)
- [IB STUDENT ACCEPTANCE RATES AT THE TOP 25 US UNIVERSITIES](#)
- [IB University Policy Index \(Includes International Schools\)](#)

The graphic below outlines the decisions points associated with each of the two paths through the DP:

IB Diploma Candidate		DP Course Candidate		
Decision 1 Select 3 courses to take at the Higher Level (HL)	Decision 2 Select 3 courses to take at the Standard Level (HL)	Decision 1 Select the courses to be taken for an IB Certificate	Decision 3 Select the remaining courses to be taken to meet graduation requirements. These are non-certificate (NC) courses.	Decision 4 Select which of the DP core components to complete: Creativity, activity, service (CAS) or Extended Essay (EE)
		Decision 2 Select the level for each course: Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL)		

Because DP courses are taken over two years, it is important for students and parents/guardians to think carefully about the decisions outlined above.

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The Role of Assessments in the Diploma Programme

Assessments play a big role in the Diploma Programme (DP). DP assessment procedures measure the extent to which students have mastered basic and advanced academic skills. Assessments in the DP assess students' ability to:

- retain knowledge;
- understand key concepts;
- apply standard method;
- analyse and present information;
- evaluate and construct arguments; and
- solve problems creatively.

As in all IB programmes, assessment results in the DP are determined by performance against set standards. A student's position in the overall rank order is never utilized in scoring assessments. Assessment in the DP Programme consists of three components:

- **Formative Assessments:** These include quizzes, tests, and projects that are completed as part of the class and are used by the teacher to inform instructional decisions.
- **IB Internal Assessments:** These assessments vary by course and course level - SL or HL. Additional information about the internal assessments is listed under each course in this document. Internal assessments are graded by York Academy teachers. A sample of assessments is then selected to send to an IB Moderator who scores the sample to ensure that the teacher's grading is accurate.
- **IB External Assessments:** These assessments vary by course and course level - SL or HL. Additional information about the external assessments is listed under each course in this document. External assessments are completed at the York Academy and then are sent to an IB Examiner who grades the assessment.

Students who elect to participate in the DP Course Certificate path will only complete IB External and Internal Assessments in the course taken for an IB Certificate. The table below provides a breakdown of the assessments students will take and the type of credit available based on the path and course level.

	IB Diploma Candidate		DP Course Certificate Candidate		
	Standard Level Courses	Higher Level Courses	Standard Level Courses	Higher Level Courses	Non-Certificate Courses
Formative/Summative Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IB Internal Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
IB External Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Credit toward high school graduation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Opportunity to earn IB Diploma	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Opportunity to earn college credit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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Sample Schedules

IB Diploma Candidate Example 1: This student is opting for an HL focus in liberal arts by taking HL courses in Lang & Lit, History, and the Arts. This student will be eligible for the **IB Diploma**.

Subject Area	Course Selection
Group 1	Lang & Lit HL
Group 2	Spanish SL
Group 3	HOTA HL
Group 4	Biology SL
Group 5	Math SL
Group 6	Visual Arts HL
Core	TOK, CAS & Extended Essay

IB Diploma Example 2: This student is opting for an HL focus in sciences by taking HL courses in Science and Math. This student has opted for an additional HL course in Music. This student will be eligible for the **IB Diploma**.

Subject Area	Course Selection
Group 1	Lang & Lit SL
Group 2	Spanish SL
Group 3	Global Politics SL
Group 4	Biology HL
Group 5	Math HL
Group 6	Music HL
Core	TOK, CAS & Extended Essay

DP Certificate Candidate Example 1: This student has opted to take HL Lang and Lit and an additional HL course in the Arts. They have also opted into the CAS component of the DP core instead of the extended essay. This student will be a candidate for **IB Certificates in Language and Literature and Visual Arts**.

Subject Area	Course Selection
Group 1	Lang & Lit HL
Group 2	Spanish NC
Group 3	World History NC
Group 4	Biology NC
Group 5	Math NC
Group 6	Visual Arts HL
Core	TOK, CAS

DP Certificate Candidate Example 2: This student has opted for non-certificate courses. They have opted out of the Extended Essay. This student will not be eligible for an IB certificate.

Subject Area	Course Selection
Group 1	Lang & Lit NC
Group 2	Spanish NC
Group 3	World History NC
Group 4	Biology NC
Group 5	Math NC
Group 6	Visual Arts NC
Core	TOK & CAS

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Next Steps

During the first full week in April, parents/guardians and tenth grade students will receive the DP Course Guide for their graduating class. This document provides specific information about the courses that will be offered to students during their junior and senior years. Please review this document carefully. In addition to course information, it will provide due dates for selecting courses and a course selection worksheet. Parents/guardians and students should complete the worksheet together. Students will return the worksheet to our school counselor, Ms. Reid, so that they will be ready to register for classes on their assigned date. Students will not be able to register for their courses until they return the completed Course Selection WorkSheet.

If you have questions regarding a specific course, email the teacher listed below.

Courses	Teacher	Email Address
Lang & Lit - HL, SL Survey of Lang & Lit - NC	Laura Riggs	LRiggs@YorkARCS.org
Language Acquisition - HL, SL, NC	Derek Bartrom	DBartrom@YorkARCS.org
Global Politics - SL History - HL, NC	Brendon McGirr	BMcGirr@YorkARCS.org
Biology - HL, SL, NC Chemistry - SL	Roni Reed	RReed@YorkARCS.org
Applications & Interpretations - HL, SL Applications & Interpretations of Mathematics - NC	Rachel Why	RWhy@YorkARCS.org
Music - HL, SL, NC	Brent Gregory	BGregory@YorkARCS.org
Theatre - HL, SL, NC	Manuel Tellado	MTellado@YorkARCS.org
Visual Arts - HL, SL, NC	Rebecca Chester	RChester@YorkARCS.org
Theory of Knowledge	Kathryn Daniels	KDaniels@YorkARCS.org
CAS	Janet Miller	JMiller@YorkARCS.org
Extended Essay	Janet Miller Laura Riggs	JMiller@YorkARCS.org LRiggs@YorkARCS.org
General Scheduling & Program questions	Tiana Reid	T.Reid@YorkARCS.org

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