

MYP to DP Frequently Asked Questions

How are the HL classes different from SL classes? How many HL classes do we have to take?

For the Diploma Program, a student needs to be in at least three higher level courses, but not more than four. Higher level courses require 240 hours of teaching and learning which amounts to a little less than two years. Standard level courses require 150 hours of teaching and learning, which is a little over a year and half.

What are the DP Math options? Do we have to take a Math class in senior year?

Yes, all NC students have to take four years of high school math courses. DP students take either Approaches and Analysis SL or Applications and Interpretation SL

What are the options for DP science classes?

Sports, Exercise, and Health Science SL/HL; Chemistry SL; Biology SL/HL

What is the difference between HL classes and AP?

Higher level Diploma courses are two year courses whereas Advanced Placement courses are taught over one year. Because we are an IB school CHS mostly offers DP courses in a seated course. Most AP courses are offered through NCVPS.

How do they score the IB classes?

IB courses have different components for the assessments each worth a % category, and the final score from these components ranges between 1-7, with 7 being the highest.

Is there a core DP class for senior year?

Yes, Theory of Knowledge is the core class every Diploma candidate takes his/her junior and senior year. This course is where the Creativity, Activity, and Service curriculum and Extended Essay is supported.

[LINK TO THE CHS DP ASSESSMENT GRAPHIC for 2021-23](#)

[LINK TO CHS COURSE SEQUENCE](#)

How many electives do we have the option to take?

You will take 6 DP required courses, then you will pick one DP elective in science, an additional language of French ab initio, DP Film, DP Music, DP Art, or DP Business Management. Some of these electives require prerequisite courses.

Students may take one more yearlong elective offered by CHS, North Carolina Virtual Public Schools, or Career College Promise for their 8th course. If there is whole in the schedule at the end or beginning of the day, students may get permission to flex that period.

What does CAS involve? How many reflections for CAS do you need?

Creativity, Activity and Service learning outcomes help students recognize “education in the wild”. Therefore, anything students participate in that is creative, active, or provides service to others is considered CAS. Students brainstorm where they have CAS in their lives, set goals, act on the goals, and reflect on the planning, investigation, and demonstration. Clubs, sports, honor societies, Robotics Teams, Keystone Club, TRAIL, Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, and Concord Youth Council are examples where our students are already engaged in CAS. There is always “risk assessment” to make predictions when things could go wrong, but there is always time to readjust and re-plan. Students will log their experiences and reflections in Managebac. For example, students who like to cook with their family at home may create a CAS “umbrella” titled “Creative Family Dinner Planning”. Based on their goals they set, they would reflect on the planning, execution, and reaction to the meal with pictures or links to recipes. Then, maybe one experience would be baking cupcakes for another family or group of people as a gift.

Throughout the DP, a student will complete one CAS Project which is an engagement in at least C, A, or S over a 30 day period. For example, during the soccer season, a student could plan a halftime shootout where students/adults pay to compete in shooting on goal for 3 minutes. Winners earn a t-shirt or gift card donated by a business, and the profit from the entry fee gets donated to the CHS Soccer Team or other charitable organizations. Students do this for one month at home games. Reflections and evidence via pictures, checks written to organization, and social media posts. This CAS Project hits all strands, C, A, and S; but a CAS project only has to include one strand of CAS.

The amount of reflections vary from student to student. We would like for you to reflect once a week, so ultimately over your two years you could have upwards of 100 reflections, but we have had successful CAS portfolios pass with 40 reflections. Mrs. Deal and Mr. Rowe monitor your Managebac portfolio, and we can flag it as “concerned” or “accomplished” and ranges in between. CAS is a YES or NO and is determined by Mrs. Deal and Mr. Rowe.

CAS is great for letters of recommendation, writing your resume for college, to share at a college acceptance interview, and scholarship money. CAS also helps students integrate into college campuses becoming an active member of their extracurricular clubs and organizations.

How many hours of CAS do we have to complete?

IB no longer uses a minimum or maximum number of hours. Managebac lets you keep track of hours, but that is for your resume only. CAS bases success on quality of CAS experiences, projects and reflections.

[LINK TO THE CAS SUBJECT BRIEF](#)

[LINK TO THE CHS CAS HANDBOOK](#)

[LINK TO THE CAS PARENT PRESENTATION](#)

Does the Personal Project determine whether you can continue in the IB Program?

A completed Personal Project will help build the skills towards being successful in the DP, so a completed Personal Project is an important step towards DP. We do have students cross over from other schools or states to join our Diploma Program, so we can't make everyone complete a Personal Project as a firm requirement for the DP.

Are we allowed to take some IB classes if we are not in IB?

If you are in the IB Program and CHS is not your home school, you will need to return to your home school. Colleges and universities prefer that you take the full DP course load due to the holistic nature of the curriculum. The Theory of Knowledge course helps develop your Approaches to Learning Skills

Will I be able to cope with the workload? What makes DP so hard?

Our DP teachers all work together to make sure our deadlines are staggered, and many of our year one DP students feel more relaxed with their workload compared to their sophomore year. Since several of your 10th grade courses are really junior year courses, 10th grade seems a lot "heavier". DP courses allow for investigations based on personal interest, which gives a lot more freedom for our students. Students have the opportunity and are encouraged to advocate for themselves and each other when they feel overwhelmed or if there are due dates complaining at the same time.

Many of the assignments emulate the Internal Assessment skills and Paper skills needed for the external assessments taken May of your senior year. The teachers pace the skills out along with teaching the content. Your teachers are available to assist and support if the content or skills are unclear.

How many credits for college does the DP help me earn? Do you get college credit for SL classes?

IB credit recognition is supported in most all state university systems. See NC Governor's press release from 2019. IB started in Florida, and their schools tend to offer a lot of IB credit, both public and private. We've had students graduate from CHS IB and start as sophomores at Florida Central and Flagler University.

Private schools vary in their awarding of IB scores for credit. Wake Forest University actively recruits IB students, but they also want the student to have a full four year experience and rarely offer credit. Small private schools tend to offer more credit.

If you already know which schools you are interested in applying to, I would google "[University of Georgia IB Credit](#)", and then see if they have a page dedicated to IB or AP credit.

[Blog from Twitter about college credit in the U.S.](#)

[NC Governor's Press Release on IB Credit](#)

What does language acquisition look like?

Our Spanish B and Chinese B teachers will continue building the language acquisition skills they started you with in 9th and 10th grade. This includes expanding on the DP Themes: Identities, Experiences, Human Ingenuity, Social Organization, and Sharing the Planet. Students will prepare for external assessments that include writing, listening and reading. The Internal Assessment is preparing for a speaking assessment with time built in for preparation and a question and answer session with the teacher. All if recorded and uploaded to IBIS. Students can choose to take SL or HL for Spanish. HL includes reading a novel in the Language B.

French ab initio is for students who want to switch languages from their MYP studies or if a student moves in without a language and wants to join the DP cohort. French ab initio is “French from the beginning” which will be like taking French I and II, but with the same assessment requirements as the Language, but not as advanced in language learning.

I'm concerned about the language part of DP as someone who struggles with language? Can I take the DP course without a language? The core of the DP includes language learning. If you would like to start fresh with a new language, you can switch to French ab initio, or French from the beginning.

What are DP candidate classes? Can we take IB classes without being the program?

There are two types of students at CHS in IB classes. A “Diploma Candidate” is a student who takes all 7 DP courses including TOK. The second student is a “Course Candidate” where they may only take 1-3 DP classes. Course candidate students do not get to experience the core of the DP curriculum. You may be a course candidate if you live in CHS district.

GPA wise, are HL and SL the same as AP?

All DP classes, except French ab initio, are weighted +1. As a Diploma candidate, you will have 6-7 classes with a +1 advantage, whereas we do not offer as many AP courses at CHS. The reading, writing, research, and communication skills for DP classes prepare students for college level learning. AP is very heavy in content with less skill development.

What's the advantage of taking the full Diploma Program?

Colleges and universities view a DP candidate as a student who possesses the IB learner profile traits, a desire to appreciate intercultural understanding, global awareness, language learning, an investigation into something your are really interested through your EE research, mind development through TOK and CAS (DP core), and an overall appreciation of the core subjects: Science, Math, Language Acquisition, Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, and the Arts. By taking the full Diploma route, you will move to the top of your class with good grades and commitment.

What type of courses would we still be able to take while in DP? Or which courses do you take in DP takeout?

What classes are required in DP?

History of the Americas HL (requirement for graduation)

Language and Literature HL (requirement for graduation)

Approaches and Analysis SL or Applications and Interpretations SL (Math requirement for graduation)

Spanish B SL/HL, Chinese B SL, or French ab initio

Biology SL/HL, Sports, Exercise, and Health Science SL/HL, or Chemistry SL

Theory of Knowledge

Electives: Business Management SL/HL, Film SL/HL, Music SL/HL, Visual Arts SL/HL

Other non-IB electives: CCP courses through RCCC, NCVPS courses, any yearlong CHS courses

[LINK TO ALL SUBJECT BRIEFS, SCROLL TO BOTTOM](#)

Will my grades suffer from the challenges of DP?

That all depends on your self-management and study skills.

What are the options for leaving IB?

If you choose to leave IB, I'd set up a meeting with your family to discuss the options, your home-school, and your ultimate post secondary education goals.