

College Admission Assumptions about IB diploma candidates

Admission Criterion	These assumptions apply to IB students
Academic strength of curriculum	Admissions departments can be assured of the candidate's strong preparation of course work in a cohesive and broad-based curriculum that touches on native language and literature, a second language, social sciences/humanities, natural/physical sciences, and mathematics.
Academic strength of high school	IB-authorized schools must offer, support, and maintain a minimum of seven or eight very strong academic departments to be a successful IB school.
High school percentile rank	Regardless of how the high school percentile rank is determined by the school, an IB diploma recipient will be in the top 10 percent of his/her graduating class in readiness for college.
Trend of performance	The IB Diploma Program requires students to maintain a high level of focus and performance throughout their high school years.
External validation	Because the IB Diploma, by its examination requirements, validates both achievement and integrity in academic performance, there may be a reduced emphasis on standardized tests in the admissions process.
Research and writing skills	The Extended Essay (EE) requirement, a 4,000-word research paper crafted under the tutelage of a faculty mentor and evaluated by international readers, ensures students are prepared for post-secondary writing and research requirements.
Accepts educational challenges	Participation in IB demonstrates that the student accepts, rather than avoids, rigorous academic challenges.
Critical thinking skills	The required Theory of Knowledge (ToK) course ensures that students become critical thinkers who understand the interdisciplinary nature of learning.
Interview skills	IB students have strong preparation in oral presentation skills. Several IB courses include mandatory oral assessments, and ToK requires students to shape their opinions into logical discourse.
Extracurricular and service involvement	The Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) element requires that students invest a minimum of 150 hours during the junior and senior years in non-classroom activities.
Recommendations	The IB staff, including teachers, advisors, and coordinator, know the IB students well and can write sincere, personal letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications.
Maturity and responsibility	The IB program assists students in developing time management, goal setting, and other organizational skills.