

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: J. Munro, Chair
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: B.C. Secondary school students taking AP or IB exams
(SCUS Reference: SCUS 00 - 3)
(SCAP Reference: SCAP 00 - 9)

Date: March 17, 2000

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

"That Senate approve as set forth in S.00 -38 that Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate final course grades may be translated for B.C. secondary school graduates to percentage marks, in accordance with the following table, and used in the admission average in lieu of other B.C. Grade XII courses:

<u>AP Exam Grade</u>	<u>IB Exam Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent B.C.% mark</u>
5	7	96
~	6	90
4	5	86
3	~	80
~	4	76
2	3	70

J. Munro

Memo from
N. Heath, Director of Admissions
Simon Fraser University

To: SCUS
Date: 1999 12 16

Subject: BC Secondary school students taking AP or IB exams

BC secondary school students who take AP or IB courses have the option to take the external exams offered in these programs. These courses are not strictly "examinable" BC grade 12 courses, because the external exam is not compulsory, but good students are normally encouraged to write the exams. University transfer credit may be granted if the student takes the exam and scores well.

The Ministry of Education encourage the use of the external exam grade to contribute to the final course grade. They prefer that these students not take both the external exam and the government's provincial exam, to avoid unnecessary cost. However, in my experience, most students in AP or IB courses take the provincial exam and about half take the AP or IB exam.

In 1997/98 I assisted UBC in determining whether these exam results could be reliably converted into percentage marks to facilitate ranking of applicants, especially for scholarship adjudication. We mapped provincial exam results against the external exams marks in several disciplines and came up with a conversion tables as follows:

AP Exam Grade	IB Exam Grade	Equivalent BC % mark
5	7	96
~	6	90
4	5	86
3	~	80
~	4	76
2	3	70

UBC currently use this conversion table for admission and scholarship. I recommend that SCUS approve the use of this same conversion table for admission purposes.

Our current practice is to use only the school final or interim mark which is normally given as a percentage. Typically, we ignore the exam result, except for transfer credit determination. These external exams are very sound and are generally considered more rigorous than the standard BC courses and exams.

BC Grade 12 AP/IB marks

1999 12 16

Examples:

Student has completed Biology 12 and AP Biology 12

BC BIOL 12 - final blended (school + exam) mark 93%

AP BIOL 12 – final school mark 99%

AP BIOL 12 – final exam mark 5 – converts to 96%

We take the better of the final BIOL or AP BIOL marks i.e. 96%

Student is completing English 12 and AP English Lit. and Composition 12

BC ENGL12 - interim mark 84%

AP ENGL - interim mark 79%

AP ENGL – predicted exam mark (if given) 4 – converts to 86%

We take the better of the interim ENGL or AP ENGL marks i.e. 86%

If no predicted exam mark is provided, we take the better of the interim ENGL or AP ENGL marks i.e. 84%

nh Dec 1999