

**Cambridge International Examinations  
Brentsville District High School  
Frequently Asked Questions**



**1. What is AICE?**

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an international diploma that students can earn via an advanced academic curriculum and assessment program written and administered by a non-profit department (CIE) of the University of Cambridge in England. AICE program courses and examinations may be offered during grades 10, 11 and 12 in schools worldwide registered as CIE Centres. 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.

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

AICE not only prepares students to get into a university with up to 30 hours of 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 Virginia had an average end of the 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.

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

Learners must pass a combination of Cambridge International AS and A Level exams, with at least one course coming from each of three subject groups, as well as the core component, Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research.

**4. What is the difference between AS and A Level exams?**

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 covers the first year of the two-year A Level curriculum. An AS Level exam counts for one credit towards the AICE Diploma. The A Level exam counts for two credits.

**5. Do students have 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 examinations passed. Parents and students are

encouraged to research how many credits their chosen college may award them based on their performance on AS and A level examinations at <http://recognition.cie.org.uk>.

### **6. How do 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 as passing. An AICE program study found that a CIE grade of E most closely correlated with an Advanced Placement exam grade of 3 and a US grade of C.

### **7. Do many universities give college credits for AICE exams passed?**

Yes. University of Cambridge International Examinations publishes a list on their website (go to <http://recognition.cie.org.uk>) of US universities that have provided written statements of their AICE (which includes AS and A Levels) recognition policy. If a university admissions counselor is unfamiliar with AICE, it is suggested you ask to speak to the international admissions counselor. All public universities and community colleges in Virginia are required by state law to award college credit for AICE exams passed commensurate to those awarded for similar performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams.