

## IB vs. AP

### Challenge and rigor.

While students may choose to take individual IB courses, IB Diploma Program courses were designed to be taken as a set of six, augmented by the IB Core. Students are thusly encouraged to challenge themselves by taking on rigorous coursework in all subject areas.

### Diploma courses at BHS on offer during the 2017-2018 school year:

- Group 1: Language & Literature HL
- Group 2: French HL
- Group 3: History HL
- Group 4: Chemistry SL
- Group 5: Math Studies SL
- Group 6: Visual Arts SL or Dance SL

### Reputation at colleges.

Colleges do not seem to have a preference between IB or AP courses; instead, they want to see that applicants are taking a wide range of challenging courses.



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

**Assessment.** Depending on the course, assessment includes presentation work, self-directed investigations, essays, portfolio work, exhibitions, and traditional exams.

**Time frame.** All IB courses at BHS will be two-year courses; assessment occurs throughout the two-year period and culminates in a month of traditional exams in May.

**Programmatic goals.** IB focuses on writing, critical thinking, and presentation skills, and views rigorous content through international and interdisciplinary lenses.

**College credit.** In most cases, students who receive a 5 or higher (out of 7) in their Higher Level courses receive credit from the college at which they matriculate. Full diploma recipients may receive more credit or scholarship money.

**Cost.** Full diploma candidates must pay registration fees, as well as assessment fees for each course. These fees change over time but can add up to more than \$1000 per student.

**Distribution of courses.** While students may take individual IB courses, they may also choose to be candidates for the full IB diploma, which includes three Higher Level DP courses, three Standard Level courses, and the IB Core (the Extended Essay; Creativity, Activity, and Service; and Theory of Knowledge).

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

**Assessment.** One exam at the culmination of each course, consisting largely of multiple choice and essays.

**Time frame.** AP courses tend to be a year long; that said, students may take AP exams without being enrolled in AP courses.

**Programmatic goals.** The AP focuses on specific content in each of its courses, and on testing that content knowledge in standardized exams.

**College credit.** In most cases, students who receive a 3 or higher (out of 5) on their exams receive credit from the college at which they matriculate.

**Cost.** Students pay a registration fee of about \$90 per exam.

**Distribution of courses.** Students take AP courses independently of each other.