

IB Diploma Students Applying to Universities in USA & Canada

The Counseling Office for North America provides information and guidance to students who are seeking to apply to American and Canadian Universities. Its function is to assist and facilitate students in their efforts and endeavors to seek acceptance from those universities which appropriately match their personality, aptitudes and academic performance.

The ***U.S. application*** process has several components.

A. The items that the student sends to Universities:

1. application form
2. application fee
3. essay/s
4. SAT scores
5. TOEFL scores
6. list of extracurricular activities (optional)
7. portfolio (art or architecture applicants)

B. The items that the office sends to Universities:

1. transcripts from 9 to 12 grades
2. secondary school report form and letter from counselor
3. two teachers' recommendations/reference letters and forms
4. mid-year school report
5. final/graduation transcript
6. school profile

The ***Canadian application*** process involves:

1. secondary school report
2. teachers' recommendation letters
3. TOEFL
4. the student's IB diploma results

Admission to Canadian Universities resembles the U.K. application rather than the U.S. one, in that the student is made a conditional offer when his/her application is considered and the final IB results determine whether the student will gain admission to the University or not. Additionally, Ontario Universities have a common application which is simultaneously submitted to the Universities of the student's choice.

Because of the requirements of the U.S. application process, we encourage students to visit the counseling office as early as 10th grade to discuss their options, their academic performance as well as their extracurricular activities.

On the one hand, the overwhelming majority of American Universities rate the International Baccalaureate Program highly and, in most American academic environments, IB students are given outstanding credit for some of their IB courses. On the other hand, it is a well-known fact that North American Colleges and Universities are looking for well-rounded candidates with leadership qualities and

consistent academic performance; in other words, students who will contribute to the community they will join not only in terms of academics but also sports and other activities. In this respect, the IB Diploma's compulsory co-curricular CAS program offers IB students the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and thus enhance their profile as involved and responsible young adults, a profile which is not only appreciated but sought after by American Universities.

The role of the counselors is to 'educate' students and parents alike about researching universities, exploring their options and suggesting Colleges and Universities that are appropriate for each student. North American Institutions offer what is known as the liberal arts curriculum by which students are not required to join a specific course from their freshman year but are instead required to take a number of courses on various subjects before they declare their major by the end of their second year.

The objective of the counseling office is to see the students of the College in academic environments that are chosen on the basis of the students' individual characteristics and needs, where they will learn and grow, graduate, and develop into successful professionals and self-fulfilled individuals.