

In regards to: International Baccalaureate advanced placement credit

Dean Angie Chamblee
First Year of Studies
Coleman Morse Center
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

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Dear Dean Chamblee,

As the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate, we are concerned with the acceptance of International Baccalaureate credits at the University of Notre Dame. After researching this diploma program over the past 3 months, we feel that it deserves to be furthered examined by the administration.

The Notre Dame policy currently limits advanced placement credit only to higher level exams and further limits it to anthropology, chemistry, English, French, German, Greek, history of America, Latin, music, psychology, and Spanish. The University is excluding many of the class options under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Please refer to the attached fact sheet for more detailed information about the IB Diploma Program. At most, a student, who is fortunate enough for his or her school to offer higher level classes in these limited subjects, would not be able to receive more than four classes worth of credit. This does not seem consistent with the fact that AP students are not limited to only four chances and therefore come into the University of Notre Dame with more schedule flexibility.

Additionally, most IB students do not have the option of sitting for the AP tests. All IB examinations occur in May for northern hemisphere students, usually within the first two weeks, and are full day examinations consisting of two to three parts. This is the same time period in which the AP tests are offered. The examination times conflict, as well as the preparation time for students. It does not seem fair that International Baccalaureate students who are just as prepared, if not more, than students who only sat for one-year classes and took the AP tests are put at a disadvantage when they enter the University of Notre Dame. Furthermore, as the University considers itself a world-renowned institution, the University should be more open to a variety of educational assessment tests. Many students who completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program may consider the University of Notre Dame as a second choice because of the University's policy regarding acceptance of IB credit.

As the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate, we are asking you to review the policy on International Baccalaureate advanced placement credit. International Baccalaureate Diploma recipients should be rewarded for their diligent efforts as ^{much} as students who sat for the AP exams. For more information regarding the IB Diploma Program please refer to the International Baccalaureate Organization's official website at www.ibo.org.

Respectfully,

Academic Affairs Committee
Student Senate
University of Notre Dame

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