

# Ballston Spa High School

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

### What is the Diploma Programme?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a rigorous college-level program for motivated students in the last two years of high school. The program of study leads to exams in six different subject areas and is aimed at developing global citizens and life-long learners who are committed to serving their communities.

### Profile of an IB Student

Students in the IB Diploma Programme strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Open-Minded
- Knowledgeable
- Caring
- Thinkers
- Risk-takers
- Communicators
- Balanced
- Principled
- Reflective



### Why Choose IB?

The IB Diploma Programme at Ballston Spa High School prepares students to succeed in college and to effectively participate in an increasingly global society.

The IBDP helps students become confident learners and critical thinkers who desire to create a better world through intercultural understanding and respect.

### The IB Curriculum

IB Diploma Programme students must choose one course from each of five subject groups including studies in language and literature, language acquisition, individuals and societies, the sciences, and mathematics. Furthermore, students must also choose either an arts course from the arts group or a second course from one of the other subject groups.



### IB Courses Offered at Ballston Spa High School

#### Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

English Language and Literature HL

#### Group 2: Language Acquisition

French SL

Spanish SL

#### Group 3: Individuals and Societies

History of the Americas HL

Psychology SL (1 year course)

Psychology HL

#### Group 4: Experimental Sciences

Biology SL (1 year course)

Biology HL

Physics HL

#### Group 5: Mathematics

Mathematics SL: Applications & Interpretation/Algebra 2

Mathematics SL: Analysis & Approaches/Pre-Calculus (1 year course)

#### Group 6: Arts

Film SL/HL

Visual Arts SL/HL

*Students must successfully complete three HL (higher level) and three SL (standard level) courses in two years.*

*All courses listed are two-year courses unless noted otherwise.*

### Core Elements

To earn an IB Diploma, students must also successfully complete three required core elements, throughout the 2-year program of study.

**Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS):** Students engage in a range of self-selected extracurricular activities, including a project, which encourages Creativity, (i.e., engagement in the arts), Activity (i.e., participation in athletics) and Service (i.e., community and social service activities).

**Extended Essay (EE):** Students engage in independent research and write a 4,000-word essay on a topic of their choice.

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK):** Students will explore the values and limits of knowledge in all subject areas and examine this fundamental question: How do we know what we know, and how reliable is the knowledge we possess?

---

## **Facts & Figures**

95% of IB Diploma Programme graduates in the US enroll in four-year institutions (60% national average).

IBDP students not only do well academically while in high school, but also go on to perform well at the university level.

University admissions officials say the IBDP is the best qualification for developing students' non-academic skills (independent inquiry, open-mindedness, global awareness, self-management skills) and preparing them for further education and careers.

Studies find that the alumni of the IBDP attend top-ranking universities.

89% of IBDP students recommend that other students participate in the IBDP.

IBDP alumni report the IB has profound, long-lasting effects on students' lives. It helps them develop critical thinking, analytical and writing skills and a broader world view. In addition, they point out that they earned advanced credits for university.

\* Source: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## **Want More Information About IB?**

Visit the International Baccalaureate at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

Contact the IB Coordinator:

**Nicole Stehle**

[nstehle@bscsd.org](mailto:nstehle@bscsd.org)

(518) 884-7150 ext. 2366

---

## **IB Assessments**

The IB Diploma Programme uses both internally and externally assessed components to assess student performance. In the IBDP, students receive grades ranging from 7 to 1, with 7 being the highest. Students receive a score for each exam attempted.

A student's final diploma result score is made up of the combined scores for each subject. The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to minimum levels of performance including successful completion of the three essential elements of the DP Core (EE, TOK and CAS).

## **Colleges and Universities Accepting Ballston Spa IB Diploma Programme Candidates**

Albany College of Pharmacy	Rochester Institute of Technology
American University	Siena College
Bard College	Skidmore College
Boston College	St. Lawrence University
Brandeis University	SUNY Albany
Brown University	SUNY Binghamton
Bryn Mawr College	SUNY Brockport
Clark University	SUNY Cortland
Clarkson University	SUNY ESF
Colgate University	SUNY Geneseo
College of the Atlantic	SUNY New Paltz
College of the Holy Cross	SUNY Oneonta
Connecticut College	SUNY Plattsburgh
Cornell University	SUNY Stony Brook
Dartmouth College	SUNY University at Buffalo
Drew University	Syracuse University
Florida Institute of Technology	Trinity College Dublin
Fordham University	Union College
George Washington University	University of Chicago
Georgetown University	University of Connecticut
Hamilton College	University of Delaware
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	University of Denver
Hofstra University	University of Florida
Ithaca College	University of Hartford
Marist College	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Marymount Manhattan College	University of Miami
McGill University	University of Michigan
Muhlenberg College	University of New Hampshire
Nazareth College	University of New Haven
New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts	Univ. of N. Carolina at Wilmington
Northeastern University	University of Rhode Island
Oberlin College	University of Rochester
Pennsylvania State University	University of Vermont
Providence College	Washington College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Williams College

The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and quality. Completion of the full Diploma Programme or of individual courses can give students advanced standing in college and an advantage in the college admissions process.

More than 1,000 colleges and universities in North America have recognition policies on how they weigh IB in admissions, advanced standing, college credit and scholarships.