



IB STUDENT ACCEPTANCE RATES AT THE TOP 25 US UNIVERSITIES





IB Student Acceptance Rates and Credit Policies at the Top 25 US Universities



US universities evaluate academic grades in the context of a student's high school curriculum and its degree of rigour. The two-year IB Diploma Program is widely regarded as an academically demanding syllabus, and one that provides excellent preparation for college level coursework.

A [survey of more than 4,000 students](#) conducted by the International Insight Research Group in partnership with the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) showed that the acceptance rate of IB students into Ivy League universities is up to **18% higher** than the total population acceptance rate. The gap is even more significant for top-ranked universities outside of the Ivy League, where it is **22% higher**, on average.

This document draws on these survey results to compare the general population acceptance rate to the IB Diploma student acceptance rate at the top 25 US universities, so you can see where an IB qualification will give your application the biggest boost.

Unlike their UK counterparts, US universities **don't release official cut-off scores** for the IB Diploma. Based on what the Oxbridge universities in the UK expect from IB applicants, an overall grade of 38+ would be well received by the Ivy Leagues. For the more selective universities, you're looking at around 40+.

This doesn't mean that you won't be accepted if you score below 38 or get a less than perfect grade in one of your subjects. It simply means that a 38+ is viewed favourably by the university. There are many other factors that go into a university application, and admissions officers assess them holistically.

One thing is for sure; by taking the IB Diploma, you automatically rise to the top of the admissions pool. US colleges love good grades, but what they love even more is to see that you've pushed yourself to get them. Universities appreciate the IB's rigour and they know it takes hard work and dedication to perform well, particularly in Higher Level (HL) subjects.

This is demonstrated by the fact that most US universities award course credits for IB Diploma subjects. The more generous a university is with its credit distribution, the more it loves IB students (and the more likely admissions officers are to admit you!). Each college's IB credit policy is outlined below.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Location

7.2%

Acceptance Rate

23.1%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, specified HL subjects in which you've scored at least a 6 (Mathematics only) or 7 (all other exams) are eligible for credit. The higher your grade, the more credit you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Stanford University

Stanford, California

Location

4.65%

Acceptance Rate

17%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, specified HL subjects in which you've scored a 5 or 6 are eligible for credit. A maximum of 45 quarter units of transfer and test credit may be applied toward an undergraduate degree at Stanford. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Location

5.1%

Acceptance Rate

12.2%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, in a roundabout way. While Harvard does not offer credit for IB grades on a one-for-one basis, scoring a 7 on at least three HL exams will make you eligible for the Advanced Standing Program, an option that allows you to graduate a year early. Your IB exams may enable you to bypass introductory level courses (without credit) in some cases. Read up on Advanced Standing and how the IB can help you activate it [here](#).



California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, California

Location

8%

Acceptance
Rate

28.3%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

No, At Caltech, each student admitted is required to take a maths and physics placement exam prior to enrolling and the only way to earn credit is to do really well in these exams. HL Mathematics and Physics recommended!



University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Location

7.9%

Acceptance
Rate

60.3%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, you may receive up to a year's worth of credit in a given HL subject for grades of 6 or 7. Subjects not specified.



Princeton University

Princeton, New Jersey

Location

6.5%

Acceptance
Rate

17.2%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, you may receive course credits in a given HL subject for grades of 6 or 7. Subjects not specified.



Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

Location

14.1%

Acceptance
Rate

47%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, Cornell awards advanced standing and credit for a number of HL subjects in which you've scored a 6 or 7. The better your grade, the more credits you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut

Location

6.3%

Acceptance
Rate

14.3%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, Yale awards as many as two acceleration credits (the equivalent of two courses) in certain HL subjects in which you've scored a 6 or 7. Subjects not specified.



Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Location

11.4%

Acceptance
Rate

46%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, you may earn course credits in a given HL subject for scores of 6 or 7. The better your grade, the more hours of credit you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Columbia University

New York City, New York

Location

6%

Acceptance
Rate

13.9%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, Columbia grants six points of credit for an HL exam grade of 6 or 7, provided the subject is in a discipline that is offered as an undergraduate program. The maximum number of credit points you may receive is 16, and no points are awarded until the first year of study is completed. Subjects not specified.



University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Location

9.4%

Acceptance
Rate

31.6%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, UPenn grants advanced standing credit for some HL exams in which you've scored a 4, 5, 6 or 7, depending on the subject. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Location

28.6%

Acceptance
Rate

70.8%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, UMichigan awards credit in course equivalent hours for some HL exams in which you've scored a 4, 5 or 6, depending on the subject. The better your grade, the more hours of credit you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Duke University

Durham, North Carolina

Location

9%

Acceptance
Rate

36.2%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, Duke grants a limited amount of elective credit for students who score at least a 6 in some HL subjects. Depending on the departmental recommendation, you may receive up to two course credits per exam. Specific information regarding the applicability of IB subject credit is available on the respective department website: [Trinity College of Arts & Sciences](#) or [Pratt School of Engineering](#).



University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

Location

17.5%

Acceptance
Rate

45.5%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, the University of California implements a system-wide policy (across all nine campuses) that awards eight "quarter" (20 semester) units for each HL exam with a grade of 5 or higher. Students who enroll at UC with IB credit do not have to declare a major earlier than other students, nor are they required to graduate earlier. A list of subjects and more information on the UC IB course credits policy is available [here](#).



Northwestern University

Evanston, Illinois

Location

9%

Acceptance
Rate

48.8%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, you may receive credit for your HL grades and/or be able to skip introductory courses in some sequences. Each of the six university departments counts IB credits differently. More information is available [here](#).



University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

Location

18%

Acceptance
Rate

41.4%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, as part of the University of California state system, UCLA grants eight quarter (5.3 semester) credit units to IB students with a grade of at least 5 in each HL subject.



University of California, San Diego

San Diego, California

Location

35.9%

Acceptance
Rate

60.7%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, as part of the University of California state system, UC San Diego grants eight quarter (5.3 semester) credit units to IB students with a grade of at least 5 in each HL subject.



Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Location

13.7%

Acceptance
Rate

69.6%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, credit is awarded for most HL subjects with scores of 6 or 7. The better your grade, the more credits you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



New York University

New York City, New York

Location

33%

Acceptance Rate

46.8%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, NYU awards eight hours of course credits or advanced standing for HL subjects in which you've scored a 6 or 7, depending on the area of study and/or degree requirements. Subjects not specified.



Brown University

Providence, Rhode Island

Location

9.3%

Acceptance Rate

19.2%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, Brown awards one or two course credits for a grade of 5, 6 or 7 in some HL subjects, depending on the department. Students who also have subsidiary level grades of 5 or 6 or higher in HL subjects may consult with the dean about case-by-case consideration for one additional course credit. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



University of Wisconsin – Madison

Madison, Wisconsin

Location

49%

Acceptance Rate

75%

IB Diploma Student Survey Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, HL exams with a minimum score of 4 are evaluated for academic credit and advanced standing. Plus, if you achieve a minimum overall score of 28 you'll be eligible for three additional elective credits. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Location

45%

Acceptance
Rate

63.4%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, in most cases, five quarter credits (or more) are awarded for HL subjects in which you've scored a 5 or higher. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



University of Texas at Austin

Austin, Texas

Location

39%

Acceptance
Rate

81.5%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, SL (Standard Level) and HL exams with a minimum score of 4 are evaluated for academic credit. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign County, Illinois

Location

66%

Acceptance
Rate

90.4%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, SL and HL exams with a minimum score of 4 are evaluated for academic credit. Depending on the exam and the grade, the credit earned will translate either as elective credit or as specific course credit. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, Georgia

Location

25%

Acceptance
Rate

79.4%

IB Diploma Student Survey
Acceptance Rate

IB Course Credits Awarded?

Yes, in most cases, five quarter credits (or more) are awarded for HL subjects in which you've scored a 5 or higher. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).