



# Why IB?

Research findings about the  
IB Diploma Programme



## **Experience the Diploma Programme**

The video *Experience the Diploma Programme* features students from the United States discussing what it is like to be a DP student and their aspirations for after high school.

<http://blogs.ibo.org/ibtv/2012/03/12/experience-the-diploma-programme/>



## What does research tell us about the Diploma Programme?

- How will the Diploma Programme impact my high school experience?
- Will participating in the IB Diploma Programme help me get into college?
- How well will the Diploma Programme prepare me for college?

## What does the research say about the impact of the IB on students' experience in high school?





## **IB students are more engaged in high school**

A 2009 study compared the academic, emotional and social engagement of IB students against non-IB students in eight IB high schools. It also compared IB students to non-IB students in a national sample.

***On all measures IB students were more engaged in school than non-IB students.***

“Across each of the domains of student engagement, IB students rated their levels of engagement more highly than non-IB students. This held true for both the targeted sample of eight schools, as well as the national sample.”



## What does the research say about the Diploma Programme impact on college admission and enrollment?



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## **IB students more likely to attend selective colleges**

In a 2012 study of diverse alumni from IB programmes in Chicago public schools, researchers from the University of Chicago found that, compared to a matched sample, DP students are more likely to:

- enroll in college
- attend a more selective college
- stay enrolled in college.

***This study suggests that IB students are not only going to better colleges in greater numbers but are performing better once there.***



## **IB students more likely to attend selective colleges**

A 2011 study of almost 25,000 IB Diploma and certificate students found:

***IB students were more likely than the national average to attend college full-time, with nearly 70% attending selective or more selected colleges.***

## What does the research say about the IB impact on college preparation?



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## **IB students more prepared for college**

2012 study of Chicago public schools interviewed Diploma Programme alumni and found that:

***Students reported they felt prepared by the Diploma Programme to succeed in college.***

Students reported that they:

- felt prepared **to succeed and excel** in their coursework
- had **strong academic skills**, especially related to **analytical writing**
- learned academic behaviours like **work ethic, motivation, time management**, and **help-seeking** that were sources of strength in the transition to college-level work
- identified **preparation in the IB programme as the source of their success** as college students.

## IB students more prepared for college

In 2011, a study of IB students in Florida who attended the University of Florida, looked at student performance in first college classes in seven subjects. The study found:

***The higher the students' scores on IB subject exams, the better the grade earned in the first college course in that subject.***



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SwanseaCollegeMicroscopyStudents.jpg#file>



## The DP curriculum prepares students for college

A 2009 study looked at the standards for seven Diploma Programme courses and compared them to a set of standards for college-readiness.

Researchers found:

- **a high degree of alignment with college readiness standards** in all subject areas
- **many individual IB standards were more advanced** than those required for success in entry-level college courses
- **IB standards address key cognitive strategies** (critical thinking, intellectual inquisitiveness and interpretation skills) that have been identified by college instructors as necessary for college success.



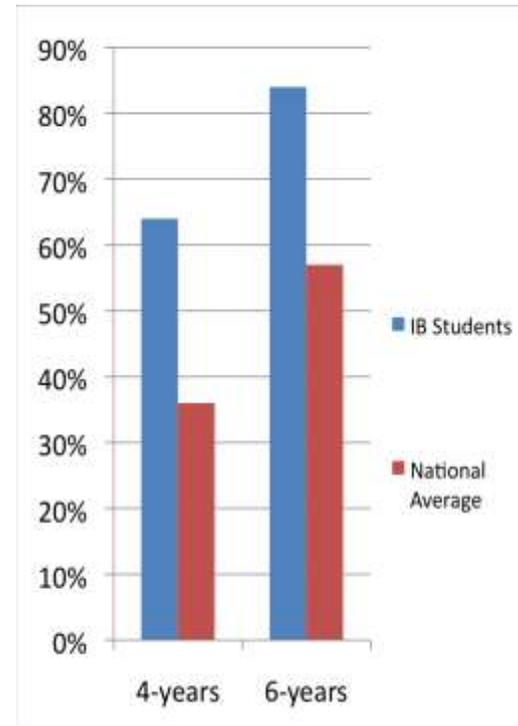
## **IB students more likely to succeed in college**

A 2010 study that looked at performance on IB exams and college GPA of over 1500 IB students enrolled in the University of California system found:

- **IB students earned higher GPAs and graduated at higher rates than a matched comparison group.** This held across all family income levels
- **performance in the Diploma Programme was the strongest predictor of college GPA.**

## IB students graduate from college at higher rates

The 2011 study of IB students' experiences after high school found that **IB students graduated from college at higher rates**, with 81% of IB students graduating within 6 years of enrolling full-time at a 4-year institution, compared to the national average of 57%.



## What do colleges say about the IB?



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## **IB prepares students for college success**

“IB is well known to us as **excellent preparation**. Success in an **IB programme correlates well with success at Harvard**. We are pleased to see the credential of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript.”

*Marlyn McGrath Lewis, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Harvard University,  
USA*

“The IB is a **first-rate programme**, one we are familiar with, and **it prepares students well** for a university like ours.”

*Fred Hargadon, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Princeton University*



## **IB prepares students for college success**

“We respect the IB programme for its academic rigour and the dedication it requires of students to earn the diploma. Over the years, we have **found IB students to be exceptionally well-prepared for a challenging college experience.**”

*Lorne Robinson, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Macalester College*

“Connecticut College highly values the IB programme as it **prepares students** for the liberal arts **in ways that few secondary school curriculums can...** Students who have graduated from schools with the IB curriculum are **extremely well prepared** when they arrive on our campus.”

*Martha Merrill, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Connecticut College*



## Colleges recognize the value of an IB education

**“We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific.”**

*Christoph Guttentag, Director of Admissions, Duke University*

**“The rigour of IB Diploma requirements meets our recommendation for the strongest high school preparation possible. ... In sum, the IB diploma candidate who has met the challenge successfully receives strong consideration from the William & Mary admission committee.”**

*Allison Jesse, former Associate Dean of Admissions, William and Mary College*



## Colleges recognize the value of an IB education

“In our minds, there is **no more challenging curriculum** than the IB curriculum. Not only does it **prepare students for a demanding college programme**, but the IB curriculum also **instills in students a love of learning** and an **understanding of the truly interdisciplinary nature of education**. Instead of working on each subject in a vacuum, IB students are shown how each of their classes connects both with the other classes and with the world around them.”

*Thyra L. Briggs, Dean of Enrollment, Sarah Lawrence College*



## Colleges seek IB students

“We're looking for **students who are engagers**—students who are **maximizing opportunities** in the classroom, maximizing opportunities outside of the classroom. What's very unique about IB is that **through its curriculum it allows students to be able to satisfy the requirements of the types of students that we're looking for.**”

*Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions, UT Austin*





University or college	IB students acceptance rate	Total population acceptance rate	IB students vs total population
University of Florida	82%	42%	+40%
Florida State University	92%	60%	+32%
Brown University	18%	9%	+9%
Stanford University	15%	7%	+8%
Columbia University	13%	9%	+4%
University of California - Berkeley	58%	26%	+32%
Harvard University	10%	7%	+3%
New York University	57%	30%	+27%
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	71%	51%	+20%
University of Miami	72%	30%	+42%

Source: IBDP Graduate Destinations Survey 2011/12 conducted by i-graduate International Insight

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University or College	IB students acceptance rate	Total population acceptance rate	IB students vs total population
Cornell University	31%	18%	+13%
Duke University	28%	16%	+12%
University of Pennsylvania	24%	14%	+10%
Yale University	18%	7%	+11%
University of Central Florida	90%	47%	+43%
Boston University	70%	58%	+12%
University of California - Los Angeles	48%	23%	+25%
University of Virginia	64%	32%	+32%
UNC Chapel Hill	63%	32%	+31%
Princeton University	16%	8%	+8%

Source: IBDP Graduate Destinations Survey 2011/12 conducted by i-graduate International Insight

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- The **average acceptance rate of IB students** into university/college **is 22% higher** than the average acceptance rate of the total population.
- The acceptance rate of IB students into **Ivy League** institutions (Princeton, Yale, Brown, Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania) **is between 3% and 13% higher** compared to the total population acceptance rate.

Source: **IBDP Graduate Destinations Survey 2011/12** conducted by **i-graduate International Insight**

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