



Archbishop MacDonald

International Baccalaurate

What is an IB Program?

The IB Programme is an internationally recognized curriculum that is done concurrently with the Alberta curriculum. These programmes compliment one another to give students an enriched educational experience that is recognized globally by universities and employers.

IB STUDENTS:

- have a 'can do' attitude
- seek solutions and learn from their mistakes
- are driven, not just by marks but by a desire to learn

What is an IB Diploma?

A separate Diploma earned by students who complete:

6 IB Courses: including 3 courses at the higher level (HL), 3 at the standard level (SL)

1 course from each of the Groups 1 to 5

1 course from either Group 2, 4, or 6

[Extended Essay](#) (research paper in a subject of choice)

[Theory of Knowledge](#) (in place of Religion 25 & 35)

[Creativity, Action, Service \(CAS\)](#)

What is an IB Transcript?

A separate transcript that lists the IB courses a student has completed with their grade.



IB Lingo to Know

IBO - International Baccalaureate Organization

IB - International Baccalaureate

DP - Diploma Program

HL - Higher level (240 hours)

SL - Standard Level (150 hours)

ab initio- (beginner)

EE - Extended Essay (research essay in subject of choice)

TOK - Theory of Knowledge

CAS - Creativity, Action, Service

IA - Internal Assessment

EA - External Assessments (Exams)

IOA - Internal Oral Assessment

Y1 - Year 1 (students in their first year of the DP program)

Y2 - Year 2 (students in their last year of the DP program)

Anticipating - ind. who complete an IB course in gr. 11

Predicted Grades - IB grade 1-7 given by your teacher

IB Diploma - earned by a Full IB candidate min of 24/45 pts

IB Transcript - list of official grades in subjects completed

Core - includes EE, TOK and CAS



Course Options & Schedule

IB Courses Offered

- Group 1: English A: Literature HL
- Group 2: French B SL or HL, Spanish ab initio
- Group 3: Western World History HL
- Group 4: Biology HL, Chemistry SL, Physics HL
- Group 5: Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches SL
- Group 6: Visual Arts SL or HL, Theater SL or HL

Course offerings are based on those that align most closely with the Alberta curriculum.

Pre IB & Enhanced Programming

The Academically Enhanced Program at MAC integrates the IB philosophy into instruction to prepare students for success not only in the IB program but also in the Alberta Program. Emphasis on the IB learner profile and approaches to learning are used across curriculums to prepare students for post secondary success.

IB Learner Profile

IB learners strive to be: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, reflective.

These attributes encourage a holistic approaches to learning with a focus on both academic and personal growth.



Anticipating an IB Course - Fast Track

Students are encouraged to anticipate completion of an IB course and/or a 30 level diploma course in their grade 11 year in order to alleviate pressure in their grade 12 year.

Considerations:

- are 2 or 3 sciences needed
- only IB SL courses can be anticipated
- check university entrance requirements
- complete one or two 20 level courses in grade 10
- choose from the following options: French, Spanish, Art, Drama, PE
- complete either French 30IB SL or Chemistry 30IB SL in grade 11 AND one science at the 30 level

How will IB affect my grades?

IB content that is not a part of the Alberta curriculum is assessed formatively. Most content from the IB and AB curriculums overlap, and the elevated discussions and alternative approaches practiced offer students the opportunity to excel in their classes. The IB curriculum is complimentary, not necessarily more difficult.



Recognition & Benefits

CAS Creativity, Action, Service

IB encourages students to engage in experiences that help them become active, compassionate individuals who strive to make themselves better and the world they live in.

- CAS is completed over an 18 month period
- minimum of one student lead project
- meet scholarship & award criteria
- have balance in personal & academic life

Will I have time for extra curricular?

Absolutely! Being involved in extra curricular activities is a key component of IB.

IB students are often heavily involved in athletics, the arts, music, drama, social justice and student leadership. Students participate in a range of activities both within the school and the wider community.

These experiences develop valuable skills that help students stand out when applying for awards and scholarships.

Research, Writing & Lab Skills

Students practice skills required in post secondary including:

- writing research questions
- academic research & citation
- lab design & experimentation
- independent research & study
- academic writing across subject areas
- access to seminars at the U of A libraries



why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

- 1 It increases academic opportunity**
Research shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than citizens holding other qualifications.
- 2 IB students care about more than just results**
Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as intellectually.
- 3 It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner**
For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.
- 4 It's an international qualification**
The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.
- 5 Graduates are globally minded**
Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.
- 6 The IB encourages critical thinking**
Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.
- 7 DP students have proven time management skills**
Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.
- 8 It assesses more than examination techniques**
Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.
- 9 Subjects are not taught in isolation**
Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.
- 10 It encourages breadth and depth of learning**
You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

*Based on IB research - www.ibo.org/research
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Teacher Professionalism & Expertise

IB teachers are dedicated to learning and complete certifications to teach IB curriculums. IB teachers have the opportunity to be a part of a global community of educators who work collaboratively to develop student resources & moderate IB assessments.

Strengths of an IB Education

IB students develop transferable and lifelong skills and attributes such as critical thinking, international mindedness, creativity, agency, and resilience. IB students have better time management, are not as overwhelmed by workload, have experience with high stakes exams that are externally moderated, and are less likely to 'give up'. IB students have a competitive edge - studies show that IB students transition well into post secondary and perform better when they graduate. Check out scholarship opportunities [here](#).



MAC IB Course Sequence

	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Group 1	English 10-1 Enhanced	English 20-1 IB	English 30-1 IB & English Lit 35
Group 2	French 10 Enhanced & (French 20 IB SL) Spanish 10 Enhanced FLA 10 Enhanced	French 20 IB SL or (French 30 IB SL) Spanish 20 IB ab initio FLA 20 IB HL	French 30 IB SL Spanish 30 IB ab initio FLA 30 IB HL
Group 3	Social 10-1 Enhanced	Social 20-1 IB	Social 30-1 IB & History 35
Group 4	Science 10 Enhanced & (Chem 20IB/20 level science)	Biology 20 IB Chemistry 20 IB or (Chemistry 30IB & LS 35) Physics 20 IB	Biology 30 IB & Bio 35 Chemistry 30 IB & LS 35 Physics 30 IB & Physics 35
Group 5	Math 10 C Enhanced	Math 20-1 IB & Math 30-1 IB	Math 31 IB & LS 35
Group 6	Art 10 Enhanced (& 20 IB/reg) Drama 10 Enhanced (& 20 IB/reg)	Art 20 IB (or Art 30 IB/reg) Drama 20 IB (or Drama 30 IB/reg)	Art 30 IB Drama 30 IB

Post Secondary Planning

Review entrance requirements for each of the institutions that you are considering applying to. Requirements & calculations vary by program.

Plan ahead and get as much education as you can before you go to post secondary. The extra work you do in high school will be well worth it as you move forward. Use your time wisely and take courses that will provide you with extra options when you are applying so you can maximize your admission average.

[UAlberta IB Admissions](http://ualberta.ca/ib)





MAC IB: FAQs

Does IB really matter?

It does! Although Alberta has a strong curriculum, IB reinforces key skills that help students to be successful in post secondary. Research has shown that IB students have higher success rates, including completion and entrance into specialized programs. IB gives students important recognition in a competitive world.

Are there fees if I want to take an IB course?

ECSD largely subsidizes the IB program for students who enroll, however, there is a \$150/year charge to a maximum of \$300. This fee applies whether you take 1 course or a full diploma.

Who marks the IB assessments?

MAC teachers provide a predicted grade based on in-class work, but the final grades for IB assessments are externally moderated by IB examiners from around the world. Standardized assessments and criteria ensure students are graded consistently & objectively in each subject area.

What does grading look like in IB?

Students will receive an Alberta grade as well as an IB grade. IB assessments are graded on a scale from 1-7. Students need to have a 90%+ to earn a 6 or 7. Final IB grades are based on externally moderated coursework and IB exams in the grade 12 year.

Is there a pre-requisite grade to go into the Diploma Programme?

Students who have an 80% or higher tend to be more successful in their IB courses, however prior academic success is less of an indicator than a student's determination to do their best. Teacher recommendations are highly valued, as well as consideration of attendance, missed exams, late assignments, engagement in class and work/study habits.

How many points do you need for an IB Diploma?

Full IB students must earn a minimum of 24/45 points to receive an IB Diploma with no mark below 3.

Do I have to do Full IB?

No. Students can take individual IB courses of their choice as a course candidate, however CAS, TOK and EE are only for full IB students. At MAC, we recommend taking as much IB as you can handle and leaving high school with as much education as you can!

What will my schedule look like in grade 10?

Students who are interested in pursuing IB should focus on an academic schedule. Take options that can be used for university admission and try to take at least one 20 level course in grade 10.

I am afraid I will be overwhelmed. Is IB too much work?

Doing well in school is a lot of work. Successful students learn to be organized, prioritize tasks, stick to schedules and work efficiently. If you already work hard in school, it will be similar. IB is different work.

More Information & Resources

[Benefits for Students](#)

[Why IB students Succeed](#)

[IBO Blog: Inspiring Alumni](#)





IB Student Perspectives



Over the years, I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with some amazing students in the IB programme. It is so rewarding to see the IB students gain confidence in their learning and develop leadership skills. The IB program challenges students to embrace challenges and grow as learners.

“I chose IB to learn valuable lifelong skills, such as time-management, diligence, and perseverance. Furthermore, the IB program at MAC has allowed me to develop a strong work ethic and academic rigour in preparation for post-secondary and career success. I have learned the importance of communicating with others to understand different perspectives.”

-Full IB Graduate

“I chose IB because I wanted to be surrounded by like-minded individuals that would encourage me to study harder and be more focused.”

“I chose IB for the opportunity to study anywhere in the world, however, now that I have done some IB classes, I have found them so much more interesting than regular programming!”



I chose IB because I am very interested in maximizing my learning and challenging myself academically. I want a career that will allow me to help others and make a positive change in the world.

-Year 1, Full IB

“TOK is really interesting because it gives insight into how people think. The extended essay is teaching us how to organize research & use the U of A library resources. The extra work challenges me to take my skills to another level.”

“I chose IB because I wanted to be in an environment where I was surrounded by like-minded students who really care about their education. This has helped to motivate me.”

“Although I enjoy academic challenges, I shy away from socializing with new people, but I have learned to take these risks, have gained a lot more confidence.”

- Year 1, Full IB

“I chose IB because I want to challenge myself with my schoolwork. Doing things out of my comfort zone has been difficult, but IB has helped me take more risks. I have learned I work well when I am challenged and under pressure.”

-Year 1, Full IB