



US University AICE FAQs

1. What is Cambridge AICE Diploma?

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an advanced academic pre-university curriculum with standardized examinations which can lead to a diploma. The Cambridge International examinations taken are General Certificate of Education (GCE) AS and A Levels. AICE courses and examinations are typically offered during grades 11 and 12 in schools approved as Cambridge International Examination (CIE) Centers. All students taking AICE courses are expected to take the AICE examinations. AICE is designed to prepare students well for study at selective universities.



2. What is Cambridge IGCSE?

The Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), curriculum and assessment program is available for grades 9 and 10. IGCSE courses provide knowledge and prerequisite skills for participation in the AICE Diploma. IGCSE courses and the AICE Diploma together provide a comprehensive four year program of study and may be referred to in some areas of the USA as the "Cambridge Program."

3. What is required to earn a Camb AICE Diploma?

There are three subject area groups: Mathematics & Sciences, Languages (Foreign and First) and Arts & Humanities. Students must pass subject examinations worth a total of six credits to include at least one

from each subject area group. Full (one) credit subject examinations are available after one year of study (AS Level). Double (two) credit subject examinations are available after two years of study (A Level).

4. How does the Research Project complement or replace a one credit Diploma requirement?

A Research Project option is available in addition to subject examinations. For one of the six required credits, students can substitute two research projects based on topics from two different examined subjects – each around 3000 words in length. Students must take the two subject examinations from which the research topics are selected.

5. Can Cambridge Pre-U examinations be used towards an AICE Diploma?

The Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report examination can count as two credits toward the award of an AICE Diploma. The first year course, Global Perspectives, encourages students to explore real-world challenges that will face them as young people in the modern world – wherever they may live and work. During the second year, students will select a topic, develop a research question and write a Independent Research Report - a single piece of extended writing (between 4500 and 5000 words) in the form of a dissertation or a report based on an investigation or field study.

6. How is the Cambridge AICE Diploma awarded?

The AICE Diploma is awarded at three levels: Distinction, Merit and Pass. Students receive an AICE Diploma Certificate in addition to Results Certificates. AICE examination grades are assigned points which correspond to the UK University and College Admissions System (UCAS) Tariff. A Level Tariff points are assigned: A* = 140, A = 120, B = 100, C = 80, D = 60 and E = 40. AS Level grades receive half as many tariff points as an A Level grade (60,50,40,30,20).

The AICE Diploma with Distinction requires a score of 320 points or above. The AICE Diploma with Merit requires a range of 220 - 315 points. The AICE Diploma at Pass level requires a range of 120 to 215 points.

7. Where is information available about specific course content, required skills and assessment methodology?

Course content, objectives and assessment tasks are described in the subject syllabus booklets available for download on www.cie.org.uk. Students must demonstrate knowledge, understanding, application and skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Examinations are external and discriminate through several pass grades. Sample examinations with grading rubrics (mark schemes) are also available on the CIE website.

8. When are Cambridge AICE examinations taken and Results Certificates issued?

There are two examination sessions (June and November) each year and most subjects are available either session. Statements of Results are issued in August and January, respectively.

A Results Certificate for each student is sent to the high school in March for November session examinations and in October for June session examinations.

9. What information is included on a student's final Results Certificate?

Both Statements of Results and Results Certificates list the subject, level (AS or A), grade earned and the name of the high school where the examination was administered. For security reasons, on the A Level certificate the grade appears in upper and lower cases e.g. Grade B would appear as B (b). For AS Level the grade is given in lower case and repeated in lower case e.g. b (b).

For each subject, passing grades are A* (A Level only), A, B, C, D, E with A* being the highest. A grade of U (ungraded) is not considered passing. Foreign language exam results include an additional grade of pass (p), merit (m) and distinction (d) for the speaking portion of the assessment.

10. Can examination results be sent to a university directly from CIE?

Certifying Statements of Results of US candidates can be sent to US universities from the CIE US office at the written request of the student. CIE encourages universities to apply for access to the secure CIE

Direct results database where they can confirm the accuracy of a Results Statement or to accept a certified copy when mailed directly from the high school.

11. How do Cambridge AICE exam grades compare with US based standards?

The AICE Diploma was introduced in Florida in 1995. The Florida Department of Education commissioned a study that indicated that a Cambridge grade of E correlated most closely to an AP grade of 3.

12. How do these exam grades compare with US grades

CIE Grade for A or AS Level	Suggested US Equivalent Grade
A*/A	A+ / A
B	A- or B+
C	B
D	C+
E	C
U	F

Additional information

Please visit the CIE website at www.cie.org.uk/usa. Click on the recognition tab on the left and 'Useful Documents' to find the document titled *Cambridge Pre-U College Programs: An introduction for college enrollment and admissions staff*. Use the 'Recognition Search' link on the right to find out which institutions in the USA recognize and accept Cambridge examinations. Further information can be obtained from CIE's US Representative by emailing cieusrep@comcast.net.