

Frequently Asked Questions about the Cambridge Program

1. **What is AICE?**

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (**AICE**) is an international diploma. Students can earn the AICE diploma via an advanced academic curriculum and assessment program written and administered by a non-profit department – Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) – of the University of Cambridge in England. AICE program courses and examinations may be offered during grades 11 and 12 in schools worldwide registered as CIE Centers. There is an optional pre-AICE, or International General Certificate of Secondary Education (**IGCSE**), curriculum and assessment program available for grades 9 and 10 with most subjects available at two levels (extended and core) 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.”

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

AICE not only prepares students to get into a university with opportunities for college credit, but it also provides them with the skills required to be successful once there. A study done 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 qualifications are recognized and accepted by over 450 universities in the United States, including all Ivy League universities, MIT and Stanford.

3. **What is the difference between an AS and an A Level exam?**

Advanced (A) Level syllabuses and exams cover approximately two years of college-level curriculum in a subject. The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level syllabus and exam cover the first year of the two-year Advanced (A) Level curriculum.

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

Students must earn six credits within a thirteen 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 three subject groups: *Mathematics & Sciences*, *Languages*, and *Arts & Humanities*. 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 General Certificate of Education (GCE) subject certificates for AS and A Level examinations passed. Colleges award credit on a subject-by-subject basis according to grades earned on individual exams passed.

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

Passing grades available on AICE exams range from A to E with A being the highest. Performance of students below the threshold of a CIE grade of E receives a grade of U, ungraded, which is not considered passing. 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?

Grades in Cambridge classes will use the United States grading system and will reflect anticipated assessment results on IGCSE and AS or A Level examinations.

8. Do universities give college credits for AICE exams passed?

Yes. CIE publishes a list of universities that have provided written statements of their AICE recognition policies on their website.

(Use this website address: <http://recognition.cie.org.uk/SearchRecognitions.aspx> and then enter your search criteria.)

The following video provides comments by admissions officers of respected universities throughout the United States: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVi2NPhrkQU>