

International Baccalaureate Exam Regulations for Students Matriculating in Fall 2025

Bowdoin Department/Program (Subject Code)	International Baccalaureate Exam (Higher Level Only)	Minimum IB Score	General Credit	Potential for Major/Minor Credit	Equivalent Course	* Additional Information
Chemistry (CHEM)	Chemistry	5	1*	Yes*	n/a	*Must complete one of the following courses with a minimum grade of C-: CHEM 2050, <i>Environmental Chemistry</i> , CHEM 2100, <i>Chemical Analysis</i> , CHEM 2250, <i>Organic Chemistry I</i> , CHEM 2400, <i>Inorganic Chemistry</i> , CHEM 2510, <i>Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics</i> , or CHEM 2520, <i>Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy</i> . Counts toward major credit; does not count to minor credit. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take CHEM 1091, <i>Introductory Chemistry and Quantitative Reasoning I</i> , CHEM 1092, <i>Introductory Chemistry and Quantitative Reasoning II</i> , CHEM 1101, <i>Introductory Chemistry I</i> , CHEM 1102, <i>Introductory Chemistry II</i> , or CHEM 1109, <i>General Chemistry</i> . Regardless of IB score, all students must take the placement exam.
Economics (ECON)	Economics	6	1*	No	ECON 1101 & ECON 1102	*Eligible for placement into courses requiring either ECON 1101, <i>Principles of Microeconomics</i> , and/or ECON 1102, <i>Principles of Macroeconomics</i> , and receive 1 general credit. No major/minor credit. No credit if student chooses to take ECON 1050, <i>Introductory Microeconomics and Quantitative Reasoning</i> , ECON 1101, or ECON 1102.
English (ENGL)	English	6	1*	No	n/a	*Must complete an English course, not including ENGL 1060, <i>English Composition</i> , ENGL 1070, <i>The Art of Rhetoric and Composition</i> , or creative writing courses (ENGL 1200-1299 and ENGL 2850-2899) with a minimum grade of B- to receive the general credit. No major/minor credit.
History (HIST)	History	5	1*	No	n/a	*Must complete a HIST 2000 level course or higher with a minimum grade of B. No major/minor credit. If a student has scores for more than one exam, only 1 total credit will be awarded.
Music (MUS)	Music Theory	6	1*	Yes*	MUS 1401	*Students who received IB scores of 6 or higher on the Music Theory IB examination should take the music placement exam. Placement in MUS 2403, <i>Songwriting and Song Analysis</i> , results in one credit that is the equivalent of MUS 1401, <i>Introduction to Music Theory</i> . If a student earns a grade of C- or higher in MUS 2403, this credit can count toward the major. Placement into MUS 1401 or MUS 1051, <i>Fundamentals of Music</i> , results in no credit.
Neuroscience (NEUR)	Chemistry; Psychology	5	0	Yes*	n/a	*Majors who earn a general credit for their IB chemistry scores based on the department of chemistry's requirements, see above, may use that general credit to fulfill the introductory chemistry requirement of the neuroscience major and do not need to take an additional course to replace it. *Majors who earn placement into courses requiring PSYC 1101, <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> , as the prerequisite, based on the department of psychology's requirements, see below, must take a higher level course in psychology to replace the PSYC 1101 requirement of the neuroscience major.
Physics and Astronomy (PHYS)	Physics without Optics	6	1*	Yes*	PHYS 1130	*Must complete PHYS 1140, <i>Introductory Physics II</i> , with a minimum grade of C- (not taken Credit/D/Fail). Counts toward major; majors are exempt from taking PHYS 1130, <i>Introductory Physics I</i> , and do not need to take an additional course to replace PHYS 1130. Minors are also exempt from taking PHYS 1130, but must take at least four Bowdoin Physics courses. In order to receive IB credit, students are strongly encouraged to complete the required course in their junior year or prior.
	Physics with Optics	6	1*	Yes*	PHYS 1130	*Must complete PHYS 1140, <i>Introductory Physics II</i> , or PHYS 2130, <i>Electrical Fields and Circuits</i> , with a minimum grade of C- (not taken Credit/D/Fail). No credit will be given for students who elect to take PHYS 1130, <i>Introductory Physics I</i> . Counts toward major; majors are exempt from taking PHYS 1130, <i>Introductory Physics I</i> , and do not need to take additional courses to replace PHYS 1130. Minors are also exempt from taking PHYS 1130, but must take at least four Bowdoin Physics courses. In order to receive IB credit, students are strongly encouraged to complete the required course in their junior year or prior.
Psychology (PSYC)	Psychology	5	0	No	PSYC 1101	No major/minor credit; students are exempt from taking PSYC 1101, <i>Introduction to Psychology</i> , but must take an additional course to replace PSYC 1101.
Romance Languages and Literatures: Francophone Studies (FRS)	French	6	1*	No	n/a	*Must complete FRS 2305, <i>Advanced French through Film</i> , or higher level FRS course with a minimum grade of B-. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than FRS 2305. Regardless of IB score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit.
Romance Languages and Literatures: Hispanic Studies (HISP)	Spanish	6	1*	No	n/a	*Must complete HISP 2305, <i>Spanish Language, Cultures, and Politics</i> , or higher level HISP course with a minimum grade of B-. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than HISP 2305. Regardless of IB score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit.
Romance Languages and Literatures: Italian Studies (ITAL)	Italian	6	1*	No	n/a	*Must complete ITAL 2305, <i>Advanced Italian I</i> , or higher level ITAL course with a minimum grade of B-. Credit will not be given if a student places into, or elects to take, a course lower than ITAL 2305. Regardless of IB score, all students must take the placement exam. No major/minor credit.

IB Exams for which students should consult with the department regarding credit.	IB Exams used ONLY for course placement (no academic credit possible).
<i>Anthropology</i>	<i>Biology</i>
<i>German</i>	<i>Chinese</i>
<i>Latin (Classics)</i>	<i>Computer Science</i>
<i>Visual Arts</i>	<i>Japanese</i>
	<i>Mathematics</i>

[These guidelines are for Bowdoin students matriculating in the fall 2026 semester only. More details can be found in the Bowdoin College Catalogue and Academic Handbook under each respective academic department/program.](#)

[Students who matriculated prior to fall 2026 should follow the guidelines established in the academic year they matriculated. Visit the Archive section of the Catalogue for past versions.](#)

Questions can be directed to registrar@bowdoin.edu or directly to the academic department/program.

In order to receive credit for international baccalaureate work, students must have their scores officially reported to the Office of the Registrar by the end of their sophomore year Bowdoin.