

How Do Universities View The IB Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is recognized, both nationally and internationally, as a program that excels in preparing students for the collegiate years and beyond. Below you will find a sampling of research and opinions on how the IB DP is viewed by some of the most prestigious universities in Michigan and in the nation.

What Admissions Directors are saying:

University of Michigan, Cliff Sjogren, former Director of Admissions

“A transcript that reveals a student’s enrollment in International Baccalaureate courses serves notice to the admissions officer that the applicant is someone who accepts rather than avoids educational challenges. Further, a successful IB student will enroll at Michigan with some advantages over students who have taken less intensive programs...Unquestionably, a school that graduates each year a number of students with IB diplomas has demonstrated its commitment to high educational standards and that commitment will serve to influence admissions decisions at the University of Michigan.”

University of Michigan, Joseph Gore, Admissions Counselor

“We definitely take note of the IB Diploma in the admissions process at Michigan! Feel free to quote me on that!”

Michigan State University, Pamela Horne, Assistant to the Provost for Enrollment and Director of Admissions,

“My eyes light up when I see ‘International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme’ on a transcript. Students who apply to Michigan State University with IB credentials are assumed to be mature, curious, and creative. They have proven to be successful in a rigorous program that is both broad and deep in its content and intellectual challenge. On campus, IB graduates move with ease in a diverse and global university that demands intercultural skill and adaptability. The challenge of completing an IB diploma means that a student has engaged in the kind of rigorous work that is likely to help them become not just an outstanding college student and citizen of the world, but an exceptional one.”

Oakland University

“Oakland University values the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and its engaging and challenging curriculum that encourages critical thinking, intercultural understanding and respect.”

Harvard University, Marilyn McGrath Lewis, Asst. Dean of Admissions

“Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Program on the transcript.” GPA is not nearly as important a factor in university admission as the IB Diploma. If a student has to choose, choose the Diploma over protecting the GPA.”

Duke University, Christoph Guttentag, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

“One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated program, well established, well known and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific.”

Brown University, Panetha Ott, Admissions Officer
“I don’t think there is anyone who does not respect the I.B.”

Virginia Tech, Dr. Eugene Carson
“... IB students who attended that university (Virginia Tech) as freshmen significantly outperformed all other freshmen, including students who had taken Advanced Placement courses.”

Summary Charts for Universities and Colleges:

Below you will find links to specific university recognition policies for the IB Diploma Programme. Please keep in mind that the IB attempts to keep these policies up to date as much as possible. The policies evolve quickly, and consistently more favorably to the DP, so it is best to contact each university of interest directly for the most current policies.

The policies of 725 plus colleges and universities:

The link below provides summary charts for universities and colleges within a specific state as PDF documents. These are updated annually.

<http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/recognitionpolicy/index.cfm>

A searchable database for specific universities published policies and contact information to seek further and more current information: A great starting point for research.

<http://ibo.org/country/US/index.cfm>

University of Michigan’s published IB DP policy guidelines:

<http://www.admissions.umich.edu/ib-guidelines>

Michigan State University published IB DP policy guidelines:

http://admissions.msu.edu/documents/MSU_IB_Equivalencies.pdf

Oakland University published IB DP policy guidelines:

https://www.oakland.edu/upload/docs/Future%20Students/IB_Flier.pdf

As evidenced by the admissions directors quotes at the beginning of this document, even if no credit is given, there is always inherent value in taking IB courses and completing the required assessments. Universities are becoming increasingly aware of the knowledge and skills IB students bring with them to college classes. In addition, many students receive credit for SL (standard level) classes even though the published recognition policy was to recognize only HL (higher level) courses.

University Preparation:

The IB Diploma Programme is excellent preparation for post-secondary studies. 88% of Diploma Programme students pursuing a 4-year college degree graduated in six years or less, in comparison to 58% of all students. (Integrated post-Secondary Educational Data System of National Center for Educational Statistics, National Student Clearinghouse)

College Admissions of IB Candidate applications compared to the General population of applicants: Data provided by *US News and World Report*

Institution	Total Population Acceptance	IB Diploma Candidate Acceptance
Michigan State University	67%	77%
University of Michigan	49%	78%