

## Guidelines for Choosing an IB Math for the Diploma

Because individual students have different needs, interests and abilities, we offer three rigorous IB math tracks: IB Mathematical Studies SL, IB Mathematics SL, and IB Mathematics HL. All three are college-prep. All three receive two additional quality points. All three have the same prerequisite: IBMYP Common Core Math III. However, we **highly recommend** that students also complete Pre-Calculus before taking AP Calculus AB, which is the prerequisite course for IB Mathematics HL I.

When choosing your IB math, you may wish to consider the following factors:

- Your abilities in math and the type of math in which you can be successful
- Your past math grades. Yes, we realize some of you haven't completed IBMYP Common Core Math III
- Your general interest in math. Is it your favorite subject?
- Your other choices of IB subjects within the framework of the Diploma Program
- Your academic plans, in particular the subjects you wish to study in the future
- Your choice of career
- Your past or present math teacher's recommendation. **VERY IMPORTANT!**
- Math requirements for college admission. They vary from one college to another!

**IB Mathematical Studies SL** is a two-year course available at Standard Level (SL) only. It is most appropriate for students who are planning to pursue college majors in which math plays a lesser role. The course places emphasis on the application of mathematics to real-life situations. Most colleges will not award college credit for the IB Mathematical Studies SL exam. However, because IB Mathematical Studies SL is part of the rigorous IB Diploma track, it is a college-prep math course, even if you will not receive college credit.

**IB Mathematics SL** (aka IB Math Methods) is a two-year course available at Standard Level (SL) only. It is appropriate for students who need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for mathematics intensive college majors, such as Math, Chemistry, Engineering, or Physics. Students complete most of the topics, including introductory Calculus, the first year and then focus on a more intense Calculus driven curriculum the second year. Most colleges will not award college credit for the IB Mathematics SL exam. However, students can sit for the AP Calculus AB exam at the end of the two-year course. Colleges will award credit for the AP Calculus AB exam.

**IB Mathematics HL** is a three-year Higher Level (HL) course appropriate for students who really excel at mathematics. Students must start this three-year course of study as sophomores. The majority of these students will include mathematics as a major component of their college studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as Physics and Engineering. Most colleges will award college credit for the IB Mathematics HL exam. Students can sit for the AP Calculus AB exam sophomore year, the AP Calculus BC exam junior year, and the IB Mathematics HL exam senior year.

Students who exit the **three-year** IB Math Higher Level track must complete either IB Math Studies **1 & 2** or IB Math Methods **1 & 2** to meet IB diploma requirements. Both are **two-year** SL courses.

### IB Mathematical Studies SL Track

IBMYP Common Core Math II  
IBMYP Common Core Math III  
IB Math Studies I  
IB Math Studies II

### IB Mathematics SL Track

IBMYP Common Core Math II  
IBMYP Common Core Math III  
IB Math Methods I  
IB Math Methods II

### IB Mathematics HL Track

IBMYP Common Core Math III  
AP Calculus AB  
IB Mathematics HL I  
IB Mathematics HL II