



Bethel High School

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Cambridge Program

1. *What is the difference between IGCSE, AS, and A Level courses and exams?*

Courses in Bethel High School's Cambridge Program are offered at two levels: Cambridge Secondary and Cambridge Advanced. Students enrolled in courses at the Cambridge Secondary level are learning content in courses and taking examinations aligned to the International General Certification of Secondary Education (IGCSE) standards. These courses lay the foundation for courses in the Cambridge Advanced Level of study. While students may earn content level IGCSE certificates, students will not earn an IGCSE diploma as Bethel High School focus is the AICE diploma. Students will complete coursework aligned to IGCSE standards and may sit for examinations in English Literature, Coordinated Science, and Mathematics. Students enrolled in Cambridge Advanced level courses are working to complete coursework and sit for examinations aligned to the AS- and/or A-level standards. Advanced Level or A-level standards cover approximately two years of college-level curriculum in a subject. The Advanced Subsidiary Level or AS-level standards cover the first year of the two-year Advanced (A) Level curriculum. In the Bethel High School Cambridge Program, students will complete AS-level classes and sit for examinations in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, English Language, and History. Students will complete an A-Level program of study and examinations in Global Perspectives and Literature in English.

2. *What is AICE?*

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an international diploma awarded by Cambridge Assessment International Education, a branch of the University of Cambridge in England, to students who earn the necessary credits. Students can earn the AICE diploma by taking Bethel High School classes aligned to Cambridge Assessment International Education's advanced academic syllabi and sitting for the assessments. The Cambridge Program at Bethel High School, a registered Cambridge International Center, offers courses needed to earn the AICE diploma in grades 9 – 12. In some subjects, students will take courses during grades 9 and 10 aligned to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in order to prepare for classes aligned to the AICE international diploma. Classes aligned to the IGCSE are suitable for honors or regular high school students. The IGCSE and AICE programs together are referred to in some areas of the United States as "The Cambridge Program."

3. ***What are the benefits of AICE?***

Students who earn an AICE diploma, in any country, have demonstrated their knowledge of the rigorous Cambridge International's standards. All students, regardless of country of origin, are demonstrating their knowledge of the same standards by taking the same tests.

The standards utilized by courses within the AICE framework provide the rigorous academic experience required for admittance to competitive universities and the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in this environment. A study conducted by the Director of Admissions found that AICE program graduates attending the University of Florida had an average end-of-freshman year GPA of 3.46 whereas students coming from other acceleration mechanisms such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) had an average GPA of 3.12 and 3.10 respectively. Cambridge International qualifications (examination scores) are recognized and accepted by over 500 universities in the United States, including all Ivy League universities, MIT and Stanford.

4. ***What do I have to do to earn an AICE Diploma?***

Students must earn seven credits within a 25-month period. Credits are earned by passing examinations administered at the end of each course. At least one examination must come from each of the four subject groups: Mathematics & Sciences, Languages, Arts & Humanities, and Global Perspectives. An AS Level exam counts for one credit towards the AICE Diploma; the A Level exam counts for two credits.

5. ***Do students need to earn the full AICE Diploma in order to earn college credits?*** No. Students receive a General Certificate of Education (GCE) for passing AS- and A- Level subject examinations. Colleges and universities award credit on a subject-by-subject basis according to the grades earned on individual examinations.

6. ***How do AICE examination grades compare with the US grading scale?***

Passing grades available on A-Level exams range from A* to E with A* being the highest. Students who do not demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills on these examinations earn a grade of U (not passing/not meeting standard). The highest grade possible on AS-Level examinations is an A. A grade of A* may not be earned on these examinations.

A Department of Education AICE program study found that a CIE grade of E most closely correlated with an Advanced Placement exam grade of 3 and a United States grade of C.

7. ***How will Cambridge classes be recorded on student transcripts?***

Students enrolled in Cambridge classes will earn grades on the United States grading system. Student grades will reflect their progress in meeting the Cambridge International standards. Cambridge courses are designated with a code of K on transcripts.

8. ***How will enrolling in Cambridge classes affect my GPA?***

Cambridge courses are designed for students who desire an academic challenge beyond what is found in a comprehensive high school. A student's grade is determined by how well he/she meets the international standards for each course.

9. ***Do colleges and universities give credits for the AICE examinations students pass?***

Yes. Cambridge International publishes a list of universities that have stated policies on recognizing AICE examination scores. To access this list of colleges and universities, visit: <http://recognition.cambridgeinternational.org/SearchRecognitions.aspx> and enter your search criteria.

Admissions officers of respected universities throughout the United States offer their perspectives on the AICE diploma as well as the CIE standards in this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVi2NPhrkQU>

10. ***How many years of a World Language do Cambridge students need to take?***

All students need to successfully complete two years of one World Language to meet high school graduation requirements. Cambridge students have the choice of enrolling in French, ASL, or Spanish. A student may continue past two years of language study or choose another elective instead.

11. ***What costs are associated with the Cambridge Program?***

Students are required to take the Cambridge examinations associated with their courses. The Bethel School District pays fees for the examinations in each level for June 2020 which were as follows:

IGCSE - \$96

AS Level - \$100

A Level Global Perspectives - \$231

A Level - \$161

All Mailing Costs

Costs to students throughout the program will vary, but may include lab, workbook, and field trip fees.

12. ***Do Cambridge students have time in their days to include extra-curricular activities?***

Our Cambridge students are actively involved at Bethel High School. Many students participate in sports, band, orchestra, choir, and drama. Some of the clubs that students join are Honor Society, DECA, Robotics, FCCLA, Key Club, Gaming Guild,

Speech/Debate, ASB, Ping Pong, and Ecology. Students learn the art of time management by balancing their academic requirements with their activity schedule.

13. *What are the high school graduation requirements?*

Students in the Class of 2023 must earn the following credits to graduate:

English – 4 credits	Social Studies – 3 credits
Science – 3 credits	Mathematics – 3 credits
Fine Arts – 2 credits	Physical Education – 1.5 credits
Health – .5 credits	Occupational Education – 1 credit
World Language – 2 credits	Electives – 4 credits

14. *I would like to participate in the performing arts program at Bethel High School. I am concerned that I won't be able to fit in all of the graduation requirements into my schedule. What are my options?*

With the institution of the 5-period day, most students have time to take the required courses over their 4-years of high school. Each student's individual needs will be discussed and course schedule determined to meet their needs.

15. *Where do the Cambridge students take their classes at Bethel High School?*

Cambridge students are members of Bethel High School and are not housed in a separate area on the campus. Students will go to their instructors' classrooms. Only Cambridge students are in Cambridge courses.

16. *What summer assignments do the students need to complete?* During the summer of 2020, the students may need to complete an assignment in each core Cambridge course. There may be a book to read in English, a one-page paper to write for History, introductory activity for first unit in Coordinated Science, and a review of algebraic concepts for Mathematics. The assignments will be given to the students during the Class of 2024 meeting in May.

17. *Does the school district provide transportation for Cambridge students who do not live in the Bethel High School attendance area?*

Yes. Transportation to Bethel High School is provided by the Bethel School District.

18. *My student does not live in the Bethel High School attendance area. If he/she does not want to continue with the Cambridge courses, can he/she stay enrolled at Bethel High School?*

Maybe. A student would need to apply for an in-district transfer from the home school to continue to attend Bethel High School if they choose to leave the Cambridge Program.

19. *We will need to move out of the Bethel School District. Can my student continue with his/her Cambridge studies at Bethel High School?*

No. Only students who live within the Bethel School District boundaries can attend the Cambridge Program at Bethel High School.

20. *What colleges and universities have accepted Bethel High School Cambridge graduates?*

Starting with our inaugural Class of 2018, our students have been accepted to the following institutions:

Alegheny College, Arizona State University, Beloit College, Bethune-Cookman University, Bob Jones University, Boise State University, Boston University, Brigham Young University, Brown University, California Institute of Technology, California Lutheran University, California Polytechnic State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Carroll College, Central Washington University, Central College of Iowa, Chowan University, Claremont McKenna College, Claflin University, Clark University, Colby College, Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Columbia University, Corban University, Cornell College, Dartmouth College, Drexel University, Duke University, Eastern Oregon University, Eastern Washington University, Eastern Gateway College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emory University, Evergreen State College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, George Fox University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gonzaga University, Hamilton University, Holy Names University, Johns Hopkins University, Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Montana State University, New York University, Northern Arizona University, Northwest Christian University, Northwestern University, Notre Dame de Namur, Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific Oregon University, Pennsylvania State University, Philander Smith College, Pierce County Community College, Queens University of Charlotte, Rice University, Saint Lawrence University, Saint Martin's College, San Diego State University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, Simon Fraser University, Canada; Southern Methodist University, St. Johns College, Stanford University, Susquehanna University, Tacoma Community College, Trinity College - Dublin, Ireland, United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Navy, United States Coast Guard Academy, University of Arizona, University of California – Berkeley, University of California – Davis, University of California – Irvin, University of California – Los Angeles, University of California – San Diego, University of Idaho, University of Illinois, University of Mary, University of Montana, University of Oregon, University of the Pacific, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of Southern California, University of Texas-Arlington, University of Texas- Dallas, University of Washington - Seattle, University of Washington - Tacoma, Vassar College, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Western Washington University, Wessex Institute of Technology - Ashurst, UK, Whitworth University, William Peace University, Wilkes University, Yakima Valley College, Yale University

21. Where can I find more information regarding the Cambridge AICE Program?

The Cambridge Assessment International Education website has extensive information regarding syllabi, sample examinations, and university recognition. The website is: www.cambridgeinternational.org. Select Cambridge for Parents and Students.

22. If I still have questions after reading through these documents, who can I contact?

Please feel free to contact Katie Schultz-Wetherington (kschultz@bethelsd.org) Cambridge Coordinator.