

International Baccalaureate Family FAQs

Question: What is the IB program?

- The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is for motivated juniors and seniors who want to further their education beyond the typical classroom. To receive the IB diploma, students complete coursework and test in 6 subject areas: English, Foreign Language, Math, Science, History, and Arts/Electives. In addition, students complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, complete a 4,000 word Extended Essay on the subject of their choice, and participate in the Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) program. Students are assessed both internally and externally using a variety of assessments - oral, written, and projects.

Question: How can my student get into IB?

- The IB Program at Bryan High School begins in the junior year. To be as prepared as possible, students should take a sequence of rigorous courses in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades. For this reason, students not zoned for Bryan High School may attend Bryan High beginning in the 9th grade to ensure a seamless transition to the Diploma Programme. Students should complete the following steps:
- **Current IB or PrelB students in 10th or 11th grade** need to fill out the "Continuing in a Program Confirmation" found [here](#). It is also posted on transfers.bryanisd.org. This will be compared to students' course selections to confirm their participation in the IB program.
- **Current 8th graders, and students new to IB (grades 9, 10, and 11)** should complete an [IB Application](#). This is published each spring and posted on the Bryan High IB website as well as the BISD Advanced Academics website. If zoned for Rudder, students must also complete a transfer application. Decision letters will be mailed, and students and parents must complete the decision letter and return it to Sarah Patterson by the due date.

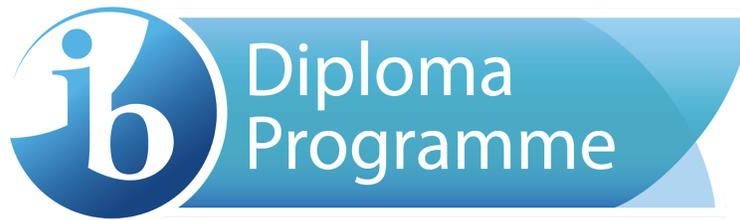
Question: How is a student selected to be in the program?

- Students are evaluated using a matrix. The matrix includes the STAAR scores, report card grades, and the application essay.

Question: Does my son/daughter have to reapply each year?

- No. If your son/daughter has been accepted, is attending the program and in good standing, they will stay in the program. Students will be asked to submit a "continuing in program" form (BISD website - transfers.bryanisd.org) if they are planning to continue in the program.

Question: Where is IB located?



- The IB program is at Bryan High School.

Question: We do not live in the Bryan High attendance zone. Can my student still attend?

- Yes, students accepted to the program will be given a district transfer.

Question: Will transportation be provided if we do not live the attendance zone?

- Yes, transportation will be provided. For more specific information please contact the transportation department at (979) 209-7130.

Question: What happens to a Rudder-zoned student who gets out of IB/PreIB courses?

- They will return to Rudder.

Question: What happens if my child is failing an IB or PreIB class (math, language arts, science, social studies)?

- Students struggling academically in IB (or PreIB) classes will be placed on probation. During the probation time an action plan will be put in place with input from the student and parent. Students who fail to show improvement could be removed from the program.

Question: If my child is removed from the program, can they be readmitted?

No.

Question: What is the difference between IB and AP classes?

- The IB program offers a holistic approach to education, where all subjects teach not only content but also develop the learner profile, students who are Knowledgeable, Reflective, Caring, Inquirers, Open-minded, Thinkers, Balanced, Communicators, Principled, and Risk-Takers.
- Also, students participating in the program complete the Core Components, which consist of the Theory of Knowledge class, the Extended Essay, and the Creativity, Action, Service component.
- The coursework and exams in IB allow students to choose topics in their area of expertise and express a depth of knowledge in writing vs. multiple choice. In IB Courses, both "Internal Assessments" and "External Assessments" determine the student's final grade/college credit in a course. AP grades, however, are determined by one exam taken at the end of the school year. For example, students take the IB exam in May of the junior and/or senior year. This is an External Assessment and comprises



about 50-70% of the student's IB grade (depending on the subject). The other 30-50% (sometimes more) is determined by written, oral, and/or portfolio work.

Question: What is the difference between PreAP and PreIB courses?

- PreIB courses are designed with the topics and assessments of IB courses in mind. The TEKS are still covered, but the content and assessments are styled differently. For instance, IB English deals with translated works, and thus Pre-IB English classes read a translated work each year.

Question: What courses will my student take as part of the IB Program?

- 3 (or 4) Higher Level IB courses and 3 (or 2) Standard Level Courses
 - HL English
 - HL History
 - Math (HL, SL or Math Studies SL)
 - Science (Biology HL/SL, Chemistry HL/SL, or Physics SL)
 - Foreign Language (Spanish, French, or German, all offered HL, SL, and ab initio)
 - Fine Arts/Elective (Visual Arts, Film, Theatre, Music, or Economics - all offered HL and SL)
- Theory of Knowledge (spring semester of 11th grade and fall semester of 12th grade)
- Independent Study (fall of 11th grade and spring 12th grade) - used to work on Extended Essay, CAS, and various internal assessments)
- A sample 4-year plan can be found [here](#).

Question: Will my student have an opportunity to earn college credit?

- Yes. In Texas, all public institutions of higher education are required to grant at least 24 hours of credit to entering students who have obtained an IB Diploma **and** received scores of at least 4 on all examinations taken to achieve the diploma (Texas Education Code [TEC] §51.968, 2005).
- Universities have the option to award some course credit regardless of a student's IB Diploma status, and high scores in individual courses can result in course-specific credits. Policies for awarding course credit are defined by each university. Be sure to investigate the school you are interested in for the IB credit policy. To see an example of how IB transfers to college credit, follow the link below to Texas A&M University.
<http://testing.tamu.edu/TestingServices/media/Media/PDFs/AP-IB.pdf>

Question: Can students in the IB program still participate in extracurricular activities?



- Yes, in fact, IB encourages participation in extracurricular activities and the community. Many of the IB students continue to play sports, participate in fine arts programs, and volunteer in the community.

Question: Can students take individual IB courses?

- Yes. Students will need to complete the application and letter of intent. All IB rules and regulations pertinent to those course(s) still apply.