



Gulf High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Admissions Policy

In keeping with the school's *Mission Statement*, which aligns with the *IB Mission Statement*, the Gulf High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme institutes this Admissions Policy.

“Gulf High School graduates emerge with a commitment to global understanding embodying respect and compassion towards the uniqueness of others, equipping them for lifelong learning as inquiring thinkers who take personal and civic responsibility.”

The Gulf High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme encompasses grades 11 and 12. During grades 9 and 10, the school hosts a feeder experience referred to as the Gulf High School Pre-IB Programme. (Note: Courses in the feeder bear the State of Florida titles “FL Pre-IB.”)

Students apply to become part of the school's pathways of study beginning eight months prior to the 9th grade year. Successful completion of the requirement in grades 9 and 10 lead to articulation into the IB Diploma Programme.

The application window currently opens three times per year beginning in January, and this area is managed by our districtwide school choice office, [Pasco Pathways](#). More information can also be found in the [district school choice catalog](#) for IB.

Applications are reviewed for the following:

- Algebra 1 (for high school credit) completed in middle school (*students can take Algebra 1 in 9th grade with accelerated Geometry if they meet other criteria*).
- 3.0 or higher average in all courses
- Above average performance on standardized / state / end of course exams
- Grades of A or B in current year coursework
- Clear school behavior and citizenship history; strong attendance history

Students who did not begin with the grade 9 feeder experience may apply for admission prior to the grade 10 or grade 11 year. These applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that these students can complete the programme with their grade-level cohort and meet the rigorous expectations of the IB.

Families and students must read and acknowledge that they understand the information detailing the 4-year course sequence.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) at Gulf High School offers high-achieving, high-performing students an opportunity to pursue a rigorous program of study

during their high school years. The IB Diploma is widely accepted at universities and colleges throughout the world (see individual schools' website for their policies). Students pursuing the IB Diploma meet international standards of proficiency in:

- English Literature
- Spanish Language Acquisition
- Individuals and Societies
- Experimental Sciences (including the Group 4 Project in grade 11)
- Mathematics
- IB Elective Course
- The IB Core* (Theory of Knowledge, Creativity-Activity-Service, Extended Essay)

*IB Core: To receive the IB Diploma, students must satisfactorily complete: a 4,000 (max.) word Extended Essay; Creativity-Activity-Service (CAS); Theory of Knowledge experiences, course, course exhibition and essay.

Students must earn the minimum 24-credits delineated by the *Student Progression Plan* (SPP), pass the required state examinations for their graduation cohort, and maintain an unweighted cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.6 in order to derive the greatest program benefit (that is, to be well-positioned for university admissions).

To provide every opportunity for success, the IB Diploma Programme at Gulf High School calls for students to complete a sequence of studies in ninth and tenth grade referred to as the Gulf High School Pre-IB.

All classes in the 4-year Pre-IB and IB plan of study shown below are completed on campus. None may be completed online.

Throughout their four years in high school, students will follow the program of study below (reflects prior entry year and is subject to change).

9th Grade GHS Pre-IB

FL Pre-IB English 1 Honors (AICE General Paper starting 2023-2024 school year)

FL Pre-IB Spanish 1/3 Honors

Mathematics: Typically, FL Pre-IB Geometry Honors -or- FL Pre-IB Algebra 2 Honors

FL Pre-IB/AP Human Geography

FL Pre-IB Biology 1 Honors

GHS Elective (any available)

10th Grade GHS Pre-IB

FL Pre-IB/AP English Language and Composition

FL Pre-IB Spanish 2 Honors

FL Pre-IB/AP World History

FL Pre-IB Chemistry 1 Honors

Mathematics: Typically, FL Pre-IB Algebra 2 Honors -or- IB Precalculus

FL Pre-IB Inquiry Skills Honors

11th Grade - First IB Diploma Year

IB/AP English Literature and Composition (first part of IB English Literature HL)

IB Spanish 4 - or - AP Spanish Language and Culture

IB/AP U.S. History (first part of IB History of the Americas, Route 2 HL)

IB/AP Biology (first part of IB Biology HL) - or – IB Physics 1 (first part of IB Physics HL)

Mathematics: Typically, IB Precalculus - or- IB/AP Calculus BC

IB Standard Level Elective (IB Psychology or IB Economics)

Group 4 Science Project (conducted as a team)

IB Core (Theory of Knowledge lessons; CAS; Extended Essay beginning in early Spring)

12th Grade - Second IB Diploma Year

IB English Literature HL

IB Spanish SL or HL

IB History of the Americas HL, Route 2 (Contemporary History)

IB Biology HL or IB Physics HL

Mathematics: Typically, IB Math Analysis and Approaches SL or HL -or- IB Math Applications and Interpretations SL

IB Core (Theory of Knowledge; CAS; Extended Essay)

(We recognize that IB may not be for everyone. For students whose strengths are in primarily one or two academic areas, there are strong Honors, Advanced Placement, or Dual Enrollment options offered in all of Pasco County's public high schools. Dual Enrollment is NOT available to Pre-IB/IB students during the school year, though summer opportunities may be available.)

Abbreviations Used: IB (International Baccalaureate course assessments); AP (Advanced Placement course assessments); SL (standard level examination designation); HL (higher level examination designation); CAS (Creativity-Activity-Service component activities and project).

GULF PRE-IB AND IB MISSION STATEMENT

Families and students must read and acknowledge that they understand the information detailing the IB Mission.

The IB Diploma Programme at Gulf High School embraces the IB Mission:

"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 programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

"These programmes 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- Students develop strengths in the following characteristics: Inquirers; Knowledgeable; Thinkers; Communicators; Principled; Open-Minded; Caring; Risk-takers; Balanced; Reflective.

All aspects detailed above connect to the Pasco County Schools Vision:

"To provide a world-class education for all students."

These are similarly encompassed by the Gulf High School Mission:

"Gulf High School graduates emerge with a commitment to global understanding embodying respect and compassion towards the uniqueness of others, equipping them for lifelong learning as inquiring thinkers who take personal and civic responsibility."

STATEMENT OF INTENT AND RELEASE

Families and students must read and acknowledge that they understand the parameters indicated.

- We have read the Pre-International Baccalaureate (GHS Pre-IB) application literature and commit our full support to participation. (For additional information about the IB, visit www.ibo.org.)
- If applying from a school other than a Pasco County public school (non-charter; non-private), we agree to provide an official grade report and standardized test history as part of the application process.

- We understand that meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not ensure acceptance or admission to the program and that the decision by the selection committee will be final.
- If selected to the program, we agree to support our student's participation for at least one school year and to abide by the scheduling determination of the school, IB Coordinator, and IB School Counselor.
- Successful completion of the IB Program as described in the Pasco County Schools SPP qualifies IB students for high school graduation. Should our student leave the IB Program, our student must return to his/her zoned school and meet all graduation requirements specified by Florida Statutes and Pasco County Schools Student Progression Plan for non-IB programs of study. This will likely entail additional courses and online study.
- We understand that athletic eligibility is determined in accordance with FHSAA regulations. Students zoned for Gulf High School and students from outside the GHS attendance zone but who are enrolled in good standing in the GHS Pre-IB and IB are eligible to participate and compete per FHSAA regulations. The school's Athletic Director will handle all matters related to athletic participation.
- Release. If our student is accepted into the IB program, we give permission for his/her name, phone number, other directory information as prescribed by law, and our address to be published in the IB student directory. We give permission for the publication of student work, photos/video of the student, and photos/video of classroom activities, when applicable, for GHS IB and news media purposes. If we wish to opt out of this, we must request and comply with the processes for doing so as set forth by Pasco County Schools and its Communications Director. If the opt-out is approved by Pasco County Schools, we will provide evidence of this to the school's IB Coordinator. Without complying as such, the school, district, and their representatives are held harmless.
- We agree to comply with the elements detailed in the Gulf High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Academic Integrity Policy.

The information below is from our response to item B1.5a

Admissions: Attendance Zones and Service Areas

As a public high school, Gulf High School serves the surrounding attendance zone. This is determined and revised annually by the Pasco County Schools Office for Planning Services. This information is provided at <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/boundaries/>.

On the Gulf High School International Baccalaureate page, in posted presentations, and on the Pasco Pathways website, families are given the guidelines for IB participation.

Within the IB Programme Application, students must indicate legal residence address and zoned high school. This is confirmed by the school's Registrar. As part of providing transportation, addresses are reviewed by Transportation Services each summer and families receive an annual transportation letter.

Revisions to attendance zones occur each year and are sent out to families if changes affect their students. School Choice is advertised each year by the school and district by telephone auto-dialer and posts on school and district webpages. Students identified to enter or already in the IB Programme are contacted by the IB Coordinator with instructions.

Admissions: Criteria, Timeline, IB Regulations

In each of the regional presentations to students and community members, the admissions criteria are shared. The Gulf High School International Baccalaureate page (in posted presentations and in the application itself), contains an informational timeline of steps in the admissions process. Revisions made at any point are posted to the new annual application and during presentations to students and families.

In addition, we hold an Orientation and Induction Ceremony for students and families as they begin the First Diploma Year. We also hold a Senior IB Orientation in order to better promote the academic guidelines, expectations, and due dates to students and parents. In all of our presentations, attendees continue to learn more about expectations and assessments for the DP. At the start of Second Diploma Year, we hold a workshop called "Earning the Diploma," in which we go over the Regulations, Diploma Matrix, and an activity with examples of student scores in HL, SL, EE, TOK, and CAS completion. This is conducted in the classroom and as an evening session for parents.