The College Board’s Advanced Placement offers high school students the opportunity to do college-level work. Rich course material, classroom discussions and demanding assignments are key components of the program. Successful achievement on the culminating exams results in credit or advanced placement upon matriculation to college. Newark Academy offers coursework leading to 19 AP exams in four academic disciplines. Each year approximately 500 AP exams are taken by our student body.

The program: Schools may offer as many AP courses as they like and students may take as few or as many courses as they want. There are no additional requirements. The program emphasis is on mastery of content.

Newark Academy’s commitment to academic excellence is exemplified by its ability to offer two rigorous, universally acclaimed advanced academic opportunities: the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) course work. Both set high academic standards and challenging goals. Students are expected to comprehend complex material, write and defend their opinions intelligently, and apply their knowledge in creative and productive ways. Students who choose to pursue an advanced academic course load not only develop knowledge and skills that better prepare them for college, but they can earn college credit for their efforts as well. In addition to these prestigious opportunities, Newark Academy students have the opportunity to take any of several exciting and cutting-edge electives created by our faculty.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, established in 1968, is a cohesive intellectual and international educational program for students in the 11th and 12th grades. Its breadth and depth challenge our most able students who go on to matriculate to some of the world’s finest universities. Newark Academy was the first school in New Jersey authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and continues to graduate the region’s greatest number of diploma recipients. Newark Academy offers up to 33 IB exams in all five academic disciplines, as well as the arts.

The program: International Baccalaureate diploma students must pursue advanced course work in six academic areas during two years. In addition, they must write a 4,000-word extended essay, take the philosophically based seminar, Theory of Knowledge, and spend at least 150 hours doing community service and participating in the arts and athletics. IB curricula have a global focus and emphasize the development of skills for lifelong learning and success.

Frequently Asked Questions

Must a student do the full diploma program to be involved in IB?

No. One-third of each graduating class pursues the full diploma. Nearly all of the other students take one or more IB or AP courses.

Are IB courses available to any student?

Yes. Like AP and honors courses, most IB courses have eligibility requirements. Nonetheless, a large majority of NA juniors and seniors qualify for at least a few of these. Other IB courses have open enrollment.

How do AP and IB courses compare?

Similarities: They both offer rigorous college-level work to high school students; they both culminate in final examination in May; and high achievement on their final assessments may lead to college credit.

Differences: IB assesses a variety of student work throughout the year (including audio tapes, papers, portfolios); IB curricula tend to emphasize skill development, while AP puts a greater emphasis on year-end content mastery; IB alone gives feedback to individual teachers after each year’s exam results; and IB’s course work tends to have a more international focus.

Advanced Placement

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Quick Facts

- About 650 IB and AP courses were taken by students at Newark Academy last year.
- The average number of IB and AP courses taken by an NA student is 6.5.
- AP exams are scored from 1 to 5. 83% of students scored 3 or higher. 56% scored 4 or higher.
- IB exams are scored from 1 to 7. 88% of students scored 4 or higher. 61% scored 5 or higher.
- 94% of our full IB students have earned the diploma. (The international mark is 78%.)
- The mean diploma score among our IB students is 32.3.
A Place to be Challenged

In addition to offering courses which are directly affiliated with prestigious external organizations, such as IB and AP, Newark Academy's advanced course work also includes a rich set of electives designed and taught by its own faculty. Below is a sampling of these exciting and original courses by department.

**ENGLISH**
- Film Studies
- Journalism and the Digital Age
- Genius and Insanity
- Children's Literature
- Creative Writing Workshop

**HUMANITIES**
- Personal Finance
- World Religions
- Holocaust Studies
- Voices from the Middle East
- Women's History
- The 1960's

**SCIENCE**
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biotechnology
- Zoology
- Research and Experimental Design

**ARTS**
- Jazz Band
- String Ensemble
- Advanced Acting
- Advanced Dance
- Printmaking
- Advanced Ceramics
- Photography

**MATH**
- Differential Equations
- Multivariable Calculus
- Abstract Algebra
- Statistics
- Calculus
- Computer Science

**LANGUAGE**
- Advanced Spanish Language and Literature
- Mandarin 1, 2, 3

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For more information, contact Richard DiBianca, Ph.D, Upper School Principal
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