

IB vs AP pros and cons

AP advantages:

- AP courses are more widespread than IB courses.
- It's less expensive to take an AP exam than an IB exam.
- Students pay \$94 to take an AP exam, according to [College Board](#), whereas, students pay a \$119 per subject exam fee, for the IB program.
- Your child can take AP exams without being enrolled in an AP class, whereas to take an IB exam they must be enrolled in an IB course.
- AP doesn't have a holistic program as IB does. This allows your child to focus on advanced classes in subject in which he or she excels.
- AP might be the right choice if your child is over-scheduled: unlike the IB Diploma Program, which includes extracurricular commitments, AP is solely curricular.

IB advantages:

- The IB curriculum has a heavy focus on **critical thinking across disciplines**, as well as on writing. These skills are very helpful for college-bound students, and may impress admissions officers. **IB exams emphasize essay-style answers rather than multiple-choice bubbles**; the 4,000 word research essay required to complete the diploma also exposes students to extended writing.
- The IB program mimics the liberal arts philosophy that many students will encounter on college campuses, thanks to its **combination of subject matter and disciplinary structure**.
- The IB Diploma Program can **foster community** among bright and motivated students: often students end up taking many of the same courses.
- **Global mindset**. With its emphasis on global education, the program may be ideal for a student who's interested in eventually living or working abroad. An IB

diploma might make it easier for your child to apply to Oxford, for instance, since students with IB qualifications are their second largest applicant group after A-level students.

- **Maturity:** IB's requirement that students complete a research paper and community service project may help a student mature and learn time-management.
- IB has commissioned studies on how IB students fare in comparison to the average high school student. Here are some interesting highlights from the studies:
 - "Former DP students in the United States (US) are significantly more likely to attend a 'selective' or 'highly selective' institution compared to the average US college-goer."
 - "Feedback collected from a wide range of IB graduates suggests that IB students have an easier time adjusting to university studies."
 - "In the US, a comparison of four DP standard level (SL) courses (biology, mathematics, language A and world history) and similar Advanced Placement (AP) courses assigned the DP SL courses equal or higher grades than the AP courses."

Article: **IB vs AP: Which one is better for college admissions?**
<https://www.shemmassianconsulting.com/blog/ib-vs-ap>

Please note: The DHS IB Students are allowed and encouraged to take the AP Exams for experience and possible college-credit. In the last four years, states schools have started to recognize the IB program's rigor and are offering up to 32 hours of credit upon entrance.