



Tempe High School

An International Baccalaureate Applicant School

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a college preparatory program with a comprehensive and rigorous liberal arts curriculum, leading to examinations in the junior and senior years. The program is designed for motivated students who work well in a structured academic setting.

Strengths of the IB Program

- Focuses on preparing students for success in college
- Increases college acceptance opportunities
- Prepares for competence in all major academic areas
- Results in opportunities for advanced standing or course credit at the college level
- Promotes learning beyond current honors and AP offerings
- Promotes international understanding through a shared academic experience

Curriculum

Students may take one IB exam from each of the following six subject areas during the junior and senior years:

- Language A (native language – English)
- Language B (second language – Spanish, or French)
- Individuals and societies (history)
- Mathematics (pre-calculus or calculus)
- Science (biology, chemistry, or physics)
- Elective (a second science, a second foreign language, or a fine art)

Four-Year Program

Although the “official” IB Diploma Program does not begin until the 11th grade, students need a solid academic foundation in the 9th and 10th grades to prepare them for the challenges of the IB Program as well as to complete some prerequisite courses and meet Arizona and TUHSD graduation requirements. To achieve these goals, Tempe High prospective IB Diploma students will take a full course load of pre-IB classes beginning in the 9th grade. The first two years in the program will give parents, students, teachers and THS administration the time to determine whether the program is suitable for the student. Students will be required to maintain grades of “C” or better. Students who receive semester grades of “D” or “F” in a course, or who are referred for a breach of conduct, may be removed from the program.

IB Diploma Requirements

During the **junior** and **senior** years, students will take six IB exams, three at a higher level and three at a standard (lower) level. One exam will be taken from each of the six subject areas listed above. In addition, the diploma candidate must meet the following three requirements:

1. Complete an interdisciplinary course called Theory of Knowledge

The TOK course is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate program. TOK challenges students and their teachers to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and areas of knowledge. The TOK curriculum is composed almost entirely of questions. The most central of these is “How do I, or how do we, know that a given assertion is true, or a given judgment is well grounded?” This course is usually completed during the junior year.

2. Prepare an Extended Essay reflecting independent research

The Extended Essay is defined as an in-depth study of a focused topic within an IB subject. Its purpose is to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their own choice. This leads to a major piece of writing of about 4,000 words in which they communicate their ideas in the form of a reasoned argument. Emphasis is placed on the process of engaging in personal research, and the communication of ideas and information in a logical and coherent manner.

3. Complete at least 150 hours of CAS (extracurricular activities that can be categorized as Creativity, Action, or Service)

The purpose of the CAS requirement is to ensure that each IB Diploma candidate contributes to the community outside of the school day. Popular CAS activities include music or theatre (creativity), sports (action), and service projects through school clubs such as National Honor Society or Stand and Serve (service). The 150 CAS hours are logged during the junior and senior year, and must be completed by April of the senior year. Students must strive to complete one-third of their CAS requirement in each area: 50 hours in Creativity, 50 hours in Action, and 50 hours in Service.

Consideration for admission to the THS IB Applicant School Program will be based on:

1. A composite of **75% or higher** on a standardized exam (such as Terra Nova, or TUHSD honors placement test) for the most recent previous school year.
2. Grades of **A's** and some **B's** for 7th and first semester of 8th grade.
3. 8th grade discipline reports
4. Completed Application form
5. Admissions Essay
6. 2 teacher recommendations from core content areas (using only the recommendation forms that are included in the Application Packet)

How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete the following application packet:

- Application form
- Copies of standardized exams from 7th grade or 8th grade TUHSD honors placement exam
- Copies of final report card for 7th grade and first semester of 8th
- Copy of official discipline record from 8th grade school
- Admissions Essay
- 2 completed Teacher Recommendation Forms (from teachers in core content areas: English, math, science, social studies, or foreign language)
- THS Enrollment forms
- Copy of student's birth certificate
- Copy of parent/guardian's proof of residency (electric bill or lease)

Mail or deliver the above forms to: Mrs. Kate Glenn, Registrar, at the following address:

Tempe High School
IB Applicant School
1730 S. Mill Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85281

480-967-1661 FAX: 480-736-4096
Kate Glenn, Registrar
kglenn.ths@tuhsd.k12.az.us