

Definition of AP Classes (Advance Placement)

The AP Course follows a curriculum mandated by the College Board. It provides incentives for public high schools to provide access to rigorous, college-level courses for interested and prepared students. With such programs, students may pursue college-level work while still in secondary school and receive college credit, advanced academic standing, or both.

Definition of IB Classes (International Baccalaureate)

IB classes follow a curriculum mandated by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IB) in Cardiff, Wales. IB courses include papers and IB exams graded by the student's teachers (known as internal assessments) and papers and IB exams graded by IB external assessors. These are advanced rigor classes on par with Advance Placement classes but may not earn college credit. A student will select to participate based on their individual desire.

Differences between AP & IB: Although both AP and IB courses prepare students for college through rigorous work requiring higher-level thinking, the two programs have different focuses. Overall, the AP program aims to provide students with college-level courses while they attend high school. Each course stands alone, and there are no additional components to complete outside the exam.

IB courses, in contrast, focus more on helping students understand the process of knowledge and develop critical thinking skills. The IB Diploma Program includes additional requirements that often center on global awareness.

More Info: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/ib-vs-ab-which-should-you-take/>

Information on the SAT

- The minimum score for the SAT is a 400 while the maximum or "perfect" score is a 1600.
- A good "average" score for students is ~1060.
- More information: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/applying/articles/whats-a-good-sat-score>

Information on the ACT

- The minimum score for the ACT is 1 and the maximum or "perfect" score is 36.
- A good "average" score for students is ~20.6.
- More information: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/understand-whats-a-good-act-score-for-college-admissions>

School Specific Test Scores (according to www.usnews.com/best-colleges)

- University of Georgia
 - Average SAT: 1270-1450
 - Average ACT: 29-33
- University of North Georgia
 - Average SAT: 1040-1230
 - Average ACT: 20-26
- Brenau University
 - Average SAT: 1000-1130
 - Average ACT: 21-25
- Georgia Tech
 - Average SAT: 1360-1540
 - Average ACT: 31-35
- Georgia State University
 - Average SAT: 975-1220
 - Average ACT: 19.27

Schools that participate in AP and IB:

School Name	AP	IB
Banks County High School	Yes	No
Commerce High School	Yes	No
Apalachee High School	Yes	No
Winder Barrow High School	Yes	No
Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy	Yes	No
Dawson County High School	Yes	No
Fannin County High School	Yes	No
Franklin County High School	Yes	No
Gilmer County High School	No	No
Habersham Central High School	Yes	No
Tallulah Falls High School	Yes	No
Chestatee High School	Yes	No
Cherokee Bluff High School	Yes	No
East Hall High School	Yes	No
Flowery Branch High School	Yes	No
Gainesville High School	Yes	No
Johnson High School	No	Yes
Lakeview Academy	Yes	No
Lanier Christian Academy	Yes	No
North Hall High School	Yes	Yes
West Hall High School	No	Yes
Hart County High School	Yes	No
East Jackson Comprehensive High School	Yes	No
Jackson County High School	Yes	Yes
Jefferson High School	Yes	No
Lumpkin County High School	Yes	No
Madison County High School	Yes	No
Rabun County High School	Yes	No
Stephens County High School	No	No
Towns County High School	No	No
Union County High School	Yes	No
White County High School	Yes	No

WHAT IS THE STUDENT AID INDEX?

By Anna Helhoski and Eliza Haverstock
Updated Feb 2, 2024 11:04 a.m. PST

Starting in the 2024-25 academic year, a measure called the Student Aid Index, or SAI, will be used to determine a student's ability to pay for college and the amount of financial aid they can receive.

It will replace Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, which has previously been used to calculate a student's financial need.

This change is rolling out alongside a newly simplified Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

How will the Student Aid Index be calculated?

The information you input on the FAFSA about you and your family's financial profile will determine your SAI. The index will equal the sum of your parents' available income, your income and assets.

Unlike the EFC, the SAI will not consider the number of family members in college. This means that parents will no longer receive a sibling discount.

The new simplified FAFSA will be available in December 2023 for the 2024-2025 academic year. (The FAFSA typically opens on Oct. 1 each year, but the Department of Education pushed back the upcoming release as it rolls out the new form.)

Once you submit the new FAFSA, you'll receive your FAFSA Submission Summary, which details the information you included on the application and your SAI. This summary was previously called the Student Aid Report.

Students must submit the FAFSA each year they are in school to unlock federal student loans, grants, work-study and even some private scholarships.

How will the Student Aid Index be used?

SAI is used as part of the equation for financial need, which is found by subtracting the Student Aid Index and other financial assistance from the cost of attendance at each school. Your cost of attendance includes tuition, fees and room and board. The equation essentially looks like this:

Cost of attendance - SAI = financial need

The SAI can help students receive more financial aid. While the minimum EFC was zero, the SAI can go as low as negative \$1,500, allowing students to show a higher financial need.

LINK TO INCOME CHART: <https://thecollegeinvestor.com/43805/student-aid-index-sai-chart/>

For example, if your cost of attendance is \$30,000 and your SAI is -\$1,500, your financial need would be \$31,500. Yet, remember that your financial need doesn't necessarily mean the full amount you're qualified for. Colleges aren't required to meet 100% of your financial need with need-based aid like grants or scholarships — and colleges can include loans on your financial aid award letter to meet need. Funding availability for aid, such as work-study, might also be limited at your school.

Link to full article: <https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/loans/student-loans/what-is-the-student-aid-index>