

Years 11 and 12 Academic Program



IB Diploma
& HSC



Santa Sabina College



Message from the College Principal

The choices you make for your senior years will help to shape your future career aspirations, but they are also important in helping you to stay motivated to achieve success in your studies. The reason your choices will help to motivate you is because if you choose a course and subjects that you enjoy, then you are more likely to be interested in learning and you are more likely to do well. You should also choose subjects that challenge you to strive higher. At Santa Sabina, you have the choice of the Higher School Certificate and the International Baccalaureate Diploma for your senior studies.

Both paths are academically rigorous and valued by Australian universities and employers. Both demand hard work and intellectual curiosity, and neither is easier or more difficult. Neither is aimed particularly at strong or weak students. They are different approaches to secondary education and each appeal to different students for a variety of reasons.

Whether choosing the IB or the HSC, girls should carefully consider both options and discuss them with their teachers and parents.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme offers an internationally recognised broad, balanced and socially responsible education, preparing students for university and for life. It consists of languages, sciences, humanities, arts, and a core which includes Theory of Knowledge, the extended essay (an independent research project) and the expectation they will participate in CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service). The IB is for the student who wants to keep her options open and experience the full spectrum of learning. The IB's standards are among the world's highest and its graduates are prepared to study the full range of subjects at Australian and overseas universities. Students have two years of formative assessment in preparation for external exams at the end of Year 12. Students who are motivated and interested in a wide range of subjects with a global outlook would enjoy this challenge.

The HSC is the highest credential in NSW secondary education and is a nationally and internationally recognised choice for students who know exactly what they want (and what they do not want) to study. It gives them the opportunity to choose specific subjects for specialised investigation. The Year 11 Preliminary course sets the foundations while HSC results are drawn only from Year 12 assessments and final examinations. While the HSC allows for a specialised course of study, it also allows for a broad and balanced choice of subjects similar to those on offer with the IB but there is no compulsion to choose from particular subject groups, except English, to make up the pattern of study.





The HSC can include the study of additional extension courses in subjects of expertise – for example, English, Maths, Science, Languages and Music. These extension courses are challenging, and provide the opportunity for students to undertake more complex study in these subjects. We encourage you to try extension courses particularly for Year 11 if you have the aptitude and interest as we have seen these extension courses boost performance and results.

In both courses, you will be guided by highly qualified teachers. You will also be supported by your teachers, Heads of Department, Heads of House and the entire Santa Sabina community to help you explore and enjoy these advanced areas of study. The important thing to remember is that you might change your mind about your career choice as you move through Years 11 and 12 – many students change their minds even when they commence their university courses, and that's OK – there are always different pathways open to us in life that can help us to change course. Right now, you need to make the best decision for you at this point in time knowing that life is unpredictable and change is a constant on which we can rely. So talk to your teachers, talk to older girls who are completing their senior studies, gather as much information as possible – from universities and industry – and seek out work experience opportunities so that the decision you make will be the most informed decision for you at this point in time.

Paulina Skerman
College Principal

We will **SHAKE**
THE WORLD

HSC or IB Diploma?

Both the Higher School Certificate and the International Baccalaureate Diploma 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.

We understand that student academic needs are diverse, and therefore profiling is critical in making astute choices of subjects, courses and pathways. We assist our students through offering flexible progression, the options of HSC or IBDP, accelerated courses, online study options and tailored mentoring. We have high expectations of our senior students with approximately 40% of Years 11 and 12 students studying at Extension level and 98% of the HSC and IBDP candidature accepting tertiary education places.

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.



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

As well as the study of six subjects 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.

IB Diploma Subjects offered (dependent on student interest)

	Subjects	Level
Group 1	English Language and Literature	HL & SL
Group 2	Italian B	SL
	French beginners	SL
	Spanish beginners*	SL
	Mandarin beginners*	SL
Group 3	Geography	HL & SL
	History	HL & SL
	Philosophy	HL & SL
	Economics	HL & SL
	Psychology	HL & SL
	Global Politics	HL & SL
Group 4	Biology	HL & SL
	Chemistry	HL & SL
	Physics	HL & SL
	Sports, Exercise & Health Science	HL & SL
	Design & Technology	HL & SL
Group 5	Mathematics Analysis & Approaches	HL & SL
	Mathematics Applications & Interpretation	HL & SL
Group 6	Music	HL & SL
	Visual Art	HL & SL

* These subjects are offered online.



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.
- ▶ It is an international qualification.
- ▶ Many students graduating from the IB Diploma find that it enhances their opportunities at tertiary institutions.
- ▶ The IBDP mark is not subject to scaling or ranking.
- ▶ 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.



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. Students must study at least four different subjects to be eligible 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 Santa Sabina College can accommodate acceleration and pathways options for students.

HSC Courses of Study offered (dependent on student interest)

Religious Education

Studies of Religion I and II

Language and Literature

English Advanced

English Standard

English Extension 1

English Extension 2

Mathematics

Mathematics Advanced

Mathematics Standard

Mathematics Extension 1

Mathematics Extension 2

Sciences

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Science Extension

Languages

French Beginners

French Continuers

Italian Beginners

Italian Continuers

Japanese

Humanities

Ancient History

Business Studies

Economics

History Extension

Geography

Legal Studies

Modern History

TAS

Design & Technology

Food Technology

Information Processes & Technology

Textiles & Design

Creative Arts

Drama

Music 1

Music 2

Music Extension

Visual Arts

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education



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.

These must include at least two units of English. They 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.

Years 11 and 12 Academic Program – frequently asked questions

Q: How many Santa Sabina students typically study each program?

A: In Year 12 2020 there are 13 students enrolled in the IBDP and 106 students in the HSC. In 2019 our IB graduates' average score was 33.75 (ATAR equivalent 91) which greatly exceeds the global average of 28.5 (ATAR equivalent 80). For our HSC results our median ATAR result was 88.

Q: Can students change their subject choices part-way through?

A: HSC and IBDP students are able to make changes to their subject choices but would need to do so as early as possible and give consideration to any additional pressure this decision would make on their study commitments. Both are two-year courses, with the most vital examinations held at the end of Year 12.

Q: Can an IBDP student switch to the HSC after a year, if they decide the Diploma is not suitable for them?

A: Yes, it is possible but there needs to be a good reason.

Q: Are students eligible for academic awards?

A: There are awards for excellence in both programs given at our annual Speech Night event.

Q: Is the study of religion compulsory at Santa Sabina?

A: Yes, students study either Studies of Religion I or II in the HSC. IBDP students have one 90-minute lesson per fortnight in the subject Studies in Catholic Thought.



For further information
about the Years 11 and 12 Academic Program please contact
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