



# How Colleges View IB Curriculum

By Kim Duckworth

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# Introduction



- Kim Duckworth
- Owner, Scottsdale Education Center and College Coach
- 3 Daughters
- SEC- Provides academic Services to over 1400 students annually
- High School – College Preparatory focus
- 20 years, 35 tutors
- College Coach – Stanford, Columbia, Yale, Harvard, Barrett Honors College, USC, UCLA, Cal, Penn, etc.
- National Association for College Admissions Counseling and Higher Education Consultants Association Member



## **Who is My Audience? College Director of Admissions**

- 1,000s of applications
- Ensure success – “Greatest indicator of success in college is evidenced success in rigorous classes in high school” GPA
- Create Diverse Community
- Leaders- DO something to improve the community. “Not just walk on water but freeze it so others can walk with you”
- Academic Curiosity - What did you do outside of the classroom to demonstrate academic vitality?
- Genuine/Fit
- Community Outreach
- Sustained, Demonstrated passion – elite schools
- Donate to University after Graduation



# Elements Important in College Admissions

- Rigor of Study and GPA
  - Highly Selective universities look for the most rigorous program offered at the high school (IB, AP, Summa, Great Books, etc.)
- Test Scores
  - ACT 22 Considered a College Ready Score
  - SAT 1120 Considered a College Ready Score
  - SAT Subject Tests may be required- Out of State
- Special Talent (Athletics, Musical, Theater, etc.)
- Awards and Honors
- Passion (Demonstrated)
  - Start your own business, involved in research, summer academics/workshops
- Leadership
  - School, Community
- Community Service (Focused)
- Essay



# How Do Universities View the IB Diploma

Recognized for excelling in preparing students for college success and life in a global society

Cohesive interconnected set of classes that work together in an integrated fashion to develop critical thinking abilities

Develops "feathery" approach to learning

Extra-curricular component of diploma program develops students community-responsibility quotient

Strong research paper component that requires students to think like college students



# Direct quotes from Directors of Admissions on IB Diploma Program

Brown University: "I don't think there is anyone who does not respect the I.B. Diploma" Panetha Ott

Duke University: "One of the advantages of an IB Curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated program, well established, well known, and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses and we think the IB curriculum is terrific." Christopher Gutentag

Harvard University: "Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Program on the transcript. ... GPA is not nearly as important a factor in university admission as the IB Diploma. If a student has to choose, choose the Diploma over protecting the GPA." Marilyn Mc-Grath Lewis

University of Michigan: "A transcript that reveals a student's enrollment in IB courses serves notice to the admissions officer that the applicant is someone who accepts, rather than avoids educational challenges." Cliff Sjogren



## Student Growth

- Articulate special skill or talent that you can bring to the campus
  - Your power is in your “weirdness” ...consistent weirdness
- Tell a consistent story
  - If pre-med, then...
  - If communications major, then...
  - If sports management, then...
  - If business, then...
  - If political science, then...



## **Why Continue in IB Program?**

- Increase availability/options for college placement
- Student Association – Like minded students
- Top teachers
- International Perspective
- Critical Thinking Skill Development
- Increased performance on SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests
- Internationally Recognized Cohesive Program





# Considerations for Not Continuing

- GPA below 3.0
  - Demonstrates student may not be reaching mastery of subjects covered
- Individual Class Grade of D or F
  - Difficult to Replace
- Health Concerns



## **Why Honors/Selective College Programs?**

- **Amazing Research Opportunities**
- **Like Academic Abilities in Students**
- **Alumni Network**
- **Internships**
- **Graduate School Preparation (e.g. GRE, MCAT, LSAT, etc.)**
- **Graduate School Acceptance/Positioning**
- **Quality of Professors**



## Questions????????

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