

## Senior Studies at Santa Sabina College

A successful Senior Study experience at Santa Sabina College is not a solo journey. Indeed, teachers and parents work together as partners to provide the best possible environment in which students will thrive.

Whether a student chooses the Higher School Certificate or the International Baccalaureate Diploma, she is studying within a Catholic Dominican context. This means that she is a truth-seeker in her academic and wider life. The motto of Veritas will challenge her to think for herself, to engage in respectful debates with those who think differently, and she will reflect on all that she encounters as a Senior Student.

She will be a discerning scholar with creative and critical thinking skills that have been developed over the earlier years at the College. She will live out the four Dominican Pillars of prayer, study, community and service, so that her education is a holistic one. As well as study, she will actively participate in the co-curricular life of the College; she will contribute to her "House" and wider College community through leadership, and role modelling for younger students. She will employ her knowledge in the pursuit of social justice, and not just for personal gain. She will take up service opportunities within and beyond the College. She will participate in the prayer and liturgical dimension of a Dominican education.

She will respect the inherent dignity of all those who walk with her. She is confident that she belongs to the College community. She is and always will be a Santa girl.

### HSC or IB?

Both the HSC and the IB are excellent credentials. Both programs lead to university entry, and students from either program may apply for an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) based on the results earned in their final Examinations. Both the HSC and the IB use "standards referencing" – that is, awarding marks based on the degree to which candidates can demonstrate mastery of defined, explicit standards.

### What is an IB education?

The International Baccalaureate aims to inspire a love of learning throughout life that is marked by enthusiasm and empathy. The IB aspires to help schools develop well-rounded students who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex and unpredictable situations.

Growing  
**SCHOLARS**

## Mission Statement

**Santa Sabina College, a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition, educates students to achieve personal excellence, to act with justice and compassion, and to embrace the future with an optimistic global vision.**

We fulfil our Mission by living the Dominican Pillars of:

- ▶ PRAYER
- ▶ STUDY
- ▶ COMMUNITY
- ▶ SERVICE



## Learning Principles

Inquiry is at the heart of a Dominican Education. We believe the best learning environments empower students to ask challenging questions, undertake sustained investigations, respect different views, and reflect on their learning. The following principles guide our practice from P-12.

### Growth Mindset

Learners have the capacity to grow and improve in an environment that focuses on learning goals, personal best, and mastery rather than comparative performance only.

### Personalised learning

Learners have diverse needs and backgrounds. In order to build deep understanding, learners need to connect prior knowledge and experiences with new knowledge in an environment where they are known and respected.

### Complexity and challenge

Learners need developmentally appropriate complexity and challenge to achieve personal excellence.

### Feedback and reflection

Learners need regular, constructive and timely feedback. They also need opportunities to reflect so that they can plan and monitor their own learning, and improve their performance.

### Collaboration and inquiry

Learners thrive in a collaborative culture of inquiry that promotes dialogue, debate, problem-solving and divergent thinking.

## Senior Studies



**IB Diploma  
& HSC**



**Santa Sabina College**



## IB mission statement

*"The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."*

## IB Diploma Programme Curriculum

There are three core requirements that are central to the IB Diploma Programme:

- ▶ The Extended Essay – students complete a 4,000 word essay in a discipline of their choice, on a topic developed between the student and supervisor.
- ▶ Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) – students are encouraged to take risks, challenge themselves, think and act for others. As such, CAS aligns with the values of Santa Sabina College.
- ▶ Theory of Knowledge (TOK) – designed to develop a student's critical thinking and analytical skills. It is not so much a subject as a way of thinking that is reflected in every subject of the IB Diploma.



## How the IBDP is assessed

Students select one subject from each of five different discipline areas and a sixth may be an arts discipline or another subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4. This ensures a breadth of experience in languages, humanities, sciences and mathematics, a key feature of the Diploma.

- ▶ Three subjects are studied at the Higher Level (HL) each representing 240 hours over two years
- ▶ The remaining three subjects are studied at Standard Level (SL) each representing 150 hours over two years

## Key Benefits of the IB Diploma Programme

- ▶ Many students in Year 10 are uncertain about their vocational or career options. Despite a demonstrated capacity, girls still under-enrol in maths and sciences in senior years, and this can limit their tertiary choices. The IB Diploma requirement that students study subjects in each domain of the curriculum keeps students' options open.
- ▶ The core components of the IB Diploma Programme encourage students to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasising the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.
- ▶ IB Diploma teachers must participate in a wider variety of professional development opportunities with teachers from across the globe.
- ▶ The curriculum of the IB Diploma Programme has a genuinely international perspective in every subject.
- ▶ IB World Schools must undergo an exhaustive authorisation process which includes a study of the school's resources, alignment of school mission with that of the IB, and demonstrated evidence of teacher professional learning.

## The IB Learner Profile

All IB learners strive to be: Principled, Inquirers, Thinkers, Open-Minded, Knowledgeable, Balanced, Communicators, Risk-Takers, Caring and Reflective.

## IB Diploma Subjects offered at Santa Sabina College 2018-2019

	Subjects	Level
<b>Group 1</b>	English A1	HL & SL
<b>Group 2</b>	Italian B	HL & SL
	French ab initio	SL
<b>Group 3</b>	Economics	HL & SL
	History Route 2 (20th Century World History)	HL & SL
	Philosophy	HL & SL
<b>Group 4</b>	Biology	HL & SL
	Chemistry	HL & SL
<b>Group 5</b>	Mathematics	SL
	Mathematical Studies	SL
<b>Group 6</b>	Music	HL & SL

\* These subjects may change for 2019-2020 depending on interest.

## The NSW Higher School Certificate

*"The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is the highest educational award in New South Wales schools. It is awarded to students who successfully complete Years 11 and 12 in New South Wales. The HSC is an internationally recognised credential that provides a foundation for students entering tertiary study, vocational training or employment."* (www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc).

## Why might a student prefer the HSC?

The HSC is the local credential, comparatively well understood by the community, parents and employers. Santa Sabina College has a history of strong academic success in the HSC, and offers a wide choice of subjects to choose from. As a very broad credential, the HSC also caters for those who are not destined for university and would prefer to undertake some vocational subjects.

The HSC has very limited rules requiring breadth of subject choice, and the only compulsory subject is English. This means that students can elect to specialise in particular areas, for example, studying up to four units of Mathematics or four units of English through extension courses. Other subjects that offer extension courses are History, Music and Languages. Students particularly interested in the Sciences can select up to three different Science subjects. It is possible to present as few as four subjects, taken at appropriate level, for the HSC.

The HSC includes a 50% Assessment component in each subject, where students gain marks for tasks undertaken throughout Year 12. The fact that the Examinations are only worth 50% of the final result can help reduce the stress associated with those major examinations. The delivery of the HSC courses at SSC can accommodate acceleration and pathways options for students.

## Rules for Eligibility for the Higher School Certificate and the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

### Year 11 Preliminary HSC

Students must undertake at least 12 units of study.

This must include at least two units of English.

It must include at least four subjects.

No more than three Sciences may be used to meet these requirements.

### Year 12 HSC

Students must undertake at least 10 units of Board Developed courses.

This must include at least two units of English. It must include at least four subjects. For the purposes of meeting the above requirements, no more than three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science) may be included.

For the purposes of achieving an ATAR, only one VET course may be included in the 10 units that contribute to the ATAR.