Leveraging Your IB Experience!

Use Your IB Experience to Advocate for College Acceptance and College Credit
Applying to college can be daunting!

Fears?
Where Are Other IB Students Sending Their Transcripts?

University of Toronto- Canada
University of British Columbia- Canada
University of Florida- Florida
McGill University- Canada
University of Alberta- Canada
New York University-New York
Florida State University- Florida
University of Washington at Seattle- Washington
University of Central Florida- Florida
University of California at Berkeley- California
University of Waterloo- Canada
University of California at Los Angeles- California
Boston University- Massachusetts

University of South Florida at Tampa-Florida
University of Western Ontario- Canada
Northeastern University- Massachusetts
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor- Michigan
University of Texas at Austin- Texas
Virginia Commonwealth University-Virginia
University of Virginia-Virginia
University of California at San Diego- California
Virginia Tech- Virginia
University of Colorado at Boulder- Colorado
George Mason University- Virginia
Liberal Arts and Research Universities with IB Students Just Like You!

Macalester College- Minnesota
Carleton College- Minnesota
Colorado College- Colorado
Harvey Mudd College- California
Stanford University- California
University of Southern California- California
University of California at Los Angeles- California
Vassar College- New York
Wellesley College- Massachusetts
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)- Massachusetts
Smith College- Massachusetts
Middlebury College- Vermont
Davidson College- North Carolina
Duke University- North Carolina
Georgetown University- Washington DC
Brown University- Massachusetts
Princeton University- New Jersey
Bryn Mawr College- Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University- Pennsylvania
Swarthmore College- Pennsylvania
University of Pennsylvania- Pennsylvania
University of Chicago- Illinois
Northwestern University- Illinois
Emory University- Georgia
IB Students Reach HIGH!

When looking for colleges to apply to...

1. Research potential schools (i.e. attend college fairs or look them up in the Baron’s Profiles of American Colleges book)

2. Ask yourself what information do you think is important for you to be successful in reaching your goals?

   Use this information to help you make informed decisions.
So how can being an IB student help me with college admissions?
Note it, Quote it

How should students discuss their IB Courses in their university application?
What if I don’t get the Full Diploma?!...Even just missing it by a few points!

What are admissions offices looking for?
Percentage of college admission directors attaching “considerable importance” to the following factors

Admissions offices know that grades in the most challenging courses won’t necessarily be as high as those in regular courses.

(Source: The State of College Admission, NACAC, 2014)
You are about to be a senior. So is this IB thing still worth it?

- When compared to a matched comparison group, IB students are 40% more likely to attend a four-year college and 50% more likely to attend a more selective college.

- IB students in four-year colleges are significantly more likely to persist in four-year colleges for two years.

Shining as a Diploma Candidate...

Activity Section –

• Highlight CAS, EE and alignment to learning objectives

Personal Statement & Interview Section—

• TOK – did you change a belief?
• EE – curiosity, independence, passion about a topic
• CAS – collaboration, service, character
The IB CORE makes an IB Diploma Candidate unique

• TOK, CAS and EE
  • This is what makes IB different!
  • Take a listen to how universities want you to talk about the CORE in your application.

What strategies can students use to discuss creativity, action, service (CAS) in their university application?

What strategies can students use to discuss the extended essay in their university application?

What strategies can students use to discuss the theory of knowledge (TOK) course in their university application?
Shining as a Diploma Candidate...

Personal Statement & Interview Section—

• Interdisciplinary nature of courses and holistic nature of your collective learning in an IB Programme
• Bilingual education
• International perspective
Sample Common App Questions:

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
For your personal statements/essays...

What in your IB experience makes you unique in the college application?
What are the IB skills you can use on your application?

21st Century Skills

- **Interdisciplinary**
  - Global awareness
  - Civic literacy
  - Environmental literacy

- **Learning & innovation**
  - Creativity
  - Critical thinking & problem solving
  - Communication & collaboration

- **Information skills**
  - Information literacy
  - Media literacy
  - Technology literacy

- **Life & career skills**
  - Flexibility & adaptability
  - Initiative & self direction
  - Social & cross-cultural skills

Source: P21: Partnership for 21st Century Learning
Who are YOU?

- Inquirers...
- Knowledgeable. ...
- Thinkers. ...
- Communicators. ...
- Principled. ...
- Open-minded. ...
- Caring....
- Balanced...
- Reflective
- Risk-Takers/Courageous
What are some of the life skills that students take away from the Diploma Programme?
Key Takeaways

➤ You are worth more than an exam score.

➤ You have accomplished more than you think, save ALL your work to help make the connections between your IB courses.

➤ Be your own advocate.
Leveraging Your IB Experience!

Use Your IB Experience to Advocate for College Acceptance and College Credit
So why do students (with parent support) take IB courses & complete IB exams?

The intrinsic benefit that an IB education helps students in their development as learners.
But, realistically, we cannot discount the practical motivations of...

College admissions officers seeing “IB” on a high school transcript during the process of reviewing applications

The possibility of receiving college credit for IB exam scores
Re-define “credit”
(it is more than just receiving credit for a college course because of an IB exam score)

• Higher level placement
• Exemptions (essentially being able to “skip over” a course)
• Placement into honors programs
Re-define “credit”
(it is more than just receiving credit for a college course because of an IB exam score)

• Scholarships for IB students
• Research/fellowship opportunities
• Study aboard opportunities
Review IB and AP credit policies very carefully at the school you choose to attend

The International Baccalaureate

The UVA College of Arts and Sciences offers possible credit for scores of 5, 6, or 7 on most higher-level IB examinations. We award no credit or exemptions for standard-level examinations. Upon departmental recommendation, we will consider an award for one, and no more than two, semesters of College introductory-level credit. Scores below a 5 on the higher-level exam may be sufficient for higher-level placement (no credit will be awarded). Such advanced placement decisions must be made by the appropriate department.

From: UVA, College of Arts and Sciences website, March 2017
### AP and IB Credit Policies in Virginia

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*Note: AP and IB credit policies may vary by institution.*
“Credit and advanced placement are generally determined on a case-by-case basis, on the student’s initiative, by the Dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences and by the Directors of Undergraduate Programs in the appropriate departments.”
In a nutshell: VA colleges and universities had to review credit policies for IB exam scores, to include SL exams, to ensure they were on par with credit policies used for AP exams.

Worked with Senator George Barker (Va.) who worked to get SB 1077 passed (2011 legislative session)
IB-MA College Credit Task Group

Formed a committee and drafted a plan for students to advocate for college credits (when appropriate)
College Credit Talking Points for IB Students

As you prepare to register for classes at your new U.S. college or university and if you feel that your IB examination scores merit more credit than you received, please consider the following action plan to advocate for yourself and others:

1. Find out who at your institution sets the advanced academic college credit policy and call to set up a meeting face to face.
2. Obtain materials to support your argument.
   - The following link has materials developed by IB to advocate to high institutions:
     https://www.ibo.org/recognition/resourcesanddocumentlibrary/
     Pay particular attention to the Diploma Programme Curriculum Briefs and Understanding the IB Score.
   - Include examples of work done in the IB class, such as internal assessments, practice papers and presentations.
   - Any IB related material, including syllabi that your high school teacher used in the class.
Thanks for listening and good luck in your college application process!

Remember to Leverage Your IB Experience!