



Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Fact Sheet

<https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/> and <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

What does AICE stand for?

A.I.C.E. stands for Advanced International Certificate of Education.

What is the AICE Program?

The AICE Program is an International Pre-University Preparation Program, part of the Cambridge Assessment Group, a not-for-profit organization and a department of the University of Cambridge in England. Pre-AICE courses taken primarily during the 9th & 10th grade prepare students for AICE-level (college level) courses. Students will take their first AICE level courses during 9th grade, and more are added each successive year. Each AICE-level course culminates with a Cambridge exam. Students can earn college credit for passing scores in every AICE-level exam they take. AICE courses are among the highest level, most rigorous available to students in St. Johns County Schools and across the world.

How well-known and wide-spread is the AICE Program?

More than 10,000 schools offer Cambridge programs worldwide. Cambridge operates in 160 countries across 6 regions: Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Southern Africa. Over 150 schools in Florida and over 200 across the U.S. offer the Cambridge Program, while more are being added each year. The 800th anniversary of Cambridge University was celebrated in 2009, and Cambridge Assessment, which is the *world's largest provider* of international examinations, celebrates 162 years in 2020. **All 12 public colleges/universities in the state of Florida, 100% of Ivy League universities, and over 640 universities across the U.S. accept AICE (or "GCE A-Levels") credits-by-exam, with varying policies.**

How can I participate in the AICE Program?

Current St. Johns County 9th or 10th grade students complete an online application for AICE through their Home Access Account. All others will access the online application through the St. Johns County Public School District Academies website. Online application deadlines and decision notification dates are available on the St. Johns County Public School (SJCPS) District Career Academies website: <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

Optimal Indicators for Success in the AICE Program

- FSA Reading and Writing scores at level 4 or higher
- Successful completion of Algebra 1 (not required, but strongly recommended)
- A/B Student, challenging themselves with advanced level courses
- Highly motivated for academic success
- Positive Teacher Recommendations
- Willingness to complete assignments beyond the regular school day

What courses am I required to take if I'm in the AICE Program?

Students in the AICE Program must successfully complete at least seven AICE-level (college) courses and exams during 9th – 12th grade, with at least one from each of 3 subject categories *in addition to* the Core (Cambridge International AS Global Perspectives). The three categories are: 1) Math/Science, 2) Language, and 3) Arts & Humanities.

How are the courses in the AICE Program different than other high school courses?

AICE courses are college-level courses, emphasizing more analytical reasoning, collaboration and research with a heavy emphasis on clear, concise writing skills. Because these courses require a higher level analysis than the

typical high school course, students can expect them to move at a faster pace and to spend more time studying than other high school courses.

How does the AICE Program differ from the IB program?

Students in the AICE program choose courses which emphasize their areas of academic strength, while enjoying the flexibility to pursue other areas of interest as well, rather than requiring every student to take the same courses, at the same level in all subjects. Students may be able to achieve a higher overall GPA with courses that are a better match to their abilities. Although the rigor and academic expectations of an AICE course are at the highest level, the AICE Program does not emphasize memorization as much as immersion in the subject utilizing critical analysis, reasoning and writing skills. AICE-level courses in a diverse range of subjects, allowing students to pursue their unique interests on a college level.

How much time can I expect to spend on homework in the AICE Program?

Many students who have never had to spend much time studying in middle school find that to be successful in the AICE Program, they now have to put forth more effort. Students can expect an average of 90 to 120 minutes of homework per night. Students will need to be committed to nightly studying and completing all assignments; counting on test scores or last minute “cramming” will not bring success.

Are the Pre-AICE and AICE courses weighted for GPA calculation?

One extra half G.P.A. quality point (.5) is awarded for grades in Pre-AICE courses. One extra G.P.A. quality point (1.0) is awarded for grades in AICE courses.

Is there an advantage to being in the AICE Program for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program?

YES! Students who are able to pass a minimum of seven AICE exams, with one in each of the academic categories, will earn the AICE Diploma Award (ADIP) from Cambridge. These students are automatically eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars Award (the highest level) of the Bright Futures Scholarships (the one that pays 100% of tuition!) as long as they have documented 100 hours of community service on their transcript, two years of foreign language, have completed the academic course requirements, and completed the Florida Financial Aid Application. However, for ADIP earners, Bright Futures waives the SAT/ACT score AND the GPA requirements!

What is the advantage of being in AICE for college admissions?

A FACTS.org study of High School Acceleration Programs (AICE, IB, AP and Dual Enrollment) showed that AICE and DE students earn the highest percentage of postsecondary (college) credit - 98% for each program. Colleges award additional admissions points for the academic rigor of Pre-AICE and AICE-level courses, preferring that students challenge themselves with the AICE-level course and examination process over standard or honors. Regardless of a student’s AICE Exam scores (and therefore, college credit-by-exam earned), college admissions boards are more interested in a student’s overall performance in the subject coursework (i.e., grades) when admissions decisions are being made.

How many colleges in Florida and across the US accept AICE college credit?

The Cambridge exams are recognized around the world as “AS and A Level” courses/credits – AICE is what the Cambridge program is called in the U.S. All 12 public colleges/universities in the state of Florida accept AICE Exam credits as mandated by the Florida Department of Education. 100% of Ivy League universities and over 640 private and out-of-state universities in the U.S. recognize & accept AS and A Level exam credits (with varying policies regarding AICE, AP, IB or Dual Enrollment credits earned) with more being added each year.

Where does the course content for AICE courses come from?

AICE courses follow a course syllabus that is designed by Cambridge Assessment International Education.

What type of training do the AICE teachers go through?

Ongoing specialized training for AICE teachers is provided by Cambridge Assessment International Education. Beachside AICE teachers attend yearly trainings to ensure that they are on track with new methods and teaching materials, and to encourage increased success in the courses, and exam passing rates.