

Frequently Asked Questions about the Cambridge Program

1. *What is the difference between IGCSE, AS, and A Level courses and exams?*

Courses in Juanita High School's Cambridge Program are offered at two levels: Cambridge Secondary and Cambridge Advanced. Students enrolled in courses at the Cambridge Secondary level are learning content in courses and taking examinations aligned to the International General Certification of Secondary Education (IGCSE) standards. These courses lay the foundation for courses in the Cambridge Advanced Level of study. While students may earn content level IGCSE certificates, students will not earn an IGCSE diploma as Juanita High School focus is the AICE diploma. Students will complete coursework aligned to IGCSE standards and sit for examinations in English Language, History, Combined Science, and Physics.

Students enrolled in Cambridge Advanced level courses are working to complete coursework and sit for examinations aligned to the AS- and/or A-level standards. Advanced Level or A-level standards cover approximately two years of college-level curriculum in a subject. The Advanced Subsidiary Level or AS-level standards cover the first year of the two-year Advanced (A) Level curriculum. In the Juanita High School Cambridge Program, students will complete AS- and/or A-Level classes and sit for examinations in Biology, Chemistry, English Language, Global Perspectives and Research, History, Literature in English, and Mathematics.

2. *What is AICE?*

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (**AICE**) is an international diploma awarded by the University of Cambridge in England, through Cambridge Assessment International Education, to students who earn the necessary credits. Students can earn the AICE diploma by taking Juanita High School classes aligned to Cambridge Assessment International Education's advanced academic syllabi and sitting for the assessments. The Cambridge Program at Juanita High School, a registered Cambridge International center, offers courses needed to earn the AICE diploma in grades 9 – 12. In some subjects, students will take courses during grades 9 and 10 aligned to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (**IGCSE or Pre-AICE**) in order to prepare for classes aligned to the AICE international diploma. Classes aligned to the IGCSE are 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."

3. *What are the benefits of AICE?*

Students who earn an AICE diploma, in any country, have demonstrated their knowledge of the rigorous Cambridge International's standards. All students, regardless of country of origin, are demonstrating their knowledge of the same standards by taking the same tests.

The standards utilized by courses within the AICE framework provide the rigorous academic experience required for admittance to competitive universities and the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in this environment. A study conducted 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.

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Cambridge International qualifications (examination scores) are recognized and accepted by over 700 universities in the United States, including all Ivy League universities, MIT, and Stanford.

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

Students must earn seven credits within a twenty-five 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 four subject groups: *Mathematics & Sciences, Languages, Arts & Humanities, and Global Perspectives*. 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 a General Certificate of Education (GCE) for passing AS- and A- Level subject examinations. Colleges and universities award credit on a subject-by-subject basis according to the grades earned on individual examinations.

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

Passing grades available on A-Level exams range from A* to E with A* being the highest. Students who do not demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills on these examinations earn a grade of U (not passing/not meeting standard). The highest grade possible on AS-Level examinations is an A. A grade of A* may not be earned on these examinations.

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?*

Students enrolled in Cambridge classes will earn grades on the United States grading system. Student grades will reflect their progress in meeting the Cambridge International standards. Cambridge courses are designated with a code of K on transcripts. The Cambridge assessment grade is not included with the transcript grade.

8. *How will enrolling in Cambridge classes affect my GPA?*

Cambridge courses are designed for students who desire an academic challenge beyond what is found in a comprehensive high school. A student's grade is determined by how well he/she meets the international standards for each course.

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9. Do colleges and universities give credits for the AICE examinations students pass?

Yes. Cambridge International publishes a list of universities that have stated policies on recognizing AICE examination scores. To access this list of colleges and universities, visit:

<http://recognition.cambridgeinternational.org/SearchRecognitions.aspx> and enter your search criteria.

Admissions officers of respected universities throughout the United States offer their perspectives on the AICE diploma as well as the CIE standards in this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVi2NPhrkQU>

[Juanita Cambridge graduates and current University of Washington students are featured in “Why University of Washington is interested in Cambridge students” video:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6byy2a9NII)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6byy2a9NII>

Cambridge Outlook, “Preparing for University Success”

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/d93da72f#/d93da72f/1>

10. How many years of a World Language do Cambridge students need to take?

Cambridge students need to successfully complete three years of one World Language. Cambridge students have the choice of enrolling in French, Japanese, or Spanish. A student may continue past three years of language study or choose another elective instead.

11. What costs are associated with the Cambridge Program?

Students are required to take the Cambridge examinations associated with their courses. The approximate fees for the examinations in each level for June 2021 are as follows:

IGCSE - \$70

AS Level - \$105 (Global Perspectives is \$184)

A Level - \$170

Mailing Costs - \$25

Other costs throughout the program will vary, but will likely include lab, workbook, and field trip fees.

12. Do Cambridge students have time in their days to include extra-curricular activities?

Our Cambridge students are actively involved at Juanita High School. Many students participate in sports, band, orchestra, choir, and drama. Some of the clubs that students join are Honor Society, DECA, Technology-Student Association, HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Key Club, Model United Nations, Interact Club, ASB, literary magazine, and the school newspaper. Students have learned the art of time management by balancing their academic requirements with their activity schedule.

13. What are the high school graduation requirements?

Students in the Class of 2025 must earn the following credits to graduate:

English – 4 credits

Science – 3 credits

Fine Arts – 2 credits

Health - .5 credits

World Language – 2 credits

Social Studies – 3 credits

Mathematics – 3 credits

Physical Education – 1.5 credits

Occupational Education – 1 credit

Electives – 4 credits

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14. *I would like to participate in the performing arts program at Juanita High School. I am concerned that I won't be able to fit in all of the graduation requirements into my schedule. What are my options?*

With the institution of the 7-period day, most students have time to take the required courses during the school day. Please talk with your school counselor if you have questions about your schedule.

15. *I would like to participate in sports, but I don't live in the Juanita attendance area. May I participate for my "home" school?*

No. As a Cambridge student, you are attending Juanita High School full-time. Per WIAA rules, you are only eligible to participate for Juanita High School.

16. *Where do the Cambridge students take their classes at Juanita High School?*

Cambridge students are members of Juanita High School and are not housed in a separate area on the campus. Students will go to their instructors' classrooms. Only Cambridge students are in Cambridge courses.

17. *What summer assignments do the students need to complete?*

During the summer of 2021, the students will need to complete an assignment in each core Cambridge course. There is a book to read in English, a one page paper to write for History, introductory activity for first unit in Combined Science, and a review of algebraic concepts for Mathematics. The assignments will be given to the students during the Class of 2025 meeting in May.

18. *Does the school district provide transportation for Cambridge students who do not live in the Juanita attendance area?*

No. Transportation to Juanita High School is the responsibility of the family. Many families make carpool arrangements at the May meeting.

19. *My student does not live in the Juanita High School attendance area. If he/she does not want to continue with the Cambridge courses, can he/she stay enrolled at Juanita High School?*

No. A student would need to enroll at their "home" high school if they choose to leave the Cambridge Program.

20. *We will need to move out of the Lake Washington School District. Can my student continue with his/her Cambridge studies at Juanita High School?*

No. Only students who live within the Lake Washington School District boundaries can attend the Cambridge Program at Juanita High School.

21. *What colleges and universities have accepted Juanita High School Cambridge graduates?*

Starting with our inaugural Class of 2014, our students have been accepted to the following institutions: Aberystwyth University, Academy of Art University, Adelphi University, American University, Asuza Pacific University, Babson College, Bard College, Barnard College, Baylor University, Bellevue College, Belmont University, Bentley University, Berklee College of Music, Biola University, Bocconi University, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Brigham Young University, Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, California Institute of Technology, California Lutheran University, California Northstate University, California Polytechnic State University, Calvin College, Campbell University, Carleton College, Carnegie Mellon



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University, Carroll College, Case Western Reserve University, Central Washington University, Chapman University, City College of New York, City University of New York (Brooklyn, Lehman), Clark University, Clarkson University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Colby College, College of William and Mary, Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Columbia College, Columbia University, Concordia University, Connecticut College, Davidson College, Dartmouth College, DePaul University, DePauw University, Digipen Institute of Technology, Drew University, Drexel University, Duke University, Durham University, Eastern Washington University, Eastman School of Music, Eckerd College, Elon University, Emerson College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emory University, Evergreen State College, Fordham University, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gettysburg College, Gonzaga University, Grand Canyon University, Grinnell College, Harvard University, Harvey Mudd College, Hawaii Pacific University, Highpoint University, Hofstra University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hult International Business School, Humboldt State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Indiana University, Ithaca College, Johns Hopkins University, Kalamazoo College, Kenyon College, Knox College, Lafayette College, Lawrence University, Lehigh University, Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University – Chicago, Marquette University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Menlo College, Methodist University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Michigan Technological University, Michigan State University, Middlebury College, Montana State University, Moore College of Art and Design, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, North Carolina State University, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Northern Arizona University, Occidental College, The Ohio State University, Oregon State University, Oxford Brookes University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific University, Parsons School of Design, Pennsylvania State University, Pitzer College, Point Loma Nazarene University, Pomona College, Portland State University, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Purdue University, Queen’s College – London, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Renton Technical College, Rhode Island School of Design, Rice University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rocky Mountain College, Rollins College, Roosevelt University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, St. Louis University-Madrid, St. Martin’s University, St. Norbert College, San Diego State University, Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, School of Art Institute of Chicago, St. John’s University – New York, St. Lawrence University, St. Olaf College, Savannah College of Arts and Design, Stanford University, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, Sewanee: The University of the South, Smith College, Southern Oregon University, State University of New York- Stony Brook, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Texas State University, Trinity University, Tufts University, United States Naval Academy, University of Alabama, University of Alberta, University of Arizona, University of Auckland, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of California (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz), University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Essex, University of Evansville, University of Exeter, University of Florida, University of Glasgow, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, University of Maine, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina, University of Northern Colorado, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, University of Ottawa, University of Pittsburgh, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of the Pacific, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of Richmond, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, University of Southern California, University of Toronto, University of Utah, University of Vermont, University of Victoria, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin, University of York, Utah State University, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, Washington College, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis, Watson Institute, Wellesley College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University, Western Washington University, Westminster College, Whitman College, Whitworth University, The College of Wooster, Willamette University, and Yale University.

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22. *Where can I find more information regarding the Cambridge AICE Program?*

The Cambridge Assessment International Education website has extensive information regarding syllabi, sample examinations, and university recognition.

The website is: www.cambridgeinternational.org. Select Cambridge for Parents and Students. (Juanita High School video is featured in the “In Class” section.)

Featured Juanita Cambridge graduates:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/usa/us-student-voices/>

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/alumni/all-student-stories/maggie-jiang/>

23. *How has online learning affected the Cambridge courses?*

The top priorities for the Lake Washington School District, Juanita High School, and Cambridge International is student health and safety. We must follow the guidelines of our district and of OSPI.

Our teachers are following the Cambridge syllabus for their subject area and are providing students with quality academic experiences that are the hallmark of Cambridge standards. Students are expected to be engaged and contributing learners.

Classes are scheduled twice a week, but teachers provide support meetings during asynchronous learning time. Since students are not meeting face-to-face, collaborations and discussions during class provide opportunities for peer connection.

24. *How will you arrange for Cambridge assessments if school is closed?*

Cambridge International has experience with pandemics. Newton did some of his best work in developing Calculus and theories of physics while the University of Cambridge was shuttered from the smallpox plague. Last Spring, when it became apparent that sitting for exams would not be possible, an alternative plan for evaluating student progress was approved through the British Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation). Our students earned credit through coursework submission. Cambridge’s North American team confirmed that our universities would accept the process and recognize the awarded scores for both credit and admission as in the past.

25. *If I still have questions after reading through these documents, who can I contact?*

Please feel free to contact Kelly Clapp (kclapp@lwsd.org), Principal or Meg Lewis (mlewis@lwsd.org), Cambridge Coordinator.