

# IB policies in California

## University recognition of IB programs and courses

A state board regulation passed in 2021 calls for the chancellor of the community college system, “in collaboration with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, shall develop policy guidelines on the minimum passing scores for” IB and/or CLEP exams, and for these guidelines to be distributed to all community college districts annually. A community college district’s governing board must adopt policies to award credit for minimum IB and/or CLEP exams “typically recognized by colleges and universities as measuring competencies comparable to those achieved in baccalaureate level courses or general education areas.” [5 CCR § 55052.5](#)

State board regulation states that a community college board “may adopt policies” to grant credit for minimum AP exams “typically recognized by colleges and universities as measuring competencies comparable to those achieved in baccalaureate level courses. The faculty in the appropriate discipline must approve advanced placement examinations, scores deemed to constitute satisfactory performance, courses offered by the college for which credit will be granted, and requirements that may be met by such examinations in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the curriculum committee.” [5 CCR § 55052](#)

The Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges passed a [resolution](#) in fall 2019 “[that] the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to prepare a model policy to be considered for adoption by all colleges that establishes a consistent standard for awarding of course credit for specific levels of performance on International Baccalaureate exams as a proactive response to intent of members of the California Legislature[.]”

In addition, statute requires the California Community Colleges to begin development in January 2017 of a uniform policy to award “course credit for California Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, California State University General Education Breadth, or local community college general education requirements” for AP exam scores. [West's Ann. Cal. Educ. Code § 79500](#)

The CSU System Office maintains a [list](#) of IB, AP, and CLEP exam scores that confer college credit.

The UC System Office maintains a [list](#) of IB, AP, and Cambridge exam scores that confer college credit.

While not guaranteeing that all public institutions award credit for IB, AP, and AICE exam scores, the state superintendent of public instruction must “provide support to high schools that offer International Baccalaureate (IB) courses to facilitate communication with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the California State University, and the

Academic Senate of the University of California about the rigor of those courses and to ensure that college credit is given to pupils who participate[.]” [West's Ann. Cal. Educ. Code § 52920](#)