

**Proposed International Baccalaureate Transfer Credit Policy**  
**Approved by Academic Affairs for Consideration by Faculty Assembly**  
**Ver. 1.2, March 5, 2015**

## **1. Summary**

The following is a proposed policy framework to provide for the transfer of credits earned through the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (hereafter referred to as IB). The IB Diploma Programme is analogous to the College Entrance Examination Board Advanced Placement Program in that it provides advanced level study for high school students. A wide range of colleges and universities in the U.S. are now awarding transfer credit to students taking the IB Diploma exams; one of the rationales for this proposed policy, therefore, is to enable SUNY Polytechnic Institute to compete in recruiting these students.

## **2. Discussion**

The Committee reviewed IB transfer policies from a number of different institutions both within and beyond SUNY colleges (including that of the University at Albany). The committee identified two general models for awarding transfer credit. The first model awards a fixed number of credits (normally around 30 credits, the equivalent of one year of college study) for the completion of the IB Diploma assuming the student meets specific identified standards in earning the IB Diploma. The second model awards credits via a course-by-course evaluation of the IB transcript.

The Committee recommends adopting the second model and awarding credit on a per-course basis. The rationale for adopting this policy is as follows:

1. The course-by-course evaluation allows faculty in the discipline to evaluate the relevant IB courses and establish appropriate standards based upon their knowledge of the discipline.
2. The course-by-course evaluation follows similar procedures that SUNY Polytechnic Institute (Utica campus) already uses to award transfer credit for AP courses. It thus treats students earning AP credit and IB credits in relatively the same manner.
3. The fixed (e.g. 30-credit) model, while more holistic, is also more complicated to develop and implement. Given that we do not anticipate large numbers of students transferring IB credits, at least in the short-to-medium term, we do not see any major advantage to adopting the 30-credit model at this point in time.

Ultimately, the committee believes that the course-by-course model is a more appropriate way for the institution to introduce IB transfer credits. We believe that once the institution and faculty gain further experience with the IB Programme and its students we may use this experience to revisit this policy if necessary.

### **3. Proposed Policy**

The following is the proposed policy text. As this proposed policy integrates the current AP Transfer Policy with the new IB Transfer Policy, proposed changes are marked in underline. The current AP Transfer Credit Policy is reproduced in the Appendix.

#### **Transfer Credit Earned through Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program**

Students may transfer a combined maximum of 30 credits earned through Advanced Placement courses and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program subject to the conditions outlined below.

#### **Advanced Placement Credit**

Administered by the College Entrance Examination Board, Advanced Placement (AP) credit may be awarded for courses taken in high school dependent upon the scores achieved. Certain academic programs may not accept AP credit for specific requirements. Students should check with the program faculty to determine how AP credit will be applied in that program. Students should send an official copy of their scores directly to the Admissions Office. AP credit cannot be used to fulfill SUNYIT's requirement for the satisfactory completion of one upper-division writing course. In addition, AP credits in biology, chemistry, environmental science or physics will only fulfill the SUNYIT's requirement for the satisfactory completion of one laboratory course in the physical sciences when a score of 4 or 5 has been achieved on any of the four AP examinations. Below is a listing of AP examinations and acceptable scores:

#### **International Baccalaureate Credit**

Offered both overseas and through some high schools in the United States, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme leads to a diploma or certificates of examination. Students should send an official copy of their IB transcript directly to the Admissions Office. Transfer credit may be earned for IB courses subject to the following conditions:

- Individual IB courses will be evaluated by faculty in the respective discipline who will determine the standard needed to be achieved, the number of credits to be awarded, the equivalent SUNY Polytechnic Institute course(s) for which credit is granted if appropriate, and the degree and/or program requirement(s) that the transferred credit satisfies if appropriate.

- Completion of individual courses at the Higher Level with an IB test score of 4-7 may earn between 3-9 credits based upon review by the relevant faculty.
- Completion of individual courses at the Standard Level with an IB test score of 6-7 may earn between 3-4 credits upon review by the relevant faculty. Credit for SL level courses will only be awarded to students who have completed an IB Diploma.
- Certain academic programs may not accept IB credit as meeting specific requirements. Students should check with the program faculty to determine how IB credit will be applied in that program.
- IB courses cannot be used to fulfill SUNY Polytechnic's Upper Division Writing Requirement.

Below is listing of IB examinations and acceptable scores:

[Insert when appropriate: IB Transfer Table to be developed by faculty in the disciplines and maintained by the Admissions Office]

#### **4. Suggestions for Implementation**

The Academic Affairs Committee offers the following suggestions for implementing the IB transfer credit policy if adopted.

Faculty in the discipline will be responsible for evaluating IB courses in their field(s) and determining, in accordance with the policy framework approved by Faculty Assembly, the following:

- The standards for awarding credit (i.e. the required test score for both SL and HL courses).
- The number of credits to be earned for SL and HL exams.
- The appropriate SUNY Poly course equivalent(s) to map through successfully meeting the established standard, if relevant.
- The General Education category satisfied by successfully meeting the established standard, if relevant.
- The program requirement(s) satisfied by successfully meeting the established standard, if relevant.

This information will be provided to the Admissions Office who will maintain and update the IB Course Map. The Admissions Office will maintain a table of IB course mappings that will be updated with information provided by the relevant faculty in the discipline.

If adopted by Faculty Assembly, we recommend that this policy be implemented such that applicants for Fall 2015 be able to have IB coursework evaluated and awarded credit as appropriate.

## References

International Baccalaureate. "Curriculum." *International Education - International Baccalaureate*. Web. 15 March 2015. <URL: <http://www.ibo.org/en/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>>

International Baccalaureate. "Diploma Programme assessment: Principles and Practice" *International Education - International Baccalaureate*. Web. 15 March 2015. <URL: <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/1cdf850e366447e99b5a862aab622883/dpassessmentprinciplespractice2004en.pdf>>

International Baccalaureate. "Grade descriptors: For use from September 2014/January 2015" *International Education - International Baccalaureate*. Web. 15 March 2015. <URL: <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/0b0b7a097ca2498ea50a9e41d9e1d1cf/dp-grade-descriptors-en.pdf>>

## Appendix: Current SUNY Polytechnic Institute AP Transfer Grade Policy

### Advanced Placement Credit

Administered by the College Entrance Examination Board, Advanced Placement (AP) credit may be awarded for courses taken in high school dependent upon the scores achieved. Certain academic programs may not accept AP credit for specific requirements. Students should check with the program faculty to determine how AP credit will be applied in that program. Students should send an official copy of their scores directly to the Admissions Office. AP credit cannot be used to fulfill SUNYIT's requirement for the satisfactory completion of one upper-division writing course. In addition, AP credits in biology, chemistry, environmental science or physics will only fulfill the SUNYIT's requirement for the satisfactory completion of one laboratory course in the physical sciences when a score of 4 or 5 has been achieved on any of the four AP examinations. Below is a listing of AP examinations and acceptable scores:

[AP Course Map]

Reference: <https://sunypoly.edu/apps/catalog/undergrad/academic-requirements-policies/transfer-credit/>