

# International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme [Yrs 11–12]



## INTRODUCTION

Students today are members of a global community connected through culture, economics, politics, technology and shared environmental concerns. Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College has a strong commitment to fostering international understanding and offers both the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programmes.

## THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) as an option for students entering Year 11. The course is designed and administered by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) based in Geneva and may only be offered in schools that have been individually assessed and approved by the IBO.

The IB Diploma offers an educational challenge that provides scope for both academic achievement and worthwhile practical activities in outdoor pursuits and social service. It is a cross-cultural programme that allows students to gain an increasing knowledge of, and respect for, international ideas and ways of thinking.

The programme offers a rigorous, holistic approach to learning in the last two years of secondary school. Students complete the Diploma in Years 11 and 12 after making a choice between the local NSW Higher School Certificate and the IB Diploma Programme. The Diploma gives access to a wide range of international programmes and enables the College to participate in, and contribute to, educational change world-wide.

The concept of internationalism builds on the Mercy philosophy embodied in the aims of the College: to behave with compassion and a sense of justice; respect others and value diversity; demonstrate an appreciation of human dignity; and show a commitment to the service of others, especially those less fortunate in the community, both local and global.

## AIMS

- To further the international scope of the school and its community
- To encourage in students, compassion, empathy and intercultural awareness
- To encourage the pursuit of academic excellence through a rigorous educational programme
- To participate in a course which encourages students to recognise that they are part of a world community
- To facilitate student mobility between countries
- To provide professional development opportunities for teachers

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

To be eligible for the Diploma all candidates must complete:

- Six academic subjects
- Theory of Knowledge course
- The Extended Essay
- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

## ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

The curriculum consists of six subject groups. Most subjects are offered at Higher Level and Standard Level.

- Group 1** *Studies in Language & Literature*  
English – Literature  
English – Language and Literature
- Group 2** *Language Acquisition*  
French, German, Italian, Spanish (*ab initio*), Indonesian (*ab initio*)
- Group 3** *Individuals in Society*  
Economics, History, Psychology, Environmental Systems and Societies\*
- Group 4** *Experimental Sciences*  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies,\* Design Technology, Sports Exercise and Health Science
- Group 5** *Mathematics*  
Mathematics, Mathematical Studies
- Group 6** One of the following options:
  - a. Visual Arts, Music or Theatre
  - b. – a second foreign language (Group 2)  
– a second subject from the Individuals in Society (Group 3)  
– a second subject from Experimental Sciences (Group 4)

The study of Religion is a compulsory additional requirement for all students.

### Students must:

- take one subject from each of the subject groups
- take at least three and not more than four of the six subjects at Higher level.

\* Environmental Systems and Societies is a transdisciplinary subject that may be taken as a Group 3 or 4 subject.



## THE EXTENDED ESSAY

This requirement provides students with their first experience of an independent research paper. Bonus points are awarded for excellent essays. The essay must be:

- approximately 4000 words
- based on individual research
- written on any topic related to an IB subject offered by the College

## THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

This course explores the relationships among the various disciplines, ensuring students engage in critical reflection and analysis of the knowledge acquired within, and beyond, the classroom. Bonus points are awarded for excellent completion of Theory of Knowledge essay and oral presentation.

## CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS)

To be eligible for the IB Diploma students must engage in extra curricular community service activities representing Creativity, Activity and Service. Students are involved in:

- creative pursuits e.g. drama, music
- physical fitness activities through sport and outdoor pursuits
- voluntary work which benefits the community

The CAS programme aims to:

- challenge and extend the individual student
- develop a spirit of discovery and self reliance
- encourage personal skills and interests
- inspire an awareness, concern and responsibility to serve the community

## ELIGIBILITY

The broad nature of the IB Diploma Programme makes it suitable for students of varying academic abilities. It caters for the increasing number of students requiring international mobility and is suitable for highly motivated students who are looking for academic challenges.

When choosing the IB Diploma, consideration must be given to the range of subjects required. Students must be prepared to study a second language and be able to continue in Maths, Science and Humanities to Year 12 level.

However, the most important criteria for selection of the Diploma is the student's own motivation, curiosity and interest in learning.

The broad nature of the requirements means many out-of-hours activities and a commitment to work on some weekends and during normal holiday periods.

## Students who complete the IB Diploma:

- are recognised as being prepared to accept educational challenges
- develop a capacity for independent study and research
- are more confident with tertiary studies
- have a better global understanding and international orientation

## ASSESSMENT

The course is examined by an international body of examiners representing many countries and cultural traditions. Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum) provided all of the requirements, as stipulated by the IB regulations, are met. The Diploma will be awarded to students who meet all criteria, including an achievement of a minimum of 24 points out of a possible score of 45 points and who satisfactorily complete the Theory of Knowledge course, the Extended Essay and CAS requirements.

The assessment procedure within each subject varies, but always consists of an external examination, which may include up to three exam papers in each subject and/or externally marked components such as recordings and written submissions.

The IB Diploma is criteria-referenced which means if an individual student reaches a certain standard, marks are awarded regardless of the standard reached by other students. There is no scaling.

The College participates in the November examination sessions each year. Official results are forwarded to the Universities Admissions Centre and will be automatically converted to an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) equivalent in sufficient time for local and interstate university entry.

## UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

The IB Diploma is an internationally recognised matriculation credential, which qualifies students for entry into overseas and local universities. It provides students with the opportunity to achieve academic excellence, life skills and the necessary competitive edge to gain tertiary placement and employment.

The programme is designed to promote international understanding and facilitate the mobility of students to overseas institutions. Some universities grant 'advanced standing' to students with an IB Diploma.

All Australian universities accept the IB Diploma for entry to courses. Specific requirements vary from year to year and the latest data can be obtained from the College's Higher Education & Careers Counsellor.

### For further information please contact:

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For additional information about the IB Diploma Programme refer to:

**www.ibo.org**

