

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE POLICIES AND INFORMATION  
Effective July 2009 – April 2010**

**Background:** The International Baccalaureate (IB) program was established to serve the needs of secondary students who move between the educational systems of different countries. The program provides an internationally recognized school-leaving certificate that is not tied to any one country’s educational system. Currently, over 2,500 schools in 134 countries offer the IB curriculum; 666 of these schools are in the United States, and over 80 are in California.

**Content and Grading:** The very rigorous IB liberal arts and sciences curriculum is divided into “Higher Level” and “Standard Level” subjects. An IB Diploma candidate must take three subjects at each level. A Higher Level syllabus involves two years of secondary school preparation of approximately five class hours a week; a Standard Level syllabus requires about half this preparation time. Each IB test is given a numeric score of 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest).

**USC Policy:** USC believes that students who earn the IB diploma are well prepared for university studies. The especially rigorous nature of the IB program is factored in the evaluation for admission, in much the same way that AP courses are treated.

USC grants either (1) 20 units of credit to students who earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma with a score of 30 or higher or (2) 6 semester units of credit for each score of 5, 6 or 7 on the IB Higher Level exams, up to a maximum of four exams, whichever is higher. No credit is earned for the Standard Level exams. Advanced Placement (AP) credit can be earned in addition to IB credit for a maximum of 32 units. However, credit cannot be earned for AP and IB exams on the same topic.

**Transfer credit:** Elective credit is awarded by the Articulation Office upon receipt of official IB scores. In addition, the following IB exams fulfill USC subject requirements:

History: Europe	GE Category I (Western Cultures and Traditions)
Islamic History History: East and South East Asia and Oceania History: Africa History: South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa	GE Category II (Global Cultures and Traditions) <i>if taken Spring 2008 or later</i>
Biology, Chemistry, or Physics	GE Category III (Scientific Inquiry)

Some departments may use IB scores for placement purposes, such as waiving a course prerequisite. Also, the student’s major department may use IB scores to waive certain degree requirements. Contact your academic adviser for assistance.

**Students should ask the IB organization to send their scores directly to:**

Edwenna Werner, Articulation Officer  
University of Southern California  
601 Exposition Blvd., REG 208  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0912

**Please follow the instructions at <http://www.ibo.org/iba/transcripts/index.cfm>**