

Paths to Graduation Offered to 11th and 12th Grade Students at CCPS

Either of the following paths will allow a student to complete the 27 credits required to graduate from CCPS. Course requirements for graduation are listed in the CCPS Agenda. Please note that all courses offered at CCPS for 11th and 12th grade students follow the IB curriculum; however, there is no requirement or expectation that students take IB exams for any classes.

Path	Requirements
<p>Honors Graduate HL = Higher Level SL = Standard Level External = IBO grades the exam/ essay/presentation Internal = IB instructor at CCPS will grade exam/essay, but IBO will ask for a random sampling of student work to grade externally TOK = Theory of Knowledge CAS = Creativity, Action and Service EE = Extended Essay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can take any number of SL or HL courses. HL courses should be taken in the courses that come the most naturally to students and SL should be the classes that students find more challenging. Students can take all SL courses if they so choose. • Students may take IB exams in courses of their choice (up to 6) at the completion of the course. IB exams always take place in May. All IB exams are assessed externally. • Students complete all internal assessments in their courses. If students take an IB exam, the IBO may request their internal assessment. Students who do not take an IB exam in a course take a final exam instead. • Students complete the Honors Core: TOK: Class, TOK Presentation OR TOK Paper EE: minimum 2,000 word research paper CAS: Meet 8 Learning Outcomes • Upon satisfactory completion of CCPS courses (including the Honors Core) and any IB requirements, a student on this track will receive: NM High School Diploma and an IB certificate in each course in which student completed an IB exam.
<p>IB Diploma Graduate HL = Higher Level SL = Standard Level External = IBO grades the exam/ essay/presentation Internal = IB instructor at CCPS will grade exam/essay, but IBO will ask for a random sampling of student work to grade externally TOK = Theory of Knowledge CAS = Creativity, Action and Service EE = Extended Essay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must take a total of 6 courses and sit for 6 IB exams. Students are required to take a minimum of 3 HL courses, but may not sit for more than 4 HL exams. The remaining courses are SL courses. HL courses should be taken in the courses that come the most naturally to students and SL should be the classes that students find more challenging. • Students take IB exams for each of their 6 courses at the completion of the course. IB exams always take place in May. All IB exams are assessed externally. Students must complete all required internal assessments for each course. • Students must complete all IB requirements of the IB Diploma Core: • TOK: Class, TOK Presentation and TOK Paper EE: maximum 4,000 word research paper CAS: Meet 8 Learning Outcomes over the course of two years, approx. 150 hours balanced across Creativity, Action and Service • TOK is not assessed through an IB exam, but rather through an essay (externally assessed) and presentation (internally assessed). Extended Essays are assessed externally and CAS is assessed internally. Satisfactory completion of CAS requirements is necessary in order to be eligible for an IB Diploma. • Upon satisfactory completion of CCPS courses (including the IB Diploma Core) and IB requirements, a student on this track will receive: NM High School Diploma, an IB certificate in each of the 6 courses and an IB Diploma (if required points are attained).

Why take SL versus HL?

Higher Level (HL) classes cover more content than Standard Level (SL) courses and there are increased exam requirements. IB scores per course are awarded on a 1-7 scale. Typically, colleges award credit for HL scores of 4 or higher and SL scores of 5 or higher. Colleges always award more credit for HL scores than SL courses (typically 9 hours for HL and 6 hours for SL). Students should research information about specific colleges they are interested in and what IB credits are awarded (<http://www.ibo.org/country/US/>). Colleges award scholarships, reoccurring scholarships, honors dorms and/or sophomore standing for IB Diploma students. Families should research specific policies and awards for colleges they are interested in pursuing.

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What are the benefits of TOK, EE and CAS and why do we do all three?

CCPS's mission is to educate the whole child for the whole world. According to the IB, the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course allows students to "reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and on areas of knowledge, consider the role and nature of knowledge in their own culture, in the cultures of others and in the wider world... be aware of themselves as thinkers, encouraging them to become more acquainted with the complexity of knowledge [and] recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected but uncertain world." The Extended Essay (EE) provides students an opportunity to complete an independent research paper on a topic of their choice, giving them a chance to explore a new idea or area of interest and practice their research skills before heading off to their post-secondary education. Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) encourages students to explore creativity endeavors, to maintain a healthy and fit lifestyle and to give back to their community through service. We believe that the IB Core is helping to prepare students to think critically, investigate thoughtfully and to help others.

Caveat: Topic	Caveat: Explanation
1. 11th grade Mock exams/final exams	At the end of the junior year, students sit for a mock IB exam in every course, no matter which path the student has chosen. These mock exams count as the final exams for the year and will count for a minimum of 20% of the student's overall semester grade. Therefore, mock exams will be reflected on the overall CCPS grade a student receives for each course.
2. IB exams	At the end of the senior year, students taking IB certificates or IB Diploma students will sit for IB exams. Those exams are externally assessed. These exam grades do NOT figure into a student's GPA, nor must they be sent to colleges. Students choose which exam grades to send to colleges. Students who are sitting for IB exams do not take a final in that particular course.
3. Final exams: non-Diploma students	Any students not taking the IB exam in a subject area will take a final exam for the course. This final exam will count toward the final GPA.
4. GPA	On a student's official transcript, all courses will appear as IB HL or SL classes, regardless of the path the student is on. All SL courses are weighted .11 toward the GPA. All HL courses are weighted .22 toward the GPA.
5. Changing from HL to SL	Students have until Sept. 15 of senior year to change a course from HL to SL or SL to HL (with teacher approval).
6. Deadline to sign up for IB exams	Students sitting for IB exams have until Oct. 1 of senior year to declare which IB exams they will take.
7. Fees and IB scholarship	Students who wish to take IB exams must have IB registration fee paid by Spring Break of sophomore year. These students must have full IB exam fees paid by Oct. 1 of senior year. The IB Organization will charge an extra fee to students who pay for exams after this deadline. If a student needs financial assistance to pay for IB exams , a scholarship is available through the CCPS Foundation and Unser Family. Scholarship application forms are available on Managebac and are due before Spring Break of junior year.
8. Managebac fee	All students at CCPS must pay a Managebac and Turnitin fee by Spring Break of sophomore year. Managebac will be used to document Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), which is a graduation requirement. Turnitin is a plagiarism check.
9. HL class/SL exam	Students may take an HL course but sit for the SL exam. Students may not take an SL course and sit for the HL exam.
10. SBA	All students in 11 th grade must pass all NM Standards Based Assessments (SBA) in order to be eligible to graduate.
11. EE, CAS Expectations (Diploma students)	To maintain the Diploma path, students must complete a draft of the Extended Essay by the first day of school their senior year. Diploma students must also provide evidence of completion of 75 hours of CAS by the same deadline.
12. ACT and SAT	All students should sign up to take the ACT and SAT during the junior year. This gives the student a chance to retake an exam in the summer before senior year or at the beginning of senior year. It is the students' responsibility to send SAT and ACT scores to colleges.

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13. AP exams	Students may pay for and take AP exams as long as they do not conflict with IB exams. Students who are taking IB HL exams may take the AP exam in this subject at no extra cost (as long as there is no conflict with an IB exam). Students who are taking IB SL exams must pay for AP exams in those subjects.
14. CCPS grade vs IB exam grade	Students will receive a grade for each course taken at CCPS. These grades will be given on an A-F scale. The mock exam that students take at the end of junior year will count for 20% of the student's overall semester grade, which will appear on the CCPS transcript and play into the GPA. For 12 th grade students, IB exam grades are not finalized until the July following the exams, and therefore will not go onto a student's final transcript. IB exam grades are not reflected in the final course grade at CCPS and therefore do not count toward student GPAs.

Basic Timeline:

Sophomore Year: February/March/April:

Meet the IB Teachers and hear about all IB course offerings

Students visit IB classes

Turn in IB Application and IB Registration/Managebac fees receipt

Meet with Mrs. Geerts and/or Mrs. Lowe if a transcript review is needed, then sign up for IB courses

Junior Year

First Semester:

Experience life as an IB student

Determine whether SL/HL courses are appropriate given students' passions, skills; schedule changes as needed

Second Semester:

Decide path to graduation: Honors Graduate or IB Diploma Graduate

IB Exam Scholarship Application due by Spring Break

Senior Year:

September:

Final IB declaration for any students taking IB exams, registration and payment (decisions about SL/HL and exams finalized)