



# International Baccalaureate Fact Sheet

## IB Course Options

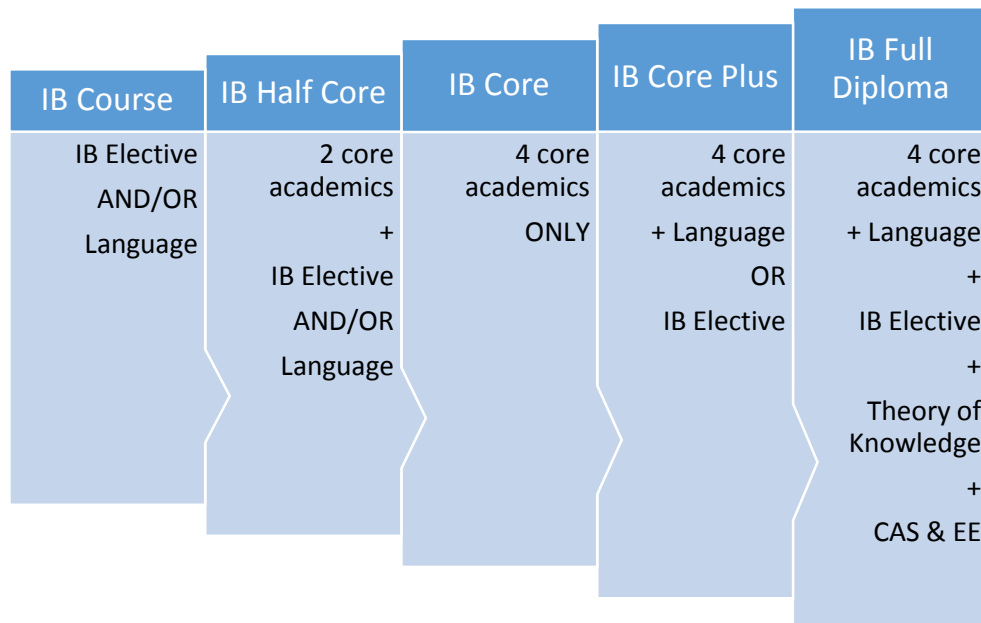
**IB Full Diploma**—Students take all courses in their schedule at an advanced IB level. This includes electives and languages. Plus, students are required to take The Theory of Knowledge, complete the Extended Essay (independently), and participate in CAS (service hours).

**IB Core Plus**—Students take their 4 academic courses at the IB level PLUS they take an IB elective OR or a second language.

**IB Core**—Students take their 4 core academics at the IB level. Students must take core academic courses as pairs because these courses are blocked within our schedule. A student who takes English must also take history. A student who takes math must also take science.

**IB Half Core**—Students take 2 core academics: English & History OR Math & Science; Students also add a language course and/or an IB Elective.

**IB Course**—Students take up to two non-core classes: an IB elective and/or a second language course.



### IB Electives

1. Psychology
2. Theatre
3. Visual Arts
4. Design Technology
5. Music

### IB Languages

1. Spanish Ab Initio
2. Spanish B HL/SL
3. Chinese Ab Initio
4. Chinese B HL/SL

### IB Full Diploma Courses

1. English
2. History of the Americas
3. Chemistry or Biology
4. Math Studies or Math SL
5. IB Elective
6. IB Language
7. Theory of Knowledge & Study Skills

## **CAS**

### *Creativity, Action, Service*

Full diploma students are required to participate in ongoing volunteer activities, athletic activities, and creative activities throughout the 2 years of their IB program experience. Students have their activities approved by the CAS coordinator in advance and then complete their hours. After completion, they reflect on the event and document their experiences in an online record keeping site called Managebac. CAS must be fulfilled to be considered for the IB Diploma.

## **EE**

### *Extended Essay*

The extended essay is a 4,000 word research paper that students complete independently over the 2 years of the program. Students direct, research, and write their own paper in conjunction with a faculty member who serves as their mentor. The EE is submitted to the IB organization before exams. Students must make a passing score on their EE to be considered for the IB Diploma.

## **The Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**

TOK is a required course for all IB full diploma students. Students taking fewer courses than the full diploma are not eligible to take this course. This course unites all of the disciplines in the program and asks students to reflect on how they obtain knowledge in various subjects. TOK examines the nature of knowledge, ways of knowing, and knowledge questions. Students find this course to be thought provoking, challenging, and fun. The course is assessed with an oral presentation and a paper. Students must receive a passing score in TOK to be considered for the IB Diploma.

## **College Admissions**

1. Colleges are looking for students who have taken the most rigorous coursework available to them. For JHS students, this means taking on the full IB diploma. The full diploma coursework will place them at the top of most colleges' acceptance lists. The full diploma is necessary if students have a "dream" college in mind or they are competing to win a scholarship. The full diploma will make them the most eligible.
2. College admissions officers have expressed that they prefer to see IB or AP coursework over dual enrollment because the IB/AP courses are usually more rigorous than the entry level (1101, 1102) courses students take in dual enrollment.
3. College admissions officers have also expressed that they are more likely to admit a student who did not make all A's in IB classes over students who did make all A's in regular classes. A student's GPA does not necessarily determine if they will get in to a college. It is one factor among many others.
4. The bottom line is that colleges are looking for students who are not afraid to challenge themselves, even if it means their grades and their GPA drop slightly. Colleges recognize the rigors of IB and they award it.

## **College Credits**

1. Most colleges in the state of GA will award college credit for the successful completion of IB courses. The award is different from school to school. UGA is a good place to look to get an idea of the equivalencies.
2. Most students who earn the IB diploma get up to 12 hours of college credits. That is one course shy of being considered a sophomore.
3. Students who do well in foreign language like Chinese have found they are only two more Chinese courses away from getting a Chinese minor at UGA upon starting their freshman year.