



Cambridge International in US and Minnesota

Cambridge Assessment International Education – the world's largest provider of international education and part of the University of Cambridge – partners with schools and districts in over 160 countries and 35 states with a shared goal of making education transformation a reality.

Backed by leading research and over 160 years of experience in assessment practices, Cambridge International is the only program of study in the US with credit by exam that originated from a renowned higher education institution, the University of Cambridge. With an emphasis on critical thinking and inquiry-based learning, the Cambridge program engages all students to develop cross-curricular knowledge and skills that lead to success in college and beyond.

The first US school to adopt the Cambridge program began teaching the curriculum in 1995. Since then, Cambridge International has expanded rapidly into schools across 35 states. The US now leads the world in delivering Cambridge Advanced (AS & A Levels) coursework and exams.

Cambridge International supports MN Education Attainment Goals

Cambridge International applauds the work of Minnesota, one of many forward-thinking states with a system-wide commitment to creating seamless articulated pathways. These pathways allow students to earn General Education Core credit through credit by exam and prior learning assessment.



Cambridge International works with several state higher education systems and agencies to promote fair and evidence-based credit policies for qualifying grades of E/e and above on Cambridge Advanced exams. To date, states with Cambridge credit policies in place include FL, IN, MS, NC, SC, VA, and WA.

MN Office of Higher Education Dual Credit Acceptance

With a focused commitment to meeting MN 2025 attainment goals, credit by exam and prior learning assessment have served as valuable incentives and pathways for college access and success.

- 98% of Minnesota colleges and universities award college credit for successful dual credit program participation
- 88% of Minnesota colleges and universities have a written, approved campus policy that guides decisions on dual credit acceptance within their institution
- The Minnesota state colleges and universities rely on their general transfer policy when making decisions about credit transfer and do not differentiate between dual credit and general transfer credit.

Cambridge International's request

1. Amend Sec.120B.13 MN Statutes and the suite of approved 3.35.1 PLA and credit by exams - to include qualifying exam grades of E/e for AS and A level Cambridge International exams for college credit.
2. Add Cambridge International exam titles to MN Transferology database.
3. Include reference to Cambridge International on the 3.35.1 PLA policy website-as a nationally and internationally recognized credit by exam program.
4. Apply HS advanced course GPA weighting comparable to AP and IB courses.

Cambridge International in US and Minnesota continued

5. Integrate Cambridge International into the MN C-Plan work to support the success of prior learning assessment implementation and campus acceptance.

6. Approve Cambridge International courses as meeting high school graduation requirements and as a substitute option for Keystone exams.

7. Support low-income students by subsidizing Cambridge International exam fees.

Benefits of a college credit policy for Cambridge International exams

A fair and consistent credit policy articulated across a state's higher education system can:

1. Ensure comparable course credit applicability for students earning qualifying exam grades.
2. Provide tuition cost savings and opportunities to reduce student debt.
3. Reduce the duplication of course taking and accumulation of excess credit hours – which can help increase on-time degree completion.
4. Advance the state's return on investment, supporting high-quality education for a knowledge-based economy.

Cambridge Advanced (AS & A Levels)

Cambridge Advanced AS & A Level courses and exams are equivalent to college-level coursework. Students can earn college credit and placement from participating universities across the US and around the world.

- AS Level: Equivalent to one semester of college credits
- A Level: Equivalent to two semesters of college credits
- Cambridge AICE Diploma: Internationally recognized diploma comprises AS & A Levels in four subject areas



Understanding US and international education systems

While the integrated Cambridge education system has the flexibility to be adapted for local needs and contexts around the world, it is important to understand it originated in England, which uses a 13-year education system, as opposed to the 12-year system used in the US.

Students in the British education system generally spend their 13th year completing additional advanced coursework. This is why international Cambridge students who attended a 13-year system are likely to submit more A Level exam grades, whereas US Cambridge students are likely to submit more AS Level grades (although many also submit A Level exam grades).

Cambridge grading system

The Cambridge exam grading scale differs from the typical US grading scale. A grade of E/e for Cambridge Advanced AS & A Level exams is equivalent to a US college course grade of C and should be considered satisfactory for earning introductory General Education Core credit. The table below shows how Cambridge exam grades align to US college course grades.

AS Level	A Level	United States
a	A*	A+
a	A	A
b	B	B+
c	C	B
d	D	C+
e	E	C
U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)	D+
U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)	D
U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)	F

Source: AACRAO Edge's UK/US grade comparisons
<http://edge.aacrao.org>



Cambridge International in US and Minnesota continued

MN campuses receiving Cambridge exam scores (AS and A level)

Open Doors: Institutions with the highest enrollment of international students

Most MN institutions for higher education enroll international students, and among the more than 15,000 international students, many may have earned Cambridge credentials.

MN institutions that receive Cambridge Advanced AS & A Level exam scores:

- Augsburg College
- Carleton College
- Crown College
- Gustavus Adolph College
- Hamline University
- Hibbing Community College
- Inver Hills Community College
- Macalester College
- Minnesota College of Art
- Minnesota State Community & Technical College
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- Minneapolis Community & Technical College
- Minnesota State University - Moorhead
- Normandale Community College
- Regency Beauty Institute
- Saint Johns University
- Saint Olaf College
- South Central College North Mankato
- Southwest State University
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of Minnesota-Crookston
- University of St Thomas
- Vermilion Community College.

Having a clear and fair Cambridge credit policy can help Minnesota higher education to recruit and retain both international and domestic Cambridge students.

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