



WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2001, the British International School of Chicago, South Loop (BISC-SL) is a leading, independent coeducational day school for students from Nursery through Year 13. Situated in the heart of downtown Chicago, our diverse student body represents over 42 nationalities, creating a rich tapestry of cultures and perspectives. At BISC-SL, we are committed to providing a personalized and rigorous college preparatory education that nurtures academic excellence and the development of essential life skills, such as problem-solving, resilience, creativity, well-being, and global citizenship.

As a proud member of the Nord Anglia Education family of schools, we offer a unique blend of individualized learning and global exposure. Our partnerships with world-renowned institutions like The Juilliard School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and UNICEF enhance our curriculum, providing students with unparalleled opportunities in the arts, sciences, and social impact.

Through our Global Campus platform, students engage in worldwide learning experiences and participate in international travel, including a transformative service trip to Tanzania. At BISC-SL, we ignite curiosity, fuel ambition, and foster a lifelong passion for learning in every student.

GRADING SYSTEM

At BISC-SL, we prioritize a holistic approach to education, focusing on each student's individual growth and achievements rather than conventional ranking or weighted grading systems. Unlike traditional U.S. high schools, we do not calculate or report GPAs, allowing us to emphasize personalized learning and development.

Lower High		I.B.	
A+	Outstanding	7 (A++)	Outstanding
A		6 (A+)	
A-	Very Good	5 (A)	Very Good
B+		4 (B)	Good
B	Good	3 (C)	Requires Improvement
B-		2 (D)	
C+	Requires Improvement	1 (F)	Fail
C			
D	Resit Grade*		
F	Fail		

IB EXAM RESULTS

The courses equip students to thrive in a fast-paced, interconnected world by providing a comprehensive curriculum. Through this program, our students acquire both broad and deep knowledge, preparing them to engage effectively in a global society and adapt to its ever-evolving demands.

Our IB curriculum closely mirrors the demands of university-level coursework, ensuring a seamless transition into higher education.

	2025	2024	2023	2022
STUDENTS	23	35	26	46
AVERAGE POINTS	31	33	31.5	34.5
WORLD AVERAGE	30.5	30.3	30.2	32
PASSED	23	31	26	41

800
STUDENTS

252
HS STUDENTS

91
IN THE CLASS
OF '26

100%
IBDP PASS
RATE IN '25

Michael Henderson

Executive Principal

Michael.Henderson@bischicagosl.org

Danika Nowak

Director of College Counseling

Danika.Nowak@bischicagosl.org

Laura Gilmartin

Head of IBDP

Laura.Gilmartin@bischicagosl.org

Ro Grainger

Head of IDCP

Rozenn.Grainger@bischicagosl.org

Nicola Able

Head of Secondary

Nicola.Able@bischicagosl.org

Sam Aldredge

College Counselor

Sam.Aldredge@bischicagosl.org

Sam Cosgrove

Curriculum & Academics

Samuel.Cosgrove@bischicagosl.org



OUR CURRICULUM

(IGCSE) International General Certificate of Secondary Education

BISC-SL students in Grades 9 and 10 (Years 10 and 11) pursue the IGCSE, a rigorous curriculum that provides a strong foundation in core subjects. It emphasizes understanding and application of knowledge over rote memorization, fostering deeper learning and a better grasp of subjects.

Our students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent research skills while choosing from a wide range of subjects, enabling them to tailor their education to their interests and career aspirations.

The IGCSE also encourages participation in extracurricular activities, promoting a well-rounded education that develops social, leadership, and teamwork skills. These advantages make the IGCSE an excellent choice for students seeking a strong academic background with international opportunities.

Course options:

Compulsory Courses: Math, English, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, Physical Education, and Entrepreneurship for Social Impact

Social Studies: Geography, History, Psychology

Performing Arts: Dance, Drama, Music

World Language: French, German, Mandarin, Spanish

Elective 1: Art & Design, Computer Science, Spanish (2nd Language)

Elective 2: Art & Design, Film, Engineering and Design, Sports Science

(IB) International Baccalaureate

The IB Diploma Programme at BISC-SL offers students in Grades 11 and 12 (Years 12 and 13) a dynamic and challenging education designed to foster international mindedness and intercultural understanding. This rigorous program prepares students to excel in diverse college environments and global settings.

The courses equip students to thrive in a fast-paced, interconnected world by providing a comprehensive curriculum. Through this program, our students acquire both broad and deep knowledge, preparing them to engage effectively in a global society and adapt to its ever-evolving demands.

Our IB curriculum closely mirrors the demands of university-level coursework, ensuring a seamless transition into higher education.

Course Options:

IB Core Requirements: Extended Essay; Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Action & Service

Group 1: Literature: English; English Language and Literature; English Literature and Performance

Group 2: Language Acquisition: French, German, Mandarin, Spanish

Group 3: Individuals & Societies, Geography, History, Psychology, Global Politics, Environmental Systems and Societies

Group 4: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design Technology, Physics, Sports Exercise and Health Science

Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches, Application and Interpretation

Group 6: Biology, Design Technology, Film, Global Politics, Music, Theatre Studies, Visual Arts

Course Routes:

Based on their Year 10-11 performance, students in Years 12 & 13 follow one of three IB course routes:

1.) IB Diploma Students study six IB courses, three must be at Higher Level (HL) honors and three at Standard Level (SL).

2.) IB Scholar Students study six IB subjects at Standard Level honors or Higher Level. Students may choose a max of 3 HL courses.

3.) College Prep, students study a combination of 6 courses at college prep, SL or HL.





BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO, SOUTH LOOP

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES 2023-2025



American University

Arizona State University
Arizona State University-
West Valley
Auburn University
Augustana College
Babson College
Ball State University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Boston University
Bradley University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of the
Arts
**Carnegie Mellon
University**
Case Western Reserve
University
CEU San Pablo University
Chapman University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-
Fort Collins
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cooper Union - Science and Art
Cornell University
CUNY John Jay College of
Criminal Justice
Daemen College
Denison University
DePaul University
Depauw University
Dickinson College
Drake University
Drexel University
Duke Kunshan University
Durham University
EHL
Elmhurst University
Emerson College
Emory University
Esade Business School
ESMOD France
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin University Switzerland
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University

Georgia Institute of Technology
Grinnell College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Howard University
Illinois College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Imperial College of London
Indiana Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Keele University
Kent State University
King's College London
University of London
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Landmark College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Limestone University
Loughborough University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Manhattan College
Marist University
Marquette University
Massachusetts College of Art & Design
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
McGill University
Miami University (Ohio)
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Morehouse College
New York University
Newcastle University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Paris College of Art
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Point Park University
Polimoda-The Fashion School
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Queen Mary University London
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rollins College

Roosevelt University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis University - Madrid
Saint Michaels College
Saint Norbert College
Saint Xavier University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Skidmore College
Southern Illinois University
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Stevens Institute of
Technology
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
The American University of Paris
The New School
The Posse Foundation
The University of Alabama
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee
The University of Texas
The University of Texas At Dallas
Tilburg University
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Union College
Universidad Europea de Madrid
University College London
University of Arizona
University of California- Berkeley
University of California- Davis
University of California- Los Angeles
University of California-Riverside
University of California- San Diego
University of California- Santa Barbara
University of California-Santa Cruz
University of Chester
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Exeter
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Illinois Springfield
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Louisville
University of Maine

University of Manchester
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Oxford
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Sheffield
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of the Arts London
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Warwick
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of York
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Webster University
Wesleyan University
Western Illinois University
Whitman College
Wichita State University

