International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Credit Policy
Best Practices: Texas Institutions

I. Review TEC §51.968

If an incoming freshman has earned an IB Diploma, Texas public colleges and universities must award at least 24 hours of course-specific college credit in subject-appropriate areas on all IB exam scores of 4 or above.

Course credit does not have to be awarded on any IB exams where the score received is a 3 or less. This may mean that the student will not receive 24 hours of college credit, even if he/she has an IB Diploma.

II. Review IB curriculum and the various courses

Go to www.ibo.org for overview of Diploma Program

Go to Services/Universities section and get a log-in to the secure portion of website (you may need to contact your campus administrator for login privileges).

Review curriculum guides for all courses

Keep in mind the following:

★ IB is an international program. Students will be coming in with various courses within each of the six areas.

- ★ One student may have English, Spanish, History of Americas, Biology, Mathematics, and Music.
- ★ Another student may have French, Swahili, Islamic History, Physics, Mathematics, and Philosophy.

★ There are two levels of courses: Standard Level and Higher Level. Generally only three of the courses on an IB Score Report will be at the Higher Level (maximum of 4).

★ Most of the courses are offered at the Standard Level and Higher Level by the IB program, but high schools do not offer all courses or all levels.

★ An IB Diploma may be awarded even though there are scores of less than 4 on an IB exam. It is the overall point total that counts for the IB Diploma, which includes the Theory of Knowledge course as well as the Extended Essay.

III. Create your Institutional Acceptance Policy

★ Review all the IB course curriculum guides at the Higher Level and Standard Level. Determine which course/s would be most closely aligned in content with the IB curriculum.

★ Consult with your Registrar's office and an experienced transcript evaluator.
If you have no direct curriculum match for the IB course consider granting credit as a generic department course

★ As much as possible, try to offer IB credit for courses that will fulfill a requirement in the institution's general education core curriculum.

★ You may offer more credit, or a different course, for an IB Higher Level course than you do for a Standard Level Course.

★ Credit may vary for a specific IB Higher or Standard Level Course depending on whether the score received is a 4, 5, 6, or 7 (a student may receive more credit for a 6 on an exam than they would for a 4).

★ If your school already receives IB score reports, look at ones that have come in previously and test your policy:

- ★ Does each student who receives an IB Diploma and has scores of at least a 4 on IB exams receive at least 24 hours of credit? YES
- ★ Does each student who receives an IB Diploma receive credit for every exam on which they score a 4 or higher? YES
- ★ Is the credit received course specific? YES