

## Frequently Asked Questions (and answers)

**My student hasn't begun a world language course and is going into ninth grade. Can they still get to an IB course in world language?** Yes, IB has an exam for whatever level world language course your student can get to. The idea is to take as many years of a language as you can, so whenever you begin your world language studies, we want you to keep going.

**My student did not take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Can they still get to an IB course in math?** Yes, the recommendation is for your student to take Algebra 1 in ninth grade, then take Geometry over the summer, and then take Algebra 2 in tenth grade and be on track for an IB math class in grades 11 and 12.

**Do colleges know and understand IB?** Yes, all colleges recognize IB, however how they recognize IB is different ways. College admissions teams recognize that the IB program is the most rigorous program of study in high school and as a result, more IB diploma candidates are selected for admission. College registrars and professors recognize IB by serving on committees that review college placement and college credit and by inviting students to participate in independent studies, study abroad programs and internship opportunities. Every university is different, but each college has a search tool that you can use to search IB and AP credit. This search result will take you to a page that lists the scores needed on IB exams and how that score translates to college credit.

**If my student is applying for a student transfer to Robinson from another school (Woodson, Fairfax, Lake Braddock, Centreville), do they have to do the full IB diploma or can they just take a few IB courses?** Your student is required to take three IB classes in grade 11 and one IB class in grade 10, and so is not required to complete the full IB diploma. Transportation is not provided, but we do provide a contact list of other students who are student transfers so you can arrange carpools. Learn more about the student transfer process [here](#).

**What do students say about their IB experience?** We have interviewed a number of graduates and put together the following videos to share their perspectives: What are the [benefits of doing an IB diploma](#)? How were you able to [create balance](#) between your work for the IB diploma and your other responsibilities? What [advice](#) do you have for parents/students?

**Does my student have to enroll in all honors courses in grades 9 and 10 in order to do an IB diploma?** No, we encourage students to make smart choices for their course selections that allow them to challenge themselves in the courses they are most interested or skilled in. Honors courses in grades 9 and 10 at Robinson prepare students for the workload, the thinking and the skills that they will need to succeed in IB courses in a more challenging environment. Students who are not ready for this challenge in grade 9 or 10 can still take an IB course in grades 11 or 12 and be successful.

**What is the difference between IB Higher Level (HL) courses and IB Standard Level (SL) courses?** All IB Higher Level courses require students to take the IB course for two years, go in more depth with the content and skills and cover more content. IB Standard Level courses present a more reasonable challenge to students and are either one year or two year courses (for instance, all students will take IB English 1, IB World Language 1, IB Math 1 and then after the first year will decide whether to take the second year at the Higher Level or Standard Level)