



WHY IB?

HOW IS IB DIFFERENT THAN AP?

This is our favorite question and understandably our most common. Centennial is unique in that we offer both the AP and the IB curricula. Yes, they both can get you college credit and yes, both are weighted. The differences lie in the philosophies, evaluation, and articulation of the exams.

It helps to use analogies to explain the differences. AP is much like a buffet. A student can pick and choose what they like, usually based on their strengths. IB is a complete and balanced meal. Each student completes and is assessed in six areas to ensure that they are well-rounded, balanced, and prepared for all aspects of university. For the most part, the students decide the difficulty of the exams for their subject areas. If a student is not confident in foreign language, they can take the lower level exam. If a student loves science, they can opt for the higher level exam. There are different levels of exams and opportunities for individualization, rather than a one-size-fits-all assessment. Some colleges recognize the higher level IB scores as upper division credit. This means a student may earn "harder" college credit by passing an HL exam.

An AP exam is a one day written exam that determines a year's worth of learning. It is a snapshot of what students have accomplished. An IB exam is more like a photo album. Students complete internal assessments (IA) during the school year to demonstrate their knowledge. This can be a project, report, or verbal exam. In addition, students usually take 2-3 external exams that span at least two days. These are comparable to AP exams (but shorter) in that they are timed, written, and scheduled in advance. These exams, in combination with their IA, come together to determine their score.

DO COLLEGES REALLY CARE?

Although it is impossible to speak for all schools, we can say this - over 1000 US colleges recognize the program and understand what it entails. IB World Schools need to be accredited and undergo evaluations every 5 years. It is a common practice for universities to evaluate a student's course selection against the most rigorous coursework offered. IB courses are the most demanding courses offered on our campus. Need some more convincing? Check out this video clip of a Stanford Assistant Dean explaining why she chose IB for her child and how colleges look at IB: [Click Here](#)

HOW CAN IB HELP PREPARE ME FOR COLLEGE?

The IB program is the best college prep program that our district offers. This is evidenced by student testimonials and international research. Not only do students learn content needed to pass their exams, but they learn skills that help them succeed in situations beyond the classroom. The most important skill that a student can develop is time management. The program does not get easier with every year, but the students get better. This gradual increase in skill and rigor peaks to produce students who adjust more easily and thrive at university. IB students are more likely to attend, then persist after two years in college. Check out this video clip on how the IB prepares students, including underserved students: [Click here](#)

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR IB STUDENTS?

Yes, yes, and yes! A simple google search of 'IB scholarships' will direct you to a great deal of resources. Since IB is internationally recognized, these scholarship opportunities are not limited to the US.

More information can be found at ibo.org