

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM (IB)

**Parent Organization:** International Baccalaureate Organization

**Web Address:** <http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm>

**Grade/Age Levels:** The IB Diploma Programme is designed for students aged 16-19.

**Overview:** The IBO's Diploma Programme (DP) was created in 1968. It is a demanding pre-university course of study that leads to examinations. It is designed for highly motivated secondary school students aged 16 to 19.

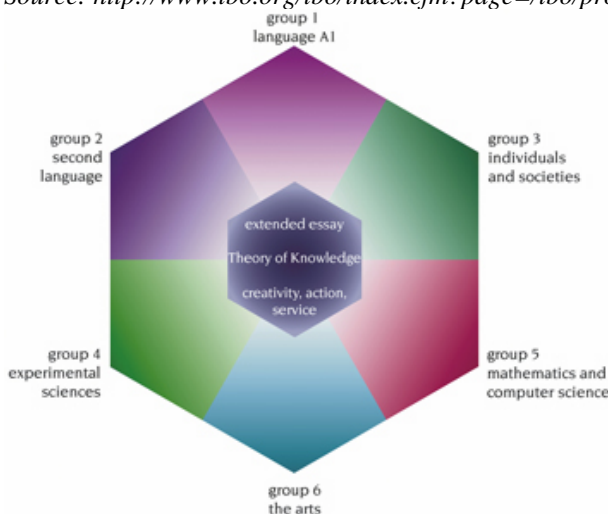
This program has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB diploma holders access to the world's leading universities. The DP's grading system is criterion-referenced, which means that each student's performance is measured against well-defined levels of achievement. These are consistent from one examination session to the next and are applied equally to all schools.

The program was born of efforts to establish a common curriculum and university entry credential for students moving from one country to another. International educators were motivated by practical considerations but also by an idealistic vision. They believed that students should share an academic experience that would emphasize critical thinking, intercultural understanding and exposure to a variety of points of view.

*Source:* [http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg\\_dip&language=EN](http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg_dip&language=EN)

**Subjects Covered:** The six academic subjects around the program model are studied concurrently; students are required to study both the humanities and the sciences. For more information about the three features in the center of the hexagonal program model see format section below.

*Source:* [http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg\\_dip/prg\\_dip\\_cv&language=EN](http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg_dip/prg_dip_cv&language=EN)



**Size of Program:** IBO works with 1,595 schools (August 2005) to develop and offers three programs in 121 countries to approximately 200,000 students.

**Where Offered:** In Oregon, the IB Diploma Program is offered at Eugene International, Tigard, Lincoln, Tualatin, Gresham, Beaverton, Southridge, Cleveland, Sunset, and Woodburn High Schools.

**Time Spent by Students:** Academic Subjects are offered as a part of the regular high school curriculum and school day. IB has a suggested time recommendation for the TOK course of 100 hours of teaching time over a two year period. They also recommend that a student devote a total of 40 hours of private study and writing time to their essay.

**Partners/Sponsors:** Founding Donors are The Century Foundation, The Ford Foundation, UNESCO.

**Format:** The Diploma Programme (DP) has the strengths of a traditional and broad curriculum, but with three important additional features, shown at the centre of the hexagonal programme model.

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- **Theory of knowledge (TOK):** TOK is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases and to develop the ability to analyze evidence that is expressed in rational argument.
- **Creativity, action, service (CAS):** The IBO's goal is to educate the whole person and foster responsible, compassionate citizens. The CAS component encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others. Students may, for example, participate in theatre or musical productions, sports and community service activities.
- **An extended essay of 4,000 words:** Each student has the opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest. The essay requirement acquaints DP students with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected by universities.

**Materials Available on Web and/or Purchase:**

- the online curriculum centre, a secure web site for teachers
- IBNET, secure web site for IB coordinators
- Hundreds of publications, including guides to academic subjects, materials for classroom use, and past examinations for the DP, are available for purchase through the online catalogue.

**Training – Avail/Required:** IBO offers 4 levels of teacher training courses throughout North America for teachers implementing the IB curriculum. Not all levels are offered at each location. The closest training location for the 2005/06 school year is in Vancouver, BC.

**Results to Date:** Results of research conducted by the IBO can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/services/research/publications&language=EN>

**Cost Structure:** Curriculum guides are available for purchase on the website.

**Funding:** Contributions from numerous governments around the world as well as by corporations and foundations. For a full list of donors see <http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/about/donors&language=EN>

**Other Interest Point(s):** IBO also offers two programs that prepare students for the Diploma Programme when they enter high school. These programs are The Middle Years Programme for 11-16 year olds, and the Primary Program which targets students of ages 3-12.