

# International Baccalaureate Program Informational Booklet

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LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

**Table of Contents**

**The IB Mission Statement.....4**

**The IB Learner Profile .....4**

**What is the IB Program? .....4**

**The IB Curriculum.....6**

The Six Academic Subjects..... 6

*Group 1: Language A* ..... 7

*Group 2: Language B*..... 7

*Group 3: Individuals and Societies*..... 7

*Group 4: Experimental Sciences*..... 7

*Group 5: Mathematics* ..... 7

*Group 6: The Arts*..... 7

*Theory of Knowledge* ..... 8

*Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)* ..... 8

*The Extended Essay*..... 8

**How to Become an IB Student .....9**

**For Further Information .....10**

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Dear Parents,

On behalf of University Laboratory School, I am pleased to introduce you to the International Baccalaureate Program. Our school became the first school in Louisiana to adopt the IB Diploma Program in the fall of 2001. This internationally recognized program provides students with a global education and prepares them for the most challenging college environments. More than any other program, the IB prepares students for the twenty-first century. And, along the way, the students will develop a genuine love of learning.

We are poised on the threshold of a two-year journey that will sharpen the mind, broaden the horizons, stimulate the imagination, and develop habits conducive to success in college and beyond. This journey will not be an easy one, but the benefits will last a lifetime. To ensure success it is imperative that parents support their student's pursuit of the IB Diploma.

You and your child must recognize that the IB Program is a real academic commitment with real consequences in terms of time, effort, and focus. The rewards are apparent: the IB motto of "Education for Life" describes a program that develops intellectual responsibility, creativity, and character. It also develops and requires commitment. IB Diploma candidates can play sports, have a social life, participate in extra-curricular activities, and be active in the community. They can and should pursue those hobbies and interests outside of school that enrich high school life. The key is balance. Please help your child keep an even keel; provide perspective and a patient ear over the next two years. You will witness remarkable growth.

Students who wish to pursue the full IB Diploma will be assessed \$891, which covers the cost of their IB exams and assessments in Theory of Knowledge, Creativity Activity and Service, and the Extended Essay. This cost is divided into three installments of \$297. These installments are due in the spring of the sophomore year, fall of the junior year, and spring of the junior year. Students who take individual IB courses will be assessed \$124 per course. The payment for individual courses is due in the spring semester before the exam is completed.

Please look at the information provided in this booklet carefully. If you have any questions about fees, course schedules, or any part of the program, please email me at [crobill@lsu.edu](mailto:crobill@lsu.edu). I look forward to sharing your child's journey through the IB program.

Best regards,

Candence Robillard, Ph.D.  
IB Diploma Coordinator

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

## The IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## The IB Learner Profile

Each of the IB's programs is committed to the development of students according to the IB learner profile.

The profile aims to develop learners who are

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

## What is the IB Program?

The International Baccalaureate is recognized throughout the world as a comprehensive and challenging high school curriculum. The LSU Laboratory School was authorized as an IB World School in 2001, making it the first high school in Louisiana to offer the Diploma Program. Currently there are over 3000 schools in 125 countries that offer the Diploma Program. The United States has more IB World Schools than any other country.

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The International Baccalaureate was originally designed to meet the needs of the children of members of international diplomatic and business communities. Since those families were often highly mobile, students often attended a number of schools before entering university study. A program that offered rigorous, standardized expectations was needed.

Ten member schools of the International Schools Association created the International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva. The program received funding originally from governments and private benefactors, such as the Ford Foundation and the Mountbatten Fund. The founders then set out on their mission of creating an international curriculum that would satisfy the demands of various international education ministries.

From 1963 through 1969 working parties, consisting of both university and secondary teachers, devised the various syllabi and prepared a set of examinations that was first administered on a trial basis in 1969. Since the results met the expectations of the participating schools, negotiations with governments and a number of major universities were conducted. Consequently, the IB was recognized as a credential in lieu of national exams and as sufficient for university admission. Though the process of introducing the IB to universities around the world would be a long one, which still continues, the promotion of the program was facilitated more than anything by the high quality of preparation exhibited by IB graduates after they entered post-secondary education.

The International Baccalaureate Program is a rigorous course of study designed to meet the needs of highly motivated secondary students and to promote international understanding. The effectiveness of the IB program is due not only to the depth of the individual courses, but also to the comprehensive nature of the program. Unlike other honors programs, the IB Program requires each student to take courses in six academic areas. To qualify for the International Baccalaureate Diploma, students must take examinations in six subject areas, including Theory of Knowledge, participate in the Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) program, and write an extended essay.

Many students earning the IB Diploma are awarded advanced credit at prestigious universities around the world. Many competitive colleges and

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

universities recognize the IB Diploma for admissions and/or advanced standing.

## The IB Curriculum

Full Diploma students must take courses in each of six subject areas:

- Group 1: Language A (the student's native language)T
  - Literature in English (HL only)
- Group 2: Language B
  - French
  - Spanish
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies
  - History of the Americas (HL only)
  - Business Management (SL only)
- Group 4: Experimental Sciences
  - Biology (HL only)
  - Physics
  - Environmental Systems and Societies (SL only)
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: Arts and Electives
  - Visual Arts
  - Music
  - Theater
  - A second course from Group 3 or 4

Students must take three and not more than four subjects at the Higher Level. The remaining subjects are taken at the Standard Level. Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). Students must earn a minimum of 24 points to receive the Diploma. Twelve of those points must be earned in HL subjects, and the student must successfully complete the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge assessments and CAS projects to receive the Diploma.

## The Six Academic Subjects

These are studied concurrently, and students are required to study all six academic areas. Higher level courses are offered over a minimum of 240 teaching hours; SL courses cover a minimum of 150 teaching hours. Students begin the Diploma Program in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

**Group 1: Language A**

At ULS, all Diploma students take Language A: Literature at the Higher Level. This course fosters interpretation and analysis of literature and the development of sophisticated writing skills.

**Group 2: Language B**

The principal aim for this subject is to enable students to use a second language in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes. The courses focus on written and oral communication. ULS students may take either French or Spanish, at either Standard Level or Higher Level.

**Group 3: Individuals and Societies**

All ULS Diploma students take History of the Americas (HL) over two years. They also may choose to take Business Management at the Standard Level or the interdisciplinary course, Environmental Systems and Societies at the Standard Level.

**Group 4: Experimental Sciences**

The subjects offered in this group are Biology (HL), Physics (SL or HL) and the interdisciplinary course Environmental Systems and Societies (SL). Biology and Physics are two-year courses. Practical laboratory skills are developed and collaborative learning is encouraged through an interdisciplinary group project. Students develop an awareness of moral and ethical issues and a sense of social responsibility is fostered by examining local and global issues.

**Group 5: Mathematics**

All Diploma candidates are required to take Mathematics, either at the Higher Level or Standard Level. Qualified students may take the Math SL exam in the junior year and AP Calculus in the senior year.

**Group 6: The Arts**

This group includes visual arts, music or theater. These courses are offered over two years and may be taken at either Higher Level or Standard Level. These courses emphasize practical production by the student and exploration of a range of creative work in a global context.

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

### Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases, to develop the ability to analyze evidence that is expressed in rational argument. It is a key element in encouraging them to appreciate other cultural perspectives. The course is unique to the IBO, which recommends at least 100 hours of teaching time spanning the program's two years.

### Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

The IBO's goal is to educate the whole person and foster responsible, compassionate citizens. The CAS program encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others: students may, for example, participate in theatre or musical productions, sports and community service activities. Students should, through these activities, develop greater awareness of themselves, concern for others, and the ability to work cooperatively with other people.

### The Extended Essay

Each student has the opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest. The essay requirement acquaints diploma candidates with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected by universities. The IBO recommends that a student devote a total of about 40 hours of research and writing time to the essay, most of which takes place in the TOK II course. The extended essay may be written in one of 60 subjects, including many languages. The essay permits students to deepen their programs of study, for example by selecting a topic in one of their higher level (HL) courses. Or they might add breadth to their academic experience by electing to write in a subject not included in their program choices.



LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

## How to Become an IB Student

Students who wish to take the full IB Diploma course load should meet the following requirements:

- Successful completion of Algebra II
- Successful completion of either French III or Spanish III

In addition, we also consider the following:

- GPA and PSAT scores
- Teacher recommendation
- Science placement
  - Students who must take Chemistry their junior year will either
    - Take Chemistry AND IB Biology or Physics their junior year, then the second year of IB Biology or Physics their senior year
    - OR take Chemistry their junior year and IB Environmental Systems their senior year

Applications for IB Diploma students are made available in the spring semester of the sophomore year. The application asks students to indicate their course choices and GPA, acquire teacher recommendations, and provide a short writing sample.

## Additional Information Regarding Fees

Students who wish to take individual IB courses may do so with teacher approval and with availability in the schedule. IB Diploma students are given priority regarding scheduling IB classes.

Diploma students will pay the first installment of IB fees during the spring of their sophomore year. All course students will pay exam fees during the spring semester before they take the exam.

LSU Laboratory School  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

All students in Higher Level courses are required to take the exam. All Diploma candidates must take exams in all their IB courses to earn the diploma. Students taking individual Standard Level courses are encouraged to take the exam.

### **For Further Information**

Dr. Robillard, the IB Program Coordinator, will conduct informational meetings for parents and students in grades 6-10 during the fall and spring semester. These will be advertised through the usual communication platforms.

Interested parents and students may also visit the International Baccalaureate Organization website, <http://ibo.org>

Dr. Candence Robillard may be reached via email: [crobil1@lsu.edu](mailto:crobil1@lsu.edu)