



located at  **South Forsyth High School**

IB Diploma Program

What is it and is it for Me?



FORSYTH
COUNTY SCHOOLS 

What is the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and does it really matter?

The IB Diploma is recognized by over 850 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Most major colleges and universities have admissions policies that cover 95% of the students earning the IB Diploma.

The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and quality. One of the major components used in the college admissions process is the rigor/quality of the academic program of study. The IB Diploma Program is one of the most rigorous and challenging academic programs offered. Forsyth County School's IB Program is located on the campus of South Forsyth High School (SFHS). As one of only 25 schools in Georgia to offer the IB diploma, the program is available to all high school-age students residing in Forsyth County.

Research shows that academic rigor increases student performance on standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT and ACT—tests used to determine student qualifications for college admissions.

What is the course sequence for students seeking the IB Diploma?

Here is one example of an IB student schedule:

Junior Year	Senior Year
IB History of the Americas HL /AP US History	IB 20th Century History
IB English HL	IB English HL
French 4, Spanish 4, or Latin 3	IB French HL, IB Spanish HL or IB Latin
IB Biology SL	Theory of Knowledge/Economics
IB Math Studies SL	IB 6th Subject Elective
American Government/Theory of Knowledge	

Note that this is only one possible schedule for students in the IB Program. There are many other options including higher math and science options.



What does my student need to do in order to enter the IB Diploma Program?

The only requirement students must meet to enroll in the IB Program at SFHS is that they have completed all prerequisite courses. Students do not have to test into the SFHS IB Program. Students do not have to be identified as Gifted or in the Horizons Program to be eligible for the IB Program. Although teacher recommendations are an important part of the registration process, the final decision is the student's with guidance from parents. No student who has taken the prerequisite honors level courses and wants to be in the IB Program will be denied admission to the IB Program by SFHS.

The IB Diploma Program at SFHS begins in the 11th grade. Students planning to enter the program are strongly encouraged to pursue honors-level or AP classes in the 9th and 10th grades. Students also have the option of taking AP courses during 11th and 12th grade in addition to their IB Diploma coursework.

By the end of the fall semester of the 11th grade year, prospective IB students must have successfully completed the following at a minimum.

- Level 3 of French or Spanish *or* Level 2 of Latin or German
- Students interested in taking Calculus should complete Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, and Advanced Algebra to enroll in IB Math Studies in 11th grade

Is there a cost for the IB program?

Yes. Unless there is a demonstrated financial need, students are expected to pay the costs of their own exams and assessments. For the class of 2012, the total cost for six subject area exams, the Extended Essay, and the Theory of Knowledge research paper was \$745. Forsyth County Schools currently pays and will continue to pay for all administrative, curricular, and instructional costs related to the IB Program.

What do IB students study?

IB Diploma Program students study six subjects in five areas during their 11th and 12th grade years:

- Literature and Composition
- Foreign Language—French, Spanish, German, or Latin
- Mathematics—IB Math Studies (Pre-calculus) *or* IB Mathematics SL (AP Calc AB/BC equivalent) *or* IB Mathematics HL (beyond AP Calc AB/BC)
- Experimental Sciences—Biology and Physics, Computer Science, Design Technology
- Humanities—History of the Americas, Psychology, Business
- Arts—Visual Arts, Music Theory

In addition, students take an interdisciplinary course called Theory of Knowledge during their junior and senior year, which challenges the students to question their bases of knowledge and understand “how they know what they know”.

IB students complete a program called Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) which involves participation in community service and, as an example, theater production and sports. Students are expected to document 150 CAS hours during their 11th and 12th grade years.

Finally, IB students are required to write an extended essay of up to 4,000 words. This is an independent research project mentored by SFHS teachers that is meant to acquaint students with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected of them at the university level.



If my student enters IB, will they be able to have a well-rounded high school experience?

In short, the answer is a rounding YES! In addition to being fully involved with family, community and culturally related activities, some IB students at SFHS hold after-school jobs. Most are involved in a wide ranging variety of clubs, arts, and athletics in our over 70+ offerings at SFHS, many participating in multiple clubs or extracurricular activities throughout the school year.



Regardless of what you may have heard, IB students do more than just study!



"IB is striving for the knowledge, not for the grade. It's acknowledging everything you still need to learn and doing everything you can to achieve it."

~ Sahar Roodehchi

What is IB to You?



"IB is more than a higher level of educational experience for high schoolers. IB is discovering connections between academics and the real world — but more than anything, IB is a family dedicated to a meaningful learning experience."

~ Larissa Ferrara

"It's knowing that this is a community around the world, and that there are so many more people doing the same thing. IB rounds you out as a whole and introduces you to a variety of people and things."

~ Kripa Chandran

"School used to be really easy for me. I never felt accomplished because I never really had to try. IB changed that. IB is about stretching you to your limits. You really have to give it your 100%, and when you succeed — the feeling is indescribable."

~ Vidya Iyer

"IB isn't just a schedule, IB is a lifestyle. It's the feeling of understanding, happiness, victory, stress, euphoria, and a myriad of every contradicting adjective."

~ Zain Khan



Colleges and Universities Accepting SFHS IB Diploma Candidates (2002-2011)

Auburn University
Baylor University
Berry College
Boston University
Clemson University
Furman University
Converse College
College of Charleston
Cornell University
Davidson College
Duke University
Elon University
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State College & University

Georgia Southern University
Kennesaw State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Nantz
North Carolina State University
Oglethorpe University
Presbyterian College
Tulane University
Savannah College of Art & Design
University of Alabama - Birmingham
University of California - Los Angeles

University of Chicago
University of Connecticut - Stamford
University of Edinburgh
University of Georgia
University of Miami
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina - Wilmington
University of South Carolina
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Washington College
...and many many more



Class of 2012 IB Student Academic Composite

Average SAT Score (CR+M+W): 1994.2
Verbal: 667.22 Math: 656.23

Average SAT Composite: 1317.38

Average ACT Composite Score: 29.5

Average Overall GPA: 4.001



Kevin Denney, Coordinator
South Forsyth High School IB Program
www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/IB

Phone: 770.781.2264 x100182
Fax: 770.888.1224
E-mail: kdenney@forsyth.k12.ga.us

585 Peachtree Parkway
Cumming, GA 30041