



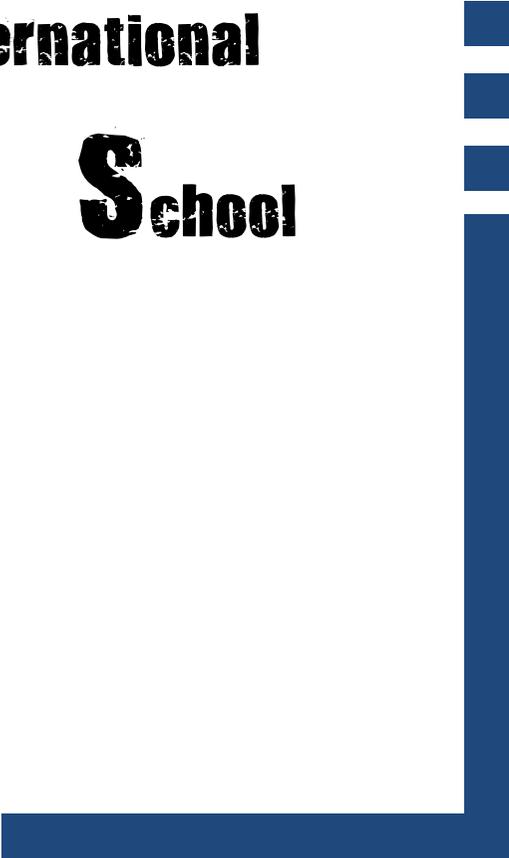
Education

at

Grace

International

School



Welcome to Grace International School!

We are excited by what is happening here. It has been an exciting journey as a school and hopefully you are a part or will join us in that adventure. This booklet highlights information that is important as new students come to GIS or continuing students transition to high school

GIS is a college preparatory school

That means the curriculum is designed to prepare students to be accepted and succeed in a college or university after graduation. But what does that mean when it comes right down to what goes on in the classroom? Small class sizes; more material covered; more depth; challenging classes; appropriate homework; training students to be critical thinkers. It is challenging and can be hard! If you look closely inside the classrooms at GIS, however, you will see a clue as to one very important aspect of our school: character.

GIS is a Christian school

The mission and vision of GIS is to educate the whole person: mind, body, and spirit. We believe the school is an environment in which young people can grow into what they were created to be by God. The GOALS (Global Objectives for All Learners) guide us to educate a student's head, hands and heart. It is what we aim for in everything we do.

GIS is an international school

GIS is based on a U.S. educational system of credits earned in a wide range of disciplines with achievement assessed in the course by teachers. Standardized exams are not administered for the purpose of advancing in grade level or graduating. Students complete 13 years of education prior to attending university or college, divided into elementary school, middle school, and high school. Elementary school is composed of students in kindergarten and grades 1-6. Middle school is composed of students in grades 7-8 and high school contains grades 9-12. We have students from many countries who attend and graduate from our school. GIS has a curriculum, programs, and graduation options to meet the unique and diverse needs of its student body. Graduates have gone on to study in Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

VISION and MISSION

To cultivate students of Christ-like character and values who will transform their world.

Grace International School exists primarily to enable international Christian workers to remain in their field of service by providing for the needs of their children through an integrated education from a Christian worldview.

Global Objectives for All Learners (GOALS)

While acquiring a foundation of knowledge and skills, Grace students are becoming:

HEART	HEAD	HANDS
God Seekers who ... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know essential biblical truths and concepts• Pursue a genuine relationship with God• Choose to participate in biblical community	Passionate Learners who... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take responsibility for lifelong growth in knowledge and skills• Display teachable attitudes Critical Thinkers who ... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply diverse problem solving processes to real-life situations• Evaluate issues and worldviews in terms of biblical truths• Communicate effectively and wisely through a variety of forms	Global Citizens who... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve others compassionately and advocate for the oppressed• Exhibit genuine respect and cultural sensitivity• Exercise stewardship of personal and global resources• Work as team members, whether as leaders or followers• Impact their world by applying biblical truth
Image Bearers who... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand their personal identity from God's perspective• Cultivate healthy interpersonal relationships• Choose a balanced and healthy lifestyle		

College or University?

The term college or university has different meanings in different countries. In this booklet the term college will be synonymous with university to mean higher education after high school.

What do I have to do to graduate?

That is a great question. Graduation is based on accruing a certain number of “credits” in different fields of study, for example English or Math. A credit is based on the number of hours of instruction as defined by the Carnegie credit. A Carnegie credit is generally 120 hours of instruction for which a student receives 1.0 credit. Some courses are one semester and receive 0.5 credit. A credit is like money in your school “bank”. When you reach a certain minimum you qualify for graduation. But, there is a better question....

Where do you want to go after high school? For many it is college. Now, college isn't for everybody but everybody should at least consider college! In the world today a college education opens so many more opportunities than just a high school diploma.



Another question: what does a college look for from a high school education? With that in mind, use Grace as a foundation from which to launch to the next step. That is often more than just meeting the minimum requirements needed for graduation. In other words, start with the end in mind!

So, what do colleges look for? That depends a lot on where you will attend college. Each country is different. And within a country, each university can have different requirements. But the bottom line is they want to know if you are ready for more advanced studies....meaning, it's going to be harder! So they want to see a student's courses increase in difficulty through their high school years. Most colleges consider:

How rigorous a schedule a student takes in high school

Grades received in courses

Standardized Test scores

What is a rigorous schedule?

- ⇒ 4 years of English
- ⇒ 3-4 years of math
- ⇒ 3-4 years of science
- ⇒ 3 years of social studies
- ⇒ 3 years of language
- ⇒ AP & honor courses

So I can relax in my Senior Year?

Many students are tempted to take it easy during their senior year to avoid the difficult courses. Colleges want students who have continued to take challenging courses through the senior year.

Your senior year schedule will appear on the transcript so colleges will know what you are taking! Make sure you are meeting graduation requirements for Grace AND that the courses you are taking will meet the entrance requirements of the college of your choice.

FYI

Freshman=9th grade
Sophomore=10th grade
Junior=11th grade
Senior=12th grade

What are the GIS Graduation Requirements?

Full-time students must be taking courses in the context of a graduation plan.

GIS seeks to help all our students to be well-educated and prepared to transition to post-graduate educational institutions, whether in their passport country or wherever they desire to pursue higher education. As a result, students may choose which of the following graduation requirement options best support their plans for education after graduation from GIS. Parents must indicate which option they are following and sign a contract agreeing to the requirements and consequences of following that option.

Graduation Requirement Option A:

All students who are US citizens, hold dual citizenship with the US, or any student who plans to study in the U.S. must follow option A. Non-US citizens can choose option A or B depending on the country where they plan to attend university. Students choosing option A may choose from one of the following three tracks to earn a high school diploma from GIS. A minimum of 24 credits is required for graduation from GIS. Graduation is not an end in itself but a stepping stone to other opportunities. Because not all students have the same goals, the following tracks are provided to assist in planning a student's GIS course of study.

Each track is not a rigid criteria but a guided suggestion depending on post-graduation goals. There is flexibility in changing tracks to meet changing goals. All educational plans should be in conference between parents, students, and the school counselor. All tracks lead to a high school diploma from GIS.

Track 1: High School Diploma Track

This track meets minimum requirements for a high school diploma from GIS. It will not be an adequate track to prepare for college entrance. It may lead to admission in community colleges or trade schools.

Track 2: College Prep Track

This track recognizes the current requirements of a rigorous schedule in the U.S. and prepares a student to apply and succeed in most colleges and universities. This track can include AP courses.

Track 3: AP College Prep Track

This track is the most rigorous schedule and prepares students for entrance into most colleges or universities. The credits listed are simply a suggested criterion and can be modified to meet individual situations. For a list of current AP courses offered at GIS contact the Academic Counselor.

Option A

Subject Area	High School Track Credits Required	College Prep Track Credits Required	AP College Prep Track Credits Required
Religious Studies*	0.5 for each year of attendance	0.5 for each year of attendance	0.5 for each year of attendance
English	4 (a)	4	4
Mathematics	2 (b)	3-4	4
Social Studies	3 (c)	3-4	3-4
Science	2	3-4	3-4
PE/Health	1.0/0.5	1.0/0.5	1.0/0.5
Language	1.0	3 (d)	3-4
Computers	1.0	1.0	1.0
Electives	8	4	4
Minimum Total*	24(f)	24	24
Grade Point Average (GPA)	2.0 Required	3.0 Recommended	3.0 Recommended

Graduation Requirement Option B:

Students who are citizens from countries using standardized external exams may require AP courses for admission into universities and may use this diploma option. A diploma contract must be signed prior to pursuing this diploma. Parents and students should research the policies of their country and specific university policies to find out what courses they need to take and what AP scores will count for admission. Not all credits within a subject will be AP courses, but there are pre-requisites for admission into an AP course and a usual progression building on prior material. For more information on course progressions please, visit the GIS website or contact the Academic Counselor.

Option B

Subject Area	AP University Track Credits	AP Courses Offered	Notes
Religious Studies	0.5 for each year of attendance		
English	4	English Literature	Students may take AP Literature in 11 th grade and AP English 12 th grade with counselor & instructor approval.
Mathematics	4	Calculus, Statistics	
Social Studies	3-4	World History, U.S. History	
Science	3-4	Biology; Physics, Chemistry	
PE/Health	0.5 Health		
Language*		Spanish 4 AP preparation	National Thai students must take National Thai every year
Computers*	0		
Electives*	0-1.5	With prior permission a student may independently study an AP course not offered and take the exam. GIS is not obligated to provide resources or a teacher.	Electives depend on credits in other categories. Students must have 18 total credits.
Minimum Total	18	4	Total number of credits required for graduation is not reduced for transfer students.
Grade Point Average (GPA)	3.0 (Recommended)		

Note on Option B: Please note that while language, computers and a variety of elective courses are not required in Option B, universities may expect or require that you have skills in these areas. Check the specific requirements for your

Rationale for Specific Graduation Requirements:

1. The ability to read and write is critical to all endeavors, especially to university admittance and continuing education. Therefore, GIS requires 4 years of English.
2. As a Christian school our religious studies courses are essential to fulfilling our mission and vision and achieving our GOALS. In accordance with ACSI accreditation policies, the teaching of religious study courses is a priority.
3. The health course instructs students in information that is not included elsewhere in the curriculum and fulfills our GOALS of maintaining balanced, healthy lifestyles; exhibiting biblical self-esteem; and developing and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships.

Common High School Mistakes

1. Sacrificing your grades for your social life.

You should definitely try to have a rich social life in high school, but that doesn't mean you can't get good grades too. Good grades are your ticket to getting into great colleges and universities, which in turn gives you more career choice and opportunities.

2. Skipping classes and missing homework.

Teachers share important information during class, and listening to their lectures helps you to better understand the subject. You never know what subjects will end up becoming your favorite – or even your college major! Don't miss homework either: Homework assignments help you learn the subject matter better, which is not only important for your GPA, it can also help you when you take standardized tests like the SAT or ACT.

3. Failing to make up missed assignments.

Some teachers are very reasonable in negotiating extra time for you to complete your homework, so just because it's late doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. It might cost you a few points, but that's better than a missed assignment on your record. There is a huge benefit in doing assignments, even if you're turning them in late: You are more likely to retain the material.

What is a transcript?

A transcript is an official document of the academic record of a student. A transcript is different than a diploma. A diploma is the certificate that is given upon completion of high school requirements and awarded at the graduation ceremony.

Usually a transcript sent to a college includes:



Courses taken from grade 9-12*

Course grades

Credit earned

G.P.A. (Grade Point Average)

Test scores (optional)

GIS Grading scale

Note of transfer credit

Current schedule

*A transcript can show earlier grade levels if needed.

So, that means a college will be evaluating your admission based on what you did in 9th grade...or 8th grade if you took Algebra 1 in 8th grade!

Another Common Mistake...

4. Believing your freshman year doesn't really count and you can improve your grades later.

If you slack off in your first year, it will be really hard to catch up later. Don't forget: Your freshman year grades count toward your overall grade point average as much as your grades in later years!

What is a GPA?

GPA stands for Grade Point Average. A grade point average (GPA) is a calculated average of the letter grades you earn in school on a 0 to 4.0 scale. Every semester, you'll receive a GPA based on the grades you earned in all of your courses during that semester. Throughout high school, you'll also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all your semester one and two grades beginning with freshmen year.

When you apply to colleges, they'll receive a copy of your transcript featuring your current cumulative GPA. Colleges use this number to measure your overall performance in school and compare you to other prospective students.

Many colleges want to evaluate your GPA using their own methods. Often, they'll disregard "easy A's" and focus on the fundamentals of your education, calculating your GPA from the grades you earned in English, Math, Science, Social studies and languages. So even if you're acing several classes, it's most important to do well in the core academic classes. Some colleges also look at both your unweighted and weighted GPA's, which means you can't rely on your AP and honors courses to raise your GPA.

What is a Weighted GPA ?

A weighted GPA is based on the reality that some high school classes are much harder than others, and these hard classes should carry more weight. In other words, an 'A' in AP Calculus represents a much greater accomplishment than an 'A' in Consumer Math. In an effort to acknowledge the effort that goes into challenging courses, many high schools weight the grades for AP and honors courses. The weighting isn't always the same from school to school. GIS weights only AP and honors courses.

The normal weight (unweighted) for grades is as follows: A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; F=0. An AP weighting is multiplied by 1.25. So in an AP course A=5; a B=3.75; C=2.5; D=1.25; F=0. In honors the multiplier is 1.2. So honors courses an A=4.8; B=3.6; C=2.4; D=1.2; F=0.

Your GPA is a major consideration for both college academic and athletic scholarships as well as financial aid.

You can't wait until your junior or senior year to start worrying about your cumulative GPA. Every single class you take during the four years gets averaged in, so your freshman and sophomore year grades are just as important.

Transfer credits

It is the policy of GIS to accept credit from other accredited institutions. Accepting credit from non-accredited and home school situations depends on meeting the criteria explained in the Student Handbook. GIS reserves the right to determine what courses are accepted and receive credit.

Credit is not allotted for courses taken in middle school except with the following criteria:

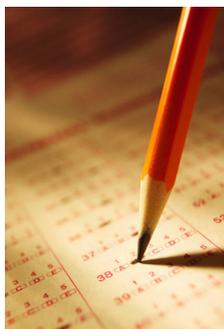
- Students may receive high school credit for Thai if they pass a Thai I equivalency exam at the end of their 8th grade year. This must be passed with an 80 percent level of proficiency.
- Students will be allotted credit for Algebra I taken and successfully passed in the 8th grade.

Be careful...**5. Taking classes just because your friends are taking them.**

It can be fun to be in all the same classes as your friends but it can also be a distraction. They may have different interests, academic skills and college goals than you. So if you're interested in classes that your friends aren't, take them. You just might make some new friends and grow in an area you're good at!

Which test do I take?

Parents and students often ask, which tests should I take? It depends. Where are you applying to university? What kind of student are you? How often do you want to take it? Most US colleges will accept either the ACT or SAT as a part of the admissions process. Other countries are usually more familiar with the SAT and AP exams. It is best to research what each country and university requires. This is a brief explanation of standardized tests: ACT, SAT I, AP, TOEFL, SAT II Subject tests and the PSAT.

**ACT**

The ACT is a one of two exams often used for college admissions, the other being the SAT. It is a three-hour exam; 215 questions, measuring achievement in English, math, reading and science. There is an additional optional writing portion (only offered in October). Scores on each section are averaged to create a composite score. A perfect score is 36.

Students usually take the ACT spring of the 11th grade year or fall of the 12th grade year. It can be taken multiple times.

The score is based on the number of correct answers ONLY. If a person is not sure, it is all right to guess – there is no penalty for wrong answers. Harder questions are worth the same amount as easy ones. Answer the easy questions first and leave the more time-consuming questions until the end.

The ACT is offered three times a year in October, December and February at GIS. Registration is online at act.org.

SAT I

The SAT includes a Critical Reading, Math, and Writing section. In addition, there is one 25-minute unscored section. This unscored section may be either a critical reading, math, or writing multiple-choice section. This unscored section does not count toward the final score, but is used to try out new questions for future editions of the SAT. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200—800, with two writing subscores for multiple-choice and the essay.

A student usually takes the SAT I in the spring of his or her 11th grade year or the fall of the 12th grade year. This test is offered several times a year, usually October, November, December, January and May. It can be taken multiple times. All SAT test are administered at CMIS or PTIS.

The SAT I carries a "wrong answer penalty." If a person guesses correctly, he or she gains a point; however there is a penalty if one guesses incorrectly. A student should eliminate the answers he or she knows are wrong before guessing.

Registration for the SAT I is done online at www.collegeboard.com. However, practice test are available from the GIS Academic Counselor as long as supplies last.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement, or AP, is a program that offers high school students the opportunity to take college level courses during high school. Courses are taken during the year and an exam in May. Students taking AP courses are not obligated to take the exam but are encouraged to. The AP courses offered vary from school to school. The AP Grades that are reported to students, high schools, colleges, and universities in July are on AP's five-point scale:

- 5: Extremely well-qualified
- 4: Well-qualified
- 3: Qualified
- 2: Possibly qualified
- 1: No recommendation

Many colleges and universities in the U.S. grant college credits or advanced placement based on AP grades; those in over twenty other countries do likewise. Policies vary by institution. Most require a score of at least a three to receive college credit.

AP courses at GIS have an application process. If a student is accepted for an AP course the student and parent must sign an AP contract. For any questions see the Academic Counselor.

TOEFL

The Test of English as a Foreign Language™ (TOEFL) measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in college and university setting and is a requirement for admission into colleges and universities where instruction is in English.

PSAT

The PSAT is not used to determine college admissions. The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a standardized test used to prepare students for the SAT and inform students and schools of ways to improve academic skills.

The PSAT is administered in October at GIS. All 10th grade students at GIS take this test. Students in grade 9 and 11 may consider the PSAT as well as the SAT or ACT.

The PSAT is composed of two 25-minute verbal sections; two 25-minute math sections; one 30-minute writing skills section. The score range is between 20 and 80, with 80 being a perfect score.

The PSAT Score Report gives students personalized feedback on their performance, including suggestions on how to improve specific academic skills. By taking the test, students discover how they rank among other 10th or 11th grade students taking the test internationally.

If a student does very well on the PSAT, and meets additional academic requirements, he or she may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program (a nationally distributed merit-based scholarship for U.S. citizens only). Scores from the 11th grade year only are used to determine qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

SAT II Subject Tests

Also known as the SAT II these are subject specific tests that measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, and your ability to apply that knowledge. The SAT Subject Tests give you the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of content in specific subjects, such as English, history, mathematics, science, and various foreign languages. colleges specify the SAT Subject Tests that they require for admission or placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take. SAT Subject Tests fall into five general subject areas: English, history, math, science and languages. For a complete list visit College Board website.

The 4 Year Plan

High school is a journey and, as with any trip, it is best to plan ahead so you arrive at the destination you want to get to! That destination is not only graduation but possibly college or some trade school.



With this in mind GIS provides a road map called the “4 Year Plan”. This is a worksheet (seen on the next page) designed to map out the four years of high school (9th-12th grade). Parent and student are encouraged to talk together as they fill it out. You may need to consult teachers and the Academic Counselor.

Many courses have a prerequisite so it is important to plan what courses to take so that a student has the necessary prerequisites for a course later in his or her high school career. For example, a student may want to take AP Studio Art. That requires that they have had Art Foundations and Advanced Art, which would take two years to complete.

The 4 Year Plan is a guide and not “set in stone”. That means that there is flexibility in adjusting the 4 Year Plan depending on circumstances and availability of courses year to year. It is meant as a guide. It is helpful in registering for courses as schedules are created every year.

To complete the 4 Year Plan you will need:

Course Offerings

Graduation requirements

Some idea of goals after graduation (ex. college)

Interests and abilities

Copies of the 4 Year Plan and Course Offerings for the current school year may be obtained from the Academic Counselor’s office. GIS keeps a photocopy of each students 4 Year Plan for academic advising.

Grace International High School 4 Year Plan

Student Name: _____

Date completed: _____

9th Grade Academic Year _____			10th Grade Academic Year _____		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Language Arts	_____	_____	Language Arts	_____	_____
Maths	_____	_____	Maths	_____	_____
Science	_____	_____	Science	_____	_____
Social Studies	_____	_____	Social Studies	_____	_____
Languages	_____	_____	Languages	_____	_____
Computer	_____	_____	Computer	_____	_____
Religious Studies	_____	_____	Religious Studies	_____	_____
PE/Health	_____	_____	PE/Health	_____	_____
Electives	_____	_____	Electives	_____	_____
Year Credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		Year Credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
Total credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		Total credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
11th Grade Academic Year _____			12th Grade Academic Year _____		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Language Arts	_____	_____	Language Arts	_____	_____
Maths	_____	_____	Maths	_____	_____
Science	_____	_____	Science	_____	_____
Social Studies	_____	_____	Social Studies	_____	_____
Languages	_____	_____	Languages	_____	_____
Computer	_____	_____	Computer	_____	_____
Religious Studies	_____	_____	Religious Studies	_____	_____
PE/Health	_____	_____	PE/Health	_____	_____
Electives	_____	_____	Electives	_____	_____
Year Credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		Year Credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
Total credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		Total credits	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	

ACCREDITATION

Grace International School is accredited by three organizations: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI); and Ministry of Education of Thailand (MOE).

Accreditation as a process designed to strengthen schools in the delivery of quality educational programs. Accreditation is important to schools as it impacts students' access to colleges and universities and career opportunities in a variety of ways. The public is assured that accredited institutions are evaluated extensively and conform to general expectations of performance and quality. Because accreditation requires continual self-evaluation, frequent reports, and periodic external review, the public can be assured that the educational quality of programs and services offered by the institution are current, reflect high standards of quality, and are offered with integrity. Colleges and universities examine transcripts to determine if the students have attended accredited institutions.



....and more mistakes that you don't want to make!

6. Not signing up for extracurricular activities.

Many students say they don't have time for extracurricular activities, but keep in mind that these activities can help both your social life and your college applications. When you start your search to find a college, you'll see that they look for well-rounded students who did extracurricular activities along with a challenging academic program. The best careers today are highly competitive and they require people to be able to multi-task. That doesn't mean you should sign up for every activity out there; the key is balance. It's better to be dedicated in a few activities than to make little effort in several.

7. Not asking for help.

If you have questions or problems in school there are many people who can help you: parents, teachers, friends and your school counselor are all good sources for advice and assistance. Teachers and counselors got into those professions because of their desire to help students succeed, and your parents and friends know you well and can help you weigh your options, or just lend support when you need it.

You're not going to have all the answers so you need to ask.. If you don't understand something in class, it's likely other students don't understand it either. Cultures approach education differently but remember GIS teachers are here to help you.