

NFMHS Cambridge AICE Program - Frequently Asked Questions

What are the primary differences between AICE, IB, and AP?

The reality is that all three programs are going to prepare your son or daughter for the rigors of college coursework, while offering them the opportunity to earn college credit (saving time and money) before stepping on campus. Both AICE and IB include a full curriculum that encourages students to matriculate through a variety of courses/syllabi in order to obtain a program diploma. AP, while currently the most widely recognized in the U.S., does not have a curriculum, but is still widely accepted and highly regarded.

AICE allows candidates to take college credit courses during all four years of their high school career and offers a level of flexibility not available in the other programs when students are registering for classes.

Do ALL colleges accept AICE credits?

More than 450 colleges and universities nationwide accept AICE credits, including the Ivy and Ivy Plus institutions as well as the majority of Florida universities. Of course, some schools, especially private schools, will pick and choose which credits they accept and what they will be accepted for.

For more information on college recognition, see the link below:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/recognition/>

What is the difference between an AS Level course and an A Level course?

This is a common question - most colleges and universities both nationally and globally refer to the Cambridge AICE Program as AS and A Levels. An AS Level course is designed to be one year of study culminating with the examination in May/June and will earn one credit toward the AICE Diploma.

An A Level course is designed to be, but not required to be, two years of study culminating with either half of the examination at the end of the first year and the remaining portion of the examination at the end of the second year. A Level courses earn two credits toward the AICE Diploma. Please note, many elite colleges require students to earn A Level scores in order for to guarantee acceptance of credit.

What are the benefits of earning an AICE Diploma?

Earning the AICE Diploma in conjunction with completing the requisite 100 hours of community service, means the candidate will automatically earn the top Bright Futures scholarship. Otherwise the Bright Futures Scholarship is dependent upon SAT/ACT scores, which are raised each year. Furthermore, when earned at the end of the junior year it helps set NFMHS AICE students apart from other candidates during the college application process.

How many AICE credits do I need to earn an AICE Diploma?

Starting in 2017 candidates must earn 7 total credits in AICE courses in order to earn the ADIP. One credit must come from each of the three categories (Math/Sciences, Humanities, and Languages) and an additional three credits can come from whatever category the candidate chooses as well as the electives. The final credit must be acquired by successfully completing AICE Global Perspectives. **Until then** students need six credits with AICE GP being optional.

How do I earn an AICE credit?

When a candidate sits for an AICE examination and passes the test, the student earns a credit toward the AICE Diploma. When a student takes the exam in the May/June session, the results are typically returned in mid to early August. Please note, if the candidate completes an A Level examination then they are awarded two credits toward the AICE Diploma.

What if I do not pass an AICE examination? Do I lose ALL credit?

If you fail an AICE examination it does not impact the level of credit you receive for passing the course. Therefore, you still receive the necessary credit toward the local high school diploma. However, you will not have earned a credit toward the AICE Diploma. Candidates are allowed to retake an AICE Examination one time after previously failing a test.

When do students take AICE examinations?

AICE examinations are offered twice during the course of the school year. The majority of our students will take AICE examinations in May/June. Please note, several AICE examinations may take place after the regular school year has ended, but absolutely are still required. AICE also offers examinations in October/November, which is typically reserved for candidates wanting to retake an examination from the previous spring. Candidates are NOT automatically registered for the Oct/Nov exams, but must meet with the AICE Coordinator and request the test be ordered.

What if I miss an AICE examination?

There is no make-up examination within the same testing session; therefore, the candidate would need to retake the test the following session in the next school year. If the candidate does not make up the examination they could be required to pay the private candidate fee for the cost of the examination (roughly \$180), in addition to losing weighted credit for the course.

For graduating seniors, the LCS D could withhold their transcripts if the candidate skips the examination and chooses not to pay the fee.

How do AICE students do on the SAT?

At NFMHS, Cambridge AICE students have fared quite nicely on the SAT examination. AICE students have an average score of 1739, which is higher than the 1420 average for non-AICE students at NFMHS as well as the 1420 average for Lee County students, the 1448 average score for state of Florida students, and the 1497 national average.

Can students participate in both the Cambridge AICE Program and the Center for Arts and Media?

YES. Candidates wishing to participate in both or either program MUST complete the necessary application and, for the Center for Arts and Media, must also successfully complete an audition for the program they wish to pursue. If an incoming student is accepted to both programs he or she can accept both placements, return letters of intent for both programs, and will be registered accordingly by our guidance department in the spring.

How many college credits can I earn while still in high school?

Students can earn a maximum of 45 college credits while still enrolled in high school. Of course, this is difficult to accomplish and will require a level of diligence from the student. On average AICE students at NFMHS earn between 30 – 36 college credits.