

# Does the International Baccalaureate Programme Prepare Students for College?



Analysis and Survey Design by  
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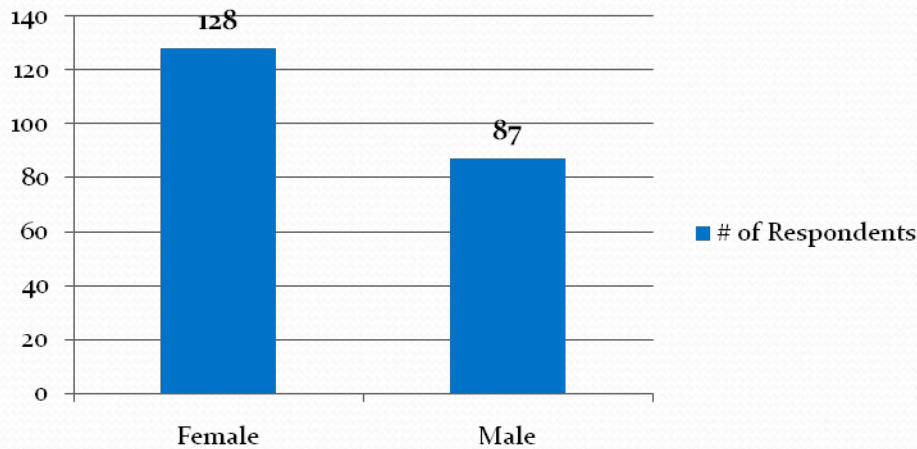
# Methodology

- Sample of College Graduate who went through IB from Social Network Sites
- Email sent to over 650 potential respondents with 6 questions
- 215 emails were returned with responses
- Results compiled and summarized.

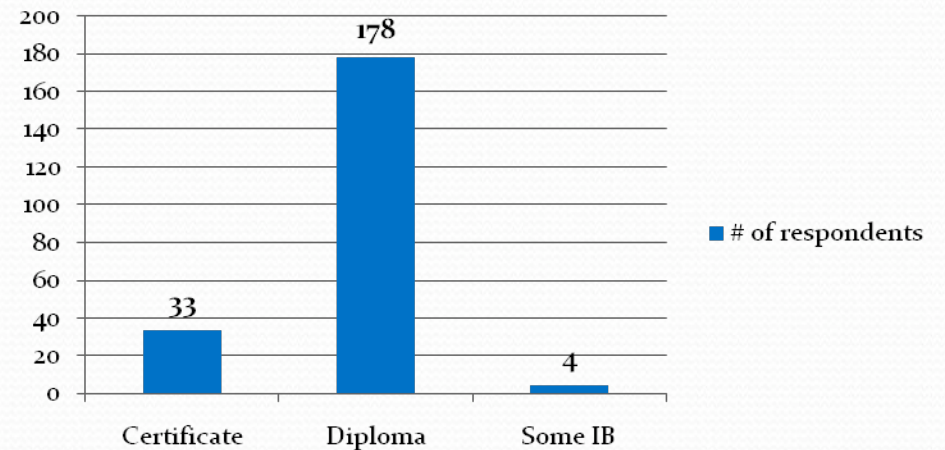
# Demographics of the respondents



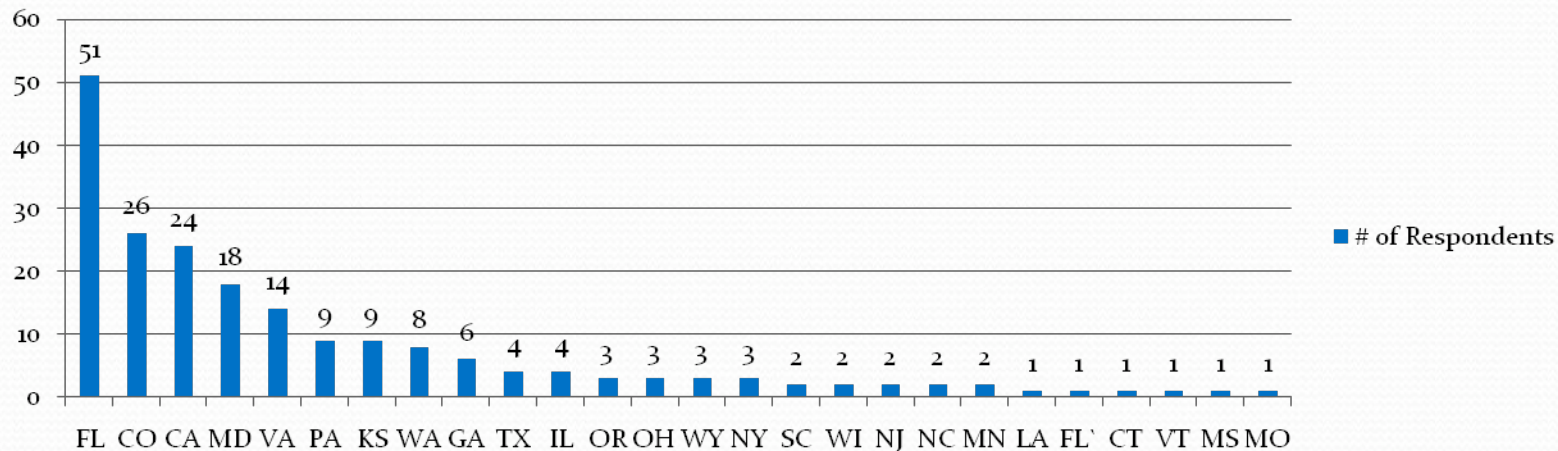
## Gender of Respondents



## Type of IB Education



## Location of IB Schooling

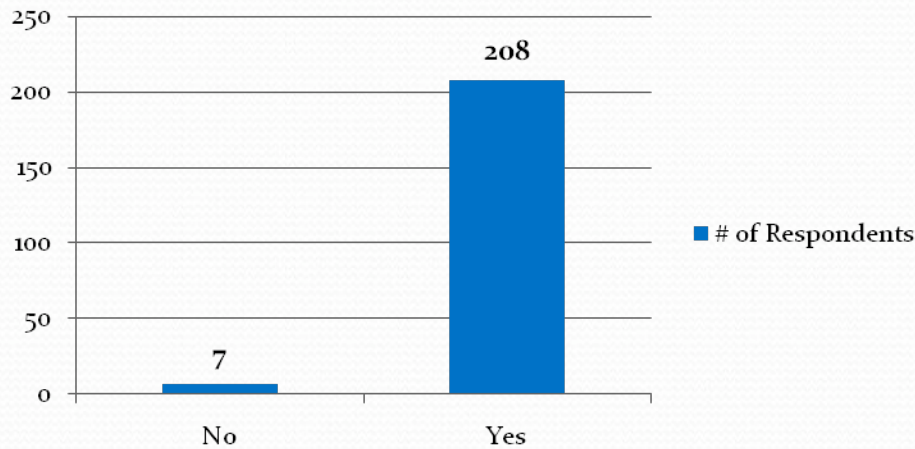


- 26 states
- 8 foreign countries not shown

# 1) Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?



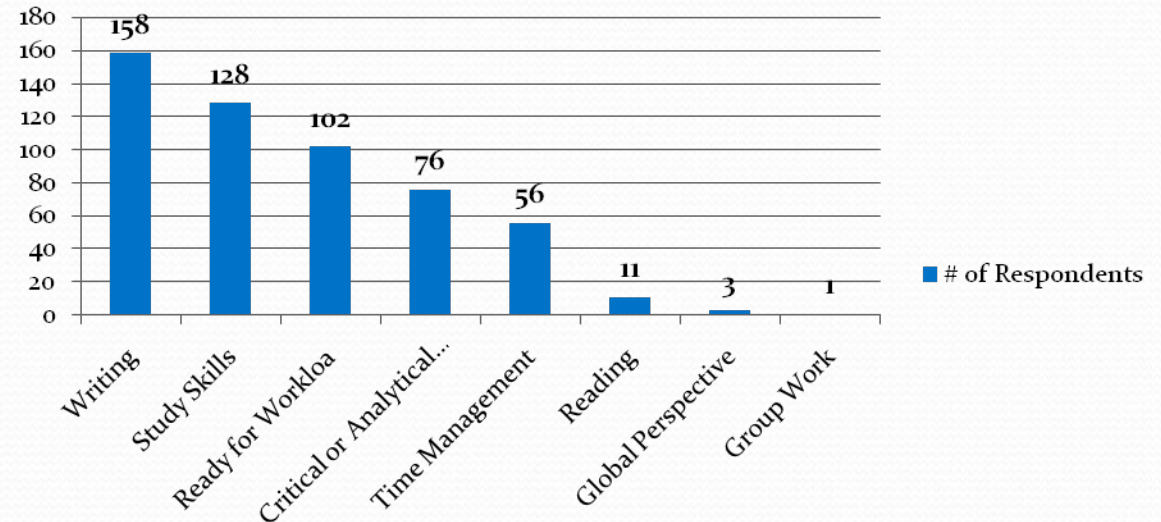
### Did IB Help with College Prep?



• 96.7 % said IB helped with college preparedness.

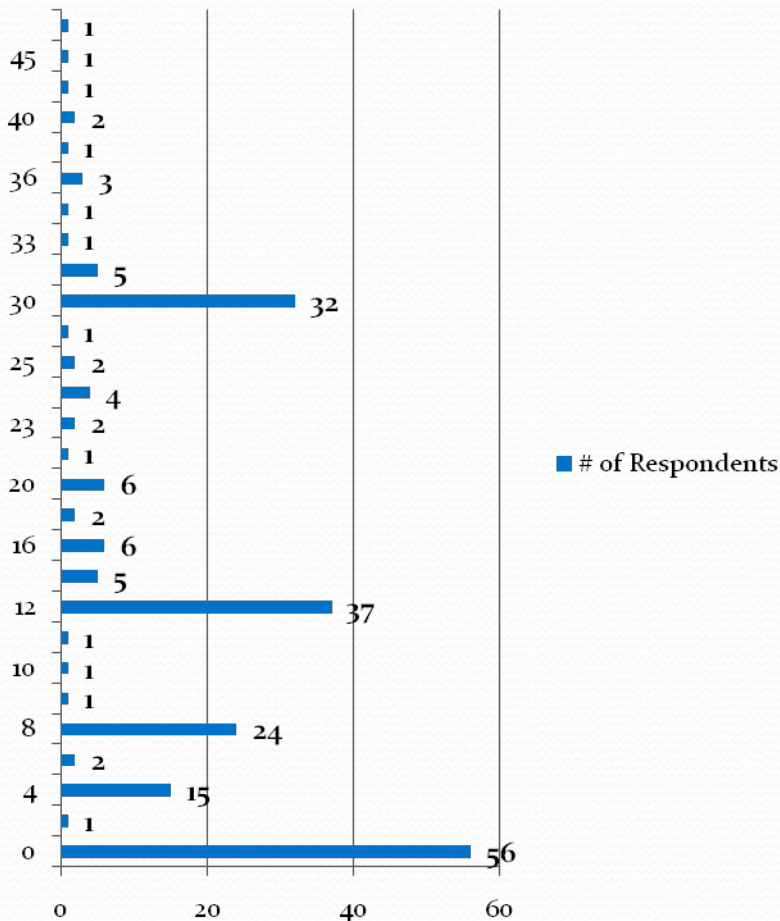
- 73% said writing skills developed in IB helped
- 60% said study skills developed in IB helped
- 47% said IB was harder than college and they were ready for college
- 35 % said critical and analytical thinking skills developed in IB helped
- 26% said time management skills developed in IB helped.

### What Helped?

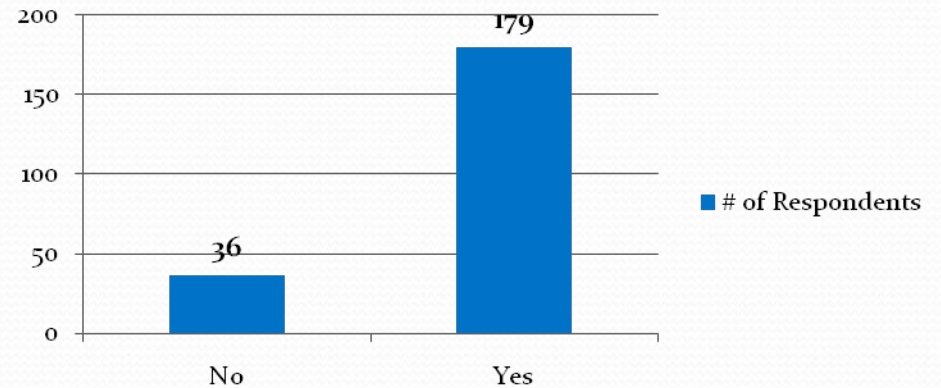


## 2) Did you receive college credit or advancement for your IB work? Did it help you to be advanced?

### How much credit going into college?



### Did IB help get advance standing in college?



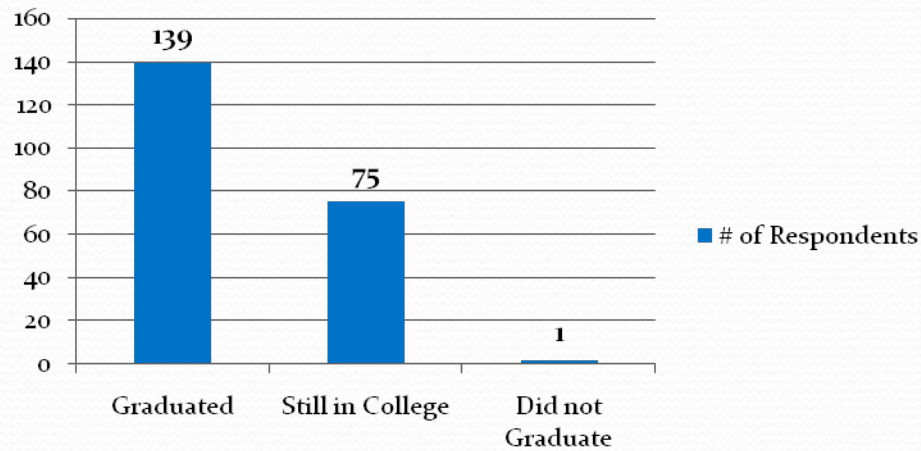
- 83% of respondents received advancement in college (through credit or advancement)
- 74% of respondents received some credit for going into college standing or taking department testing)
- 23 % received sophomore standing
- 4% received second semester sophomore standing

It should be noted that it was not possible to separate IB from AP credits!



### 3) Did you graduate from college? What school? Or if still in college, what was your GPA after 4 semesters?

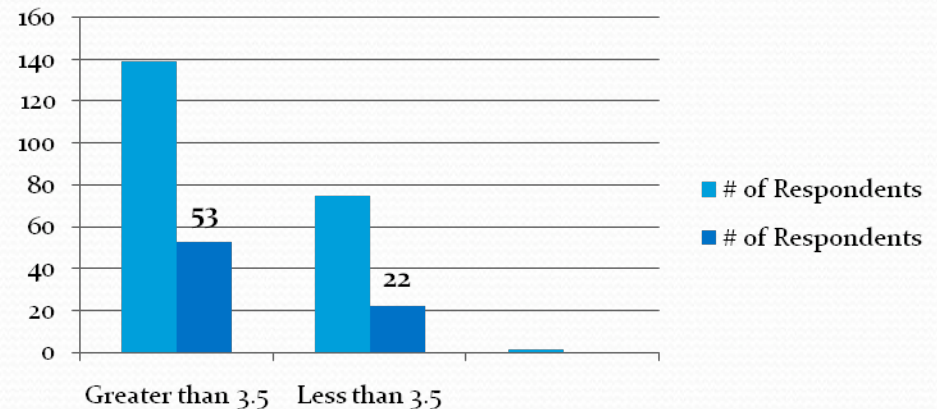
Did you graduate from college?



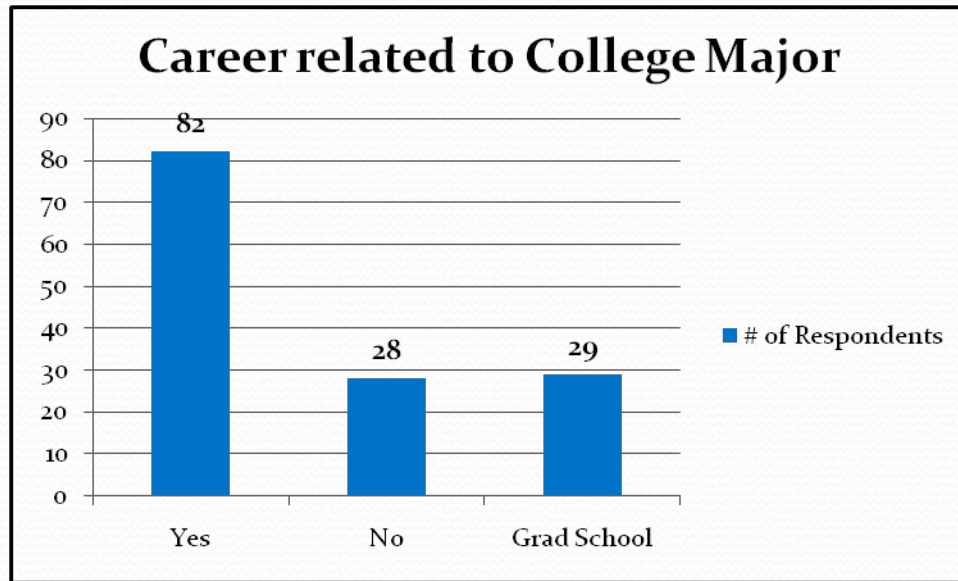
- 65 % of respondents had graduated from college
- 34.5% of respondents were still in college
- .5 % did not graduate from college

- 71% of respondents had GPA greater than or equal to 3.5
- 29% of respondents had GPA less than 3.5

GPA after four semesters of those still in college?



## 4) If you graduated from college, are you in a career related to your college degree?

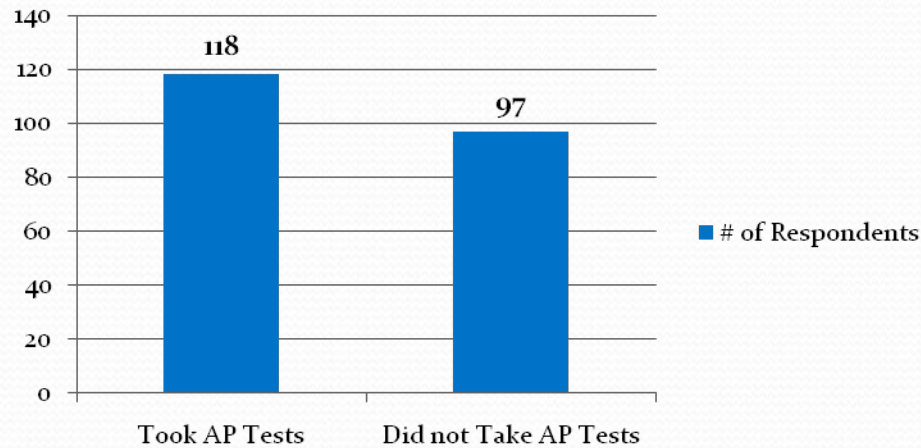


- 58% of respondents who had graduated were in careers related to undergraduate major
- 21% of respondents who had graduated were in careers not related to their undergraduate major
- 41% of respondents who had graduated had gone on to post graduate work or were still in graduate work



5) In high school, did you take any AP exams in addition to IB exams? If so, what did you score and did you take without additional preparation? Did your school offer joint IB/AP courses?

### Did you take AP Tests?

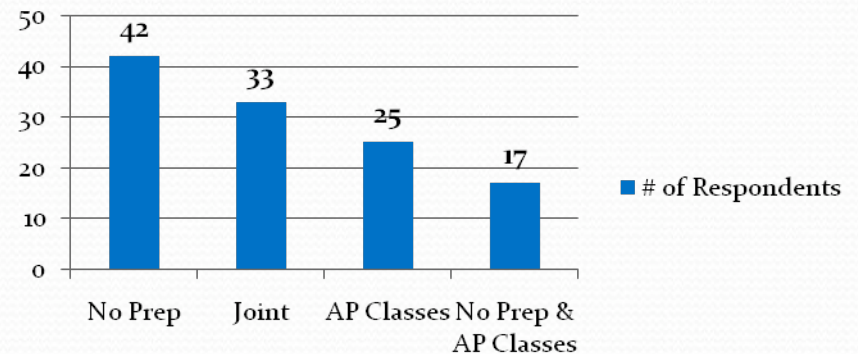


- 55% of respondents took AP tests in addition to IB tests
- 45% of respondents did not take AP tests

- 36% of respondents who took AP tests took them with no preparation other than IB
- 28% took joint IB/AP classes prior to AP tests
- 80% received 4 or higher on AP tests



### Preparation needed for AP Tests





## Quotes from Question 1: Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?

*IB emphasizes a lot of reading and writing skills. IB also has a very well rounded curriculum with projects, papers, presentations. As a freshman, I was ready for the workload of college classes. I also was very prepared for the different types of assignments and group work. This is probably one of the biggest strengths of IB.*

**IB Diploma Graduate from Minnesota**

*Yes, it did. Little I did in college challenged me as much as IB did. Having to take 7-8 college level courses five days a week makes actual college easy to adapt to and succeed in. My writing skills were such that by college I never had to write more than two drafts on any assignment. The study discipline I had to develop to succeed in IB made it easy for me to study in an environment where I had plenty else to distract me.*

**IB Diploma Graduate Colorado**

*Yes, enormously. College has been easier than high school. I had stronger writing skills and in my freshman English courses was the only student who knew how to do the kind of writing we were asked to do. Time management skills, study skills, and an ability to do more than just school (because of CAS). I also had no problem with long exams. In addition, my breadth of knowledge from my HL classes seems to be higher than that of my non-IB peers.*

**IB Diploma Graduate from Maryland**

## Quotes from Question 1: Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?

*I felt very well prepared for college once I got there. I had been a little apprehensive about Swarthmore's reputation for academic intensity, but felt that IB program in high school prepared me well and the transition to college level work was not too difficult at all. I especially liked TOK, which I'm sure helped me to develop my writing skills.*

**IB Diploma Graduate Washington**

*Absolutely it helped. I'd say that more than anything, they emphasized thinking critically about each subject. Specifically the English classes, the 4-year foreign language requirement (I hated this at the time, but now I'm very happy this was required - hablo español con fluidez), ToK and of course, the EE were all excellent. It definitely prepares your time management and study skills for college, due to the overwhelming amount of work you get. ;)*

**IB Diploma Graduate Florida**

*Absolutely. IB courses were much more demanding and involved than the courses I take at college. My writing skills were strongly developed, however, most of my college courses only use multiple choice examinations. Critical thinking skills were the most valuable to me.*

**IB Diploma Graduate Virginia**

## Quotes from Question 1: Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?

*IB helped immensely in college preparation. Because of the large work load, I learned to prioritize what I wanted to get done and by when I wanted to get it done. IB helped me learn to focus on what I worked on without getting distracted and this has been helpful in college because I am able to work faster and more efficiently. My writing skills also improved through IB because of the massive amounts of writing we were required to do in many different subjects. The IB exams forced me to learn how to write papers quickly but still maintain good quality which is amazingly helpful at college.*

**IB Diploma Graduate Virginia**

I feel that IB helped in college prep, especially in two regards. The first being time management, IB is an extremely holistic and demanding program and during my final two years of high school I experienced a course load that far exceeded anything I encountered during my first year of college. Because of this I learned to study well and felt I had a step up from my peers here at university. Because of the comprehensiveness of the program I felt that both my writing and speaking skills improved as well. Analytical skills and the ability to research effectively were also necessary for the program.

**IB Diploma Graduate Switzerland**

## **Quotes from Question 1: Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?**

Yeah, It helped. Especially in my writing more than anything else. But study skills did help as well. (Annotating while reading is something my IB English teacher drilled us with, and it definitely helped with my study skills in college)

**IB Diploma Graduate Georgia**

IB was invaluable for college preparation. While I have found demanding course work and engaging classes, thanks to the rigor of IB I have never felt overwhelmed or surprised by professor expectations or workload. My writing skills have been more than adequate and word counts are not intimidating. In fact, many assignments do not compare to what was expected in IB, especially for general education requirements.

**IB Diploma Graduate Oregon**

IB helped prepare me for college very well, particularly in the area of study skills. Many of my peers have no idea how to study or manage their time and I feel that IB gave me the knowledge to know how to time manage and study effectively.

**IB Diploma Graduate Kansas**

## **Quotes from Question 1: Did IB help in college prep? What helped? Writing skills? Study skills?**

Absolutely! I actually felt IB was more challenging than college. IB made my undergraduate work a breeze. I felt my writing skills were average for IB, but advanced at the college level. My writing skills were also advanced at the Master's level as well. I have honestly never been very good at "studying". However, IB taught me how to think and understand material which made me very efficient with my studying. I have always excelled in comparison to those who spend far more time trying to memorize.

**IB Certificate Graduate California**

Yes, IB helped in college prep. It helped in study skills; organizing our time; because it is a program and not just individual classes, it helped me view our college classes/life as a "Program" and not just individual classes; it made me more self confident (Because college seemed much easier - the first year); this obviously helped me get into the swing of college easier and faster.

**IB Certificate Graduate Wyoming**

Yes, IB absolutely helped. It was the most challenging educational experience I had, surpassing college and law school. It was critical in terms of time management, to be able to handle the work load plus all of the extra curricular activities we were encouraged to participate in. In my program, the students were more active in school clubs and teams than non IB-students.

**IB Diploma Graduate Kansas**

## **Quotes from Question 2: Did you receive college credit or advancement for your IB work? Did it help you to be advanced?**

*Yes, I received 18 credits, as well as was passed through Calc 1 with no credits attached. I was passed through lower level writing(3 credits I think), 5 credits of biology, 3 credits of history, 3 credits of literature, and something else I think.*

**IB Diploma Graduate from**

**Colorado**

*Based on my exam scores, I was able to receive 36 credits going into my first year of school; essentially, I started my college career as a sophomore. This, I feel, put me at both an advantage and a disadvantage. Because I had so many credits, I could bypass most of the general ed/core classes that were required, i.e., save on a year's worth of tuition. However, though I do not regret my choice of majors (Political Science and Spanish), I feel that I was somewhat rushed into making a decision as to what I would study. Because my core classes were taken care of, I needed to pick classes that would count towards my majors, but I wasn't sure of what I wanted to study right away. I would have liked to have taken more elective classes. But IB definitely helped; I graduated in three years.*

**IB Diploma Graduate Colorado**

*Yes, I entered college as a second semester sophomore thanks to a combination of IB, AP (which our school had us take in addition to IB exams), and dual enrollment credits. I was eligible for graduation after two and a half years but stayed another semester for another certificate. This put me way ahead of the game in many respects.*

## **Quotes from Question 2: Did you receive college credit or advancement for your IB work? Did it help you to be advanced?**

Absolutely, and that is one of the biggest advantages IMO of the IB program. I entered my freshman year with 42 college credits, allowing me to obtain majors in two different concentrations. Furthermore (and possibly of particular interest to parents), since I attended a private institution that translated to valuable time and money saved.

### **IB Diploma Graduate Florida**

I received a full year of college credit and was able to avoid any science, social science, math, or writing classes that were basic requirements. I was able to start out in advanced classes, but the real benefit was that my advanced standing allowed me to change my major twice and still graduate on time. So I got to explore a lot of areas of interest to me.

### **IB Diploma Graduate Illinois**

I received 45 credits, a promise of scholarship money, and it was instrumental in my admission to the an honors program.

### **IB Diploma Graduate Oregon**

I received 20 hours from IB work. It helped me register for classes earlier, which is always a bonus. I won't be graduating earlier because of these hours though, I'm still on a 4 year track.

### **IB Diploma Graduate Texas**

## **Quotes from Question 2: Did you receive college credit or advancement for your IB work? Did it help you to be advanced?**

I received 35 credits for my IB exams at VCU, so I came into the university as a sophomore. If I chose one major I could finish in 3 years, but the real gift of all those credits is having more room in my schedule to grow! I can have two majors, and still take electives to explore my specific interests. Since I came in with so many credits, I will actually graduate with two separate bachelors degrees, one in each majors.

**IB Diploma Graduate Virginia**

I received 20 college credits from my IB diploma, which probably could have helped me graduate in three years had I not decided to do a double major.

**IB Diploma Graduate Maryland**

I received credit for quite a few classes, which was essential to my graduating with a triple major in four years.

**IB Diploma Graduate California**

Yes. It helped me get preferential treatment for class selection and could have helped me graduate early, but I chose not to do that.

**IB Diploma Graduate California**

I had high enough scores to get 45 credits, but my university only allowed me to have 30 and start as a sophomore.

**IB Certificate Graduate Florida**



## Unsolicited Quotes from Respondents

*As an addendum to the below, I really credit the IB program for keeping me intellectually engaged during high school. That is to say, I think being stuck in regular ed classes - even with a few AP classes - would have been much less challenging.*

*Here's the thing: That the IB program has a set, comprehensive curriculum is important because it pushes you in areas you may not otherwise pursue for yourself. For example, I was required to take 4 years of a foreign language, which I would never have pursued on my own. Right now, I am applying for a job where my French training has helped me greatly. I never would have seen that coming down the road 8-12 years ago, and I seriously doubt I would have taken all those French classes (or, for that matter, many AP classes that didn't nominally interest me) of my own volition.*

*I was a classic high school slacker: aimless, unmotivated and underachieving. And not to toot my horn, but I am no dummy. I owe IB a lot for having kept me challenged and engaged. Looking back, I truly think I might have otherwise gotten into more trouble or even dropped out of school.*

**IB Diploma Graduate CO**

# Unsolicited Quotes from Respondents

In addition, I would like to make a couple of less definable points for IB programs. During my years, there were three additional components that I found very helpful:

- 1) Theory of Knowledge has been my favorite learning experience of my entire education (high school, college, doctorate, residency, etc.) It taught not only components of thought like philosophy, logic, and language but also HOW to think and different ways to approach learning and problems.
- 2) The extended essay was a mini-thesis. The topic was open and allowed great freedoms while teaching research, professional/publication style writing, and composition skills.
- 3) The CAS component ensured some outside interests besides education. In my program, most people participated in sports, music, drama but many also had jobs, outside and travelling team sports, and significant community service activity.

Overall, IB provided me with innumerable opportunities as a foundation from which to build my life.

***IB Diploma Graduate KS***



# Conclusions



# Questions & Answers