

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program addresses a student as a whole person. It is not simply a course where you take a test at the end.

Beginning in 9th grade, Sussex Academy students start taking courses to prepare them for the IB program. They learn and apply IB rubrics, methods of writing lab reports, and ways to analyze text regularly in most of their classes. By the end of tenth grade, students have the experience with IB to be able to decide how much of the IB program is a good fit for them.

In grades 11 and 12, Sussex Academy students may choose to challenge the entire IB Diploma Program or take only a couple of IB courses. Should students choose the IB Diploma Program, they will take six IB courses spanning grades 11 and 12: math, chemistry, literature, Spanish, history, and a sixth course of their choosing, such as Design Technology. Each course requires students to complete IB assessments during the two years and an exam at the end of their senior year. Courses are taught at either the Standard Level and/or Higher Level. Diploma Program students take 3 courses at each level. Colleges generally award college credit for strong performance in Higher Level coursework. Each course weaves an international perspective into its content.

In addition to the IB courses, all juniors also take "Theory of Knowledge." This class is about the "nature of knowing," but every subject also weaves this approach to critical thinking into its content. Students also participate in CAS. The "Creativity, Activity, and Service" aspect of IB requires that all students demonstrate that they have designed and participated in projects relating to creativity (art, photography, etc.), activity (sports, physical activity), and service (volunteering) throughout their high school years.

IB Diploma students round out their program of study with an "Extended Essay." This is a 4,000 word essay that is researched and written about a topic relevant to an IB subject they are already taking. Students who earn the IB Diploma will graduate Sussex Academy with both a State of Delaware Diploma and an International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB Diploma is highly beneficial in the college application process.

In 2011, the average college acceptance rate of IB students was 22% higher than the average acceptance rate of the total population. Eighty-three percent of respondents to an IB survey in 2011 said that they were offered admission into their first choice college.

<http://www.iba/commoncore/documents/GlobalDPDestinationSurveysUS.pdf>

In keeping with our mission of having all Sussex Academy students receive acceptance and complete a four year college/university program, Sussex Academy believes that participating in the International Baccalaureate program is the best

way to help our students achieve this goal. The IB program meshes a local education with a global perspective and encourages students to be independent lifelong learners.