

Course Credit Policy Considerations for Cambridge International A and AS Levels

AZTransfer: Facilitator Training Retreat

Adina Chapman, Ph.D.
Regional Higher Education Manager, North America

June 6, 2022



A part of the University of Cambridge

- **Prepare** school students for life, helping them to develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning.
- At the heart of a **global learning community** with more than 10,000 schools, including the US.
- **Work in partnership** with educators worldwide, including 40 national governments and education reform projects.



The Cambridge Pathway: Our core global offer

Cambridge Pathway



A clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19

Our focus today

Grades 9-12

Grades K-5

Grades 6-8

Cambridge Primary

5 to 11 years old*

- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

Cambridge Lower Secondary

11 to 14 years old*

- English (1st and 2nd language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Cambridge Global Perspectives

Cambridge Upper Secondary

14 to 16 years old*

- A wide choice of subjects at:
- Cambridge IGCSE® (70+ subjects)
 - Cambridge O Level (40+ subjects)
- Cambridge ICE Certificate

Cambridge Advanced

16 to 19 years old*

- A wide choice of subjects at:
- Cambridge International AS & A Level (55+ subjects)
 - Cambridge Pre-U (20+ subjects)
- Cambridge AICE Diploma

Cambridge Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

*Age ranges are for guidance only

Learn • Discover • Achieve

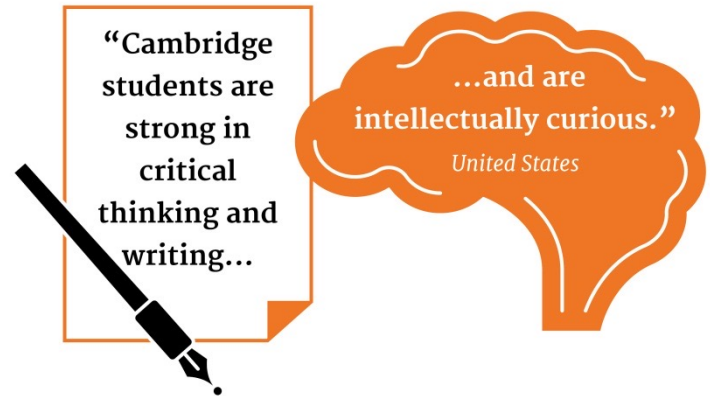


Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International Advanced AS and A Levels

An established and well-known rigorous curriculum

- Focuses on developing the skills and knowledge required for university study in higher education around the world
- Covers essential key concepts for the subject



Opportunity for in-depth learning in over 55 subjects

- AS levels cover the first year/180 contact hours.
- A Levels include 360 class contact hours, usually over 2 years
- International in outlook, but with local relevance

Tens of thousands of students use it every year to gain entrance at leading universities worldwide

Advanced AS & A Level Courses

Mathematics and Science	Languages	Arts and Humanities	Interdisciplinary and Skills Based Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology 9700 • Chemistry 9701 • Computer Science 9618 • Design and Technology 9705 • Environmental Management 8291 • Further Mathematics 9231 • Information Technology 9626 • Marine Science 9693 • Mathematics 9709 • Sports & Physical Education 8386 • Physics 9702 • Psychology 9990 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afrikaans Language 9679, 8679 • Arabic 9680, 8680 • Chinese 8681, 8238, 9715 • English Language 9093 • French 8682, 9716 • German 8683, 9717 • Hindi 8687, 9687 • Japanese Language 8281 • Portuguese 8684, 9718 • Spanish (First Language) 8665 • Spanish 8022, 8685, 9719 • Tamil 9689, 8689 • Urdu 8686, 9676 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting 9706 • Art and Design 9479 • Biblical Studies 9484 • Business 9609 • Classical Studies 9274 • Drama 9482 • Digital Media & Design 9481 • Economics 9708 • Geography 9696 • Hindi Literature 8675 • Hinduism 9487 • History 9489 • Islamic Studies 9488 • Law 9084 • Language & Lit in English 8685 • Literature in English 9695 • Media Studies 9607 • Music 9483 • Sociology 9699 • Spanish Literature 8673 • Travel and Tourism 9395 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Perspectives and Research 9239 • Thinking Skills 9694 • English General Paper 8021

Key A Level subjects studied in 2021-22

	Top 10 A Level subjects
1	History (9389) – Under Curriculum Revision
2	Physics – ASU only gives credit
3	Accounting – Elective Credit
4	Classical Studies (9274) – No Credit
5	Global Perspectives & Research (9239) – Elective Credit
6	Business (9609) – Elective Credit
7	Chinese (8681, 8238, 9715) – Credit for grade of C or higher
8	Biology (9700), Chemistry (9701), Mathematics (9709), Economics (9708)
9	Art & Design (9479). Music (9483), & Drama (9482)
10	Physical Education (9396) – No Credit



Key AS Level subjects studied in 2021-22

	Top 10 AS Level subjects
1	English General Paper (8021) – recently revised – no credit
2	English Language (9093) – no credit
3	Global Perspectives & Research (9239) – elective credit
4	Physics (9702) – no credit
5	Classical Studies (9274) – no credit
6	Spanish Language (8685) – credit for a grade of C or higher
7	Business (9609) – elective credit
8	Language & Literature in English (8685) – some credit
9	Spanish Literature (8673) – credit for a grade of C or higher
10	Economics (9708) – no credit

Review Resources for A and AS Levels

- ▶ US/British grading chart comparisons
- ▶ Faculty resources for Cambridge International A and AS Level courses and exams
- ▶ Credentialing evaluator recommendations for granting credit for A and AS Levels
- ▶ Research on student performance on A & AS Levels and ACE Learning Evaluations and case studies from other colleges

What do Cambridge grades mean?

A*	Outstanding
A	Excellent
B	Great
C	Good
D	Fair
E	Satisfactory
U	Not passing

Cambridge Exam Grade Equivalencies

USA	AS Level	A Level
A+	a	A*
A	a	A
B+	b	B
B	c	C
C+	d	D
C	e	E
D+	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
D	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
F	<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>Ungraded</i>

Cambridge letter grades can be converted to a US-style grade in this manner according to credential evaluators.

- AACRAO Edge's UK/US grade comparisons at <http://edge.aacrao.org/>
- World Education Services (WES) 2014, <https://wenr.wes.org/2014/02/a-guide-to-the-gce-a-level>



Faculty Resources Folders

- ▶ Course Syllabi
- ▶ Sample Test Questions
- ▶ Rubrics
- ▶ Sample Student Responses
- ▶ Comparison of AP and AS Level syllabi (common US subjects)
 - ▶ History
 - ▶ English
 - ▶ Mathematics
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ Spanish

11 SEP 2017

 Cambridge Assessment International Education

Syllabus
Cambridge International AS Level English General Paper 8021
For examination in June and November 2019, 2020 and 2021.



Version 1

Level criteria

Level	AO1 Selection and application of information	AO2 Analysis and evaluation	AO3 Communication using written English
5	Selects a range of fully relevant information that effectively exemplifies the main aspects of the response to the question. Applies a range of examples appropriately to support the main ideas and opinions in the response.	Analyses possible meanings of the question and defines the scope of the response. Develops, analyses and evaluates a range of arguments to reach a supported conclusion. Develops a strong argument with clear use of supportive evidence.	Communicates clearly with consistently appropriate use of register. Uses a wide range of vocabulary and a variety of language features. Uses language with control and accuracy. Errors, if present, are only related to the use of sophisticated words and structures. Constructs a cohesive response which links ideas, arguments and paragraphs coherently. Text is well organised.
4	Selects relevant information that exemplifies the main aspects of the response to the question. Applies examples appropriately to support the main ideas and opinions in the response.	Analyses the meaning of the question to inform the scope of the response. Develops, analyses and begins to evaluate different arguments to reach a supported conclusion. Develops a well-reasoned argument with use of supportive evidence.	Communicates clearly with appropriate use of register. Uses a range of vocabulary and language features. Uses language with control and some accuracy. Errors relate to the use of less common words and structures. Constructs a clear response which links ideas, arguments and paragraphs. Text is generally well organised.

The examiner used the descriptions in this table (just the top two levels are shown) to determine what Level to award the candidate's response to Question 7. The example was awarded a Level 6.

Learner Guide

Cambridge International AS and A Level Syllabi, Test Materials, and Teaching Materials available for most subjects.



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Recommended Credit by Examination Award

Credit Recommendations		
Subjects	AS Level	A Level
Humanities & other fields	3 credits	6 credits
Sciences w/Lab	4 credits	8 credits

AACRAO College & University Journal Vol 80, No 2, Fall 2004
WES 2014, <https://wenr.wes.org/2014/02/a-guide-to-the-gce-a-level>
International Education Research Foundation (IERF)

Credential Evaluators Recommendations

World Education Services (WES)

recommends eight U.S. semester credits per A-level subject as they consider it completion of two consecutive, first-year undergraduate courses in a given subject (e.g. Math 101 and Math 102). 'As AS-levels are taken after the first year of sixth form... we recommend four U.S. semester credits per applicable subject.'

World Education Services (WES) 2014, <https://wenr.wes.org/2014/02/a-guide-to-the-gce-a-level>

Educational Perspectives

recommends 4 undergraduate credits for AS-levels and 8 credits for A-levels.

A July 2017 [International Association for Collegiate Admissions Counseling \(IACAC\) presentation](#) entitled, 'A Comprehensive Guide to A Level and GCSE changes in the UK and Globally' presented by Basirat Agboola, Progression and Recognition Manager for Pearson, Vera Bagnyuk, Recognition Manager, North America for Cambridge International Examinations, and Emily Tse, Director of Evaluation at **International Education Research Foundation (IERF)** as well as **AACRAO's** College and University Journal, Vol. 80, No. 2, Fall 2014 have recommended 3-4 credit hours for AS-levels and 6-8 credit hours per A-level.

FSU Subsequent Course Performance 2016-2019

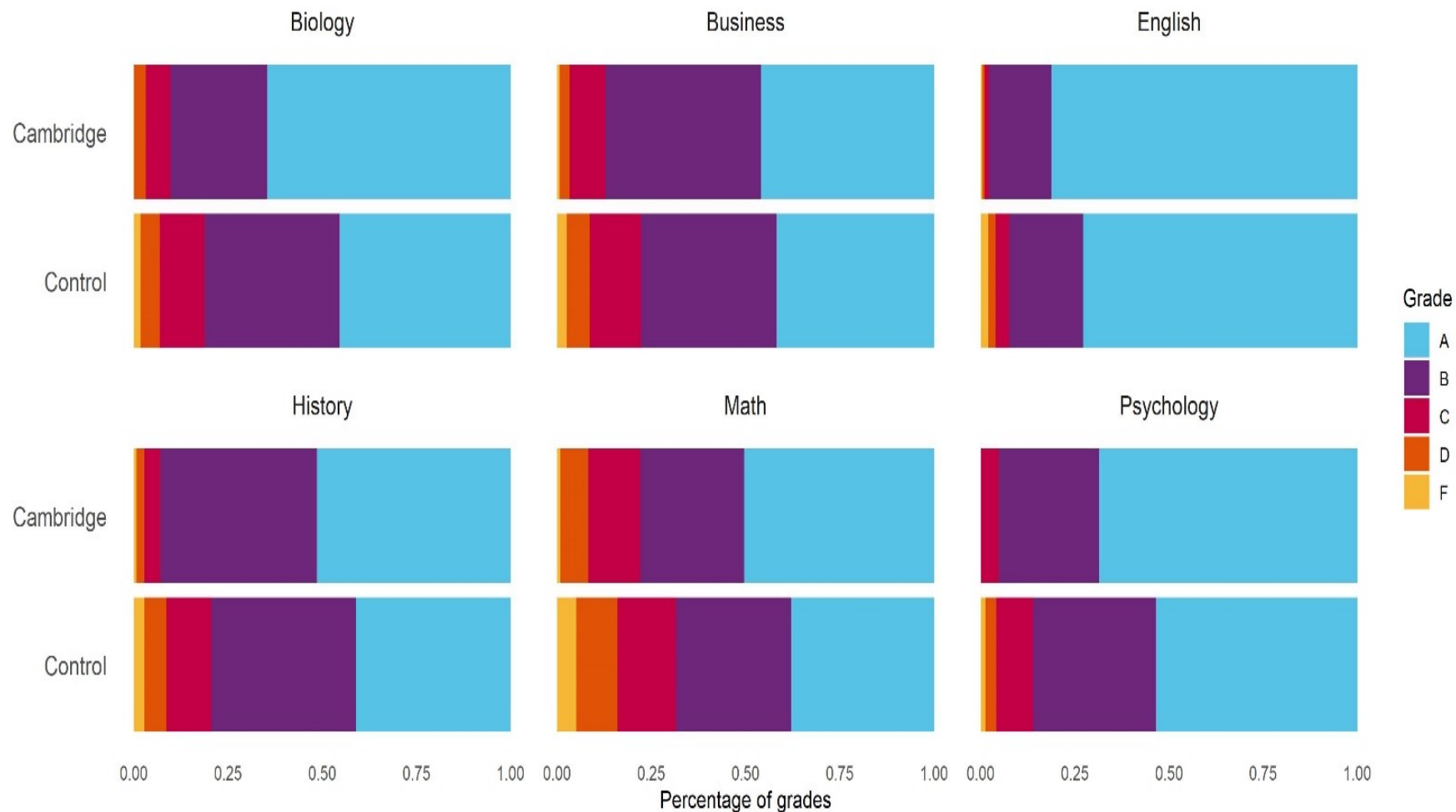
➤ Purpose of study was to examine the subsequent course performance of Cambridge International (AICE) students awarded credit for a prerequisite course for a grade of E on the AS or A Level examination in key subject areas at Florida State University.

- Biology
- Business
- English
- History
- Mathematics
- Psychology

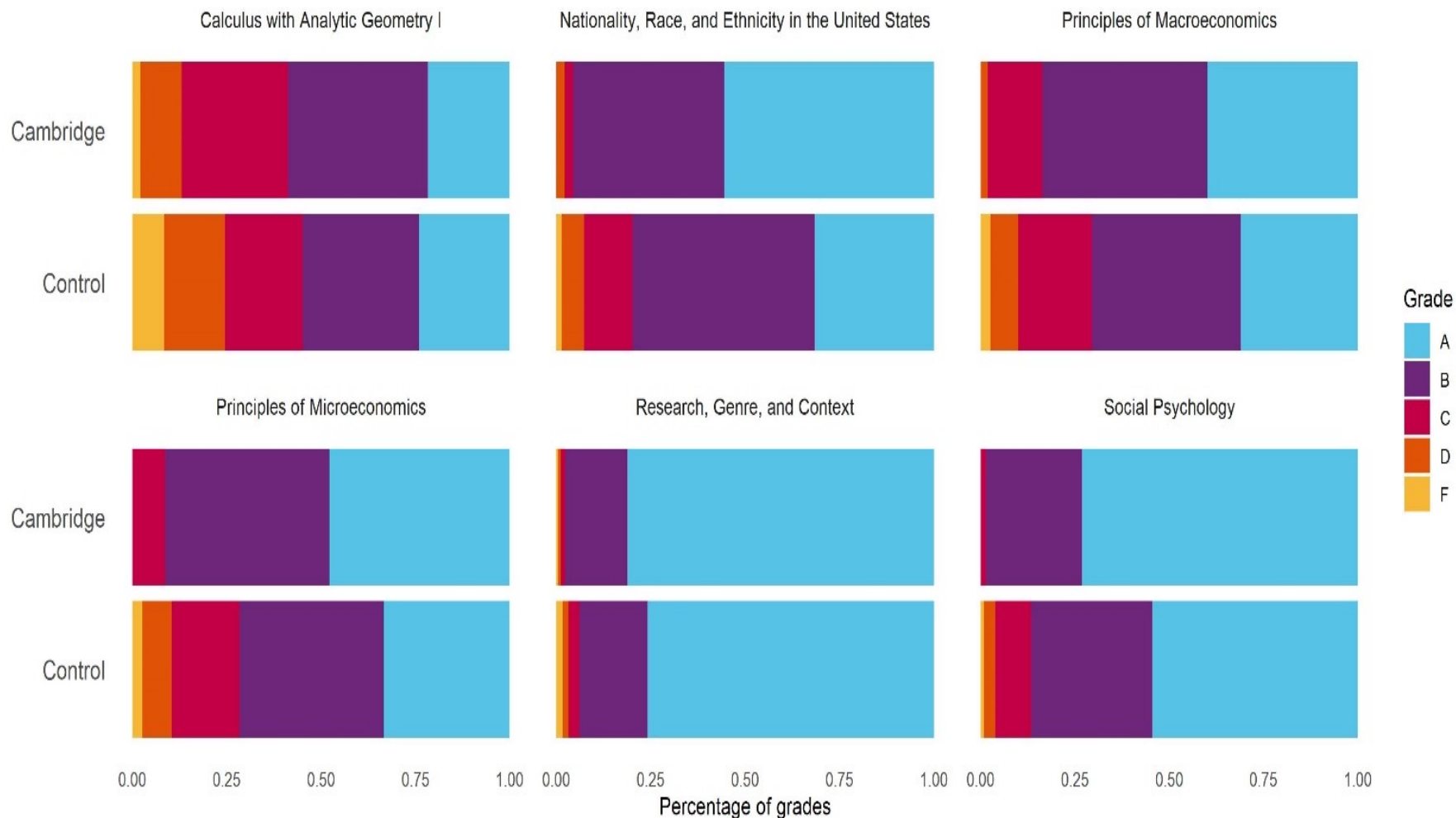
Context & Definitions

- **Cambridge International students:** enrolled at FSU from Fall 2016 to Fall 2019 and who were given credit for an E or higher on their AS or A Level exams.
- **Control students:** all students enrolled at FSU in the same courses in which Cambridge students enrolled from Fall 2016 to Fall 2019.
- **A subsequent course:** an FSU course in which Cambridge students could enroll after having been awarded credit for an introductory course based on their Cambridge AS or A Level exam grades.
- **A passing grade or pass** is defined as a GPA of 2 or higher or their letter equivalent (C or higher). Note: because of this definition of passing grades, C- (GPA 1.75) was considered a D grade rather than a C grade for this analysis. This was done to maintain the GPA way of classifying passing grades, i.e. pass \geq 2 GPA.

Grade Distribution by Subject Group

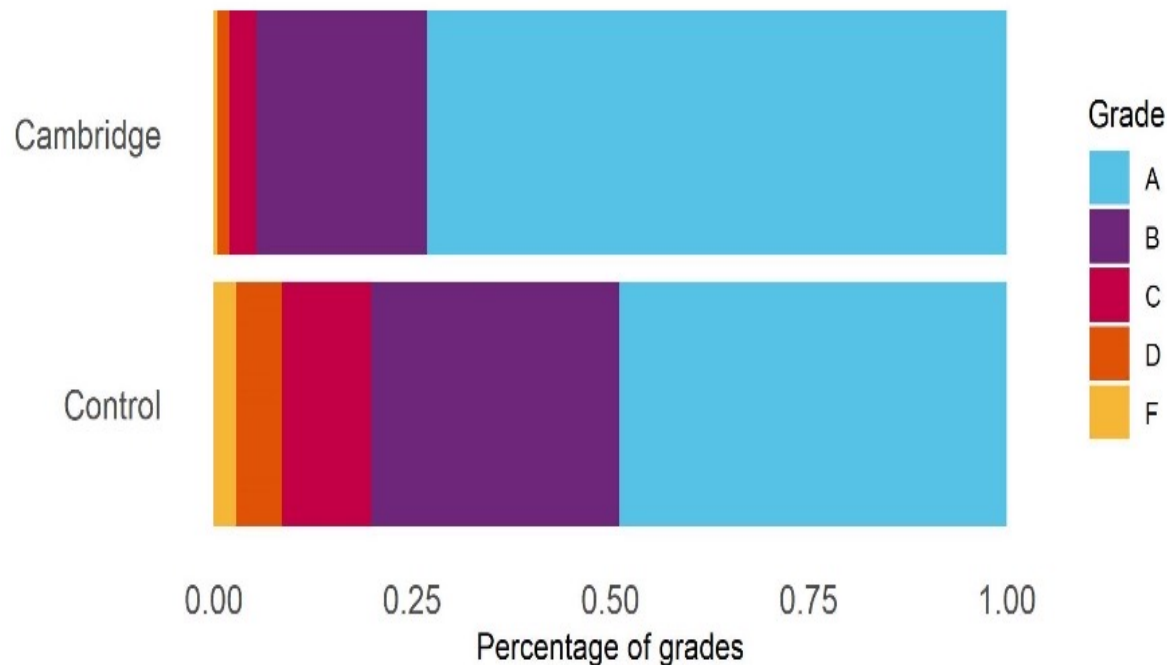


Grade Distribution in Key Courses



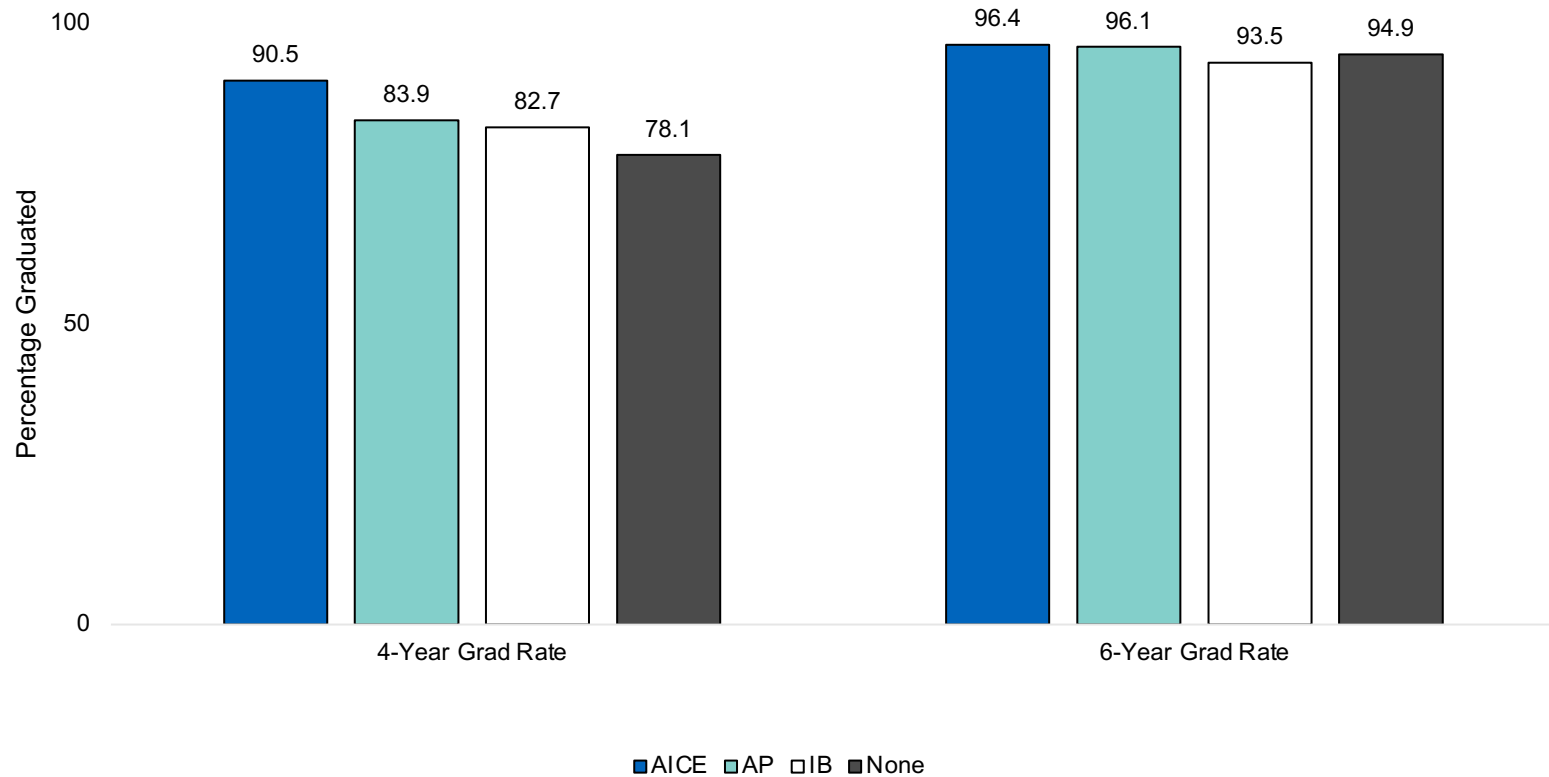
Overall Passing Rate: Cambridge vs Control

- ▶ Cambridge grades: 98% passed subsequent course at C or higher
- ▶ Control group grades: 91% passed subsequent course at C or higher



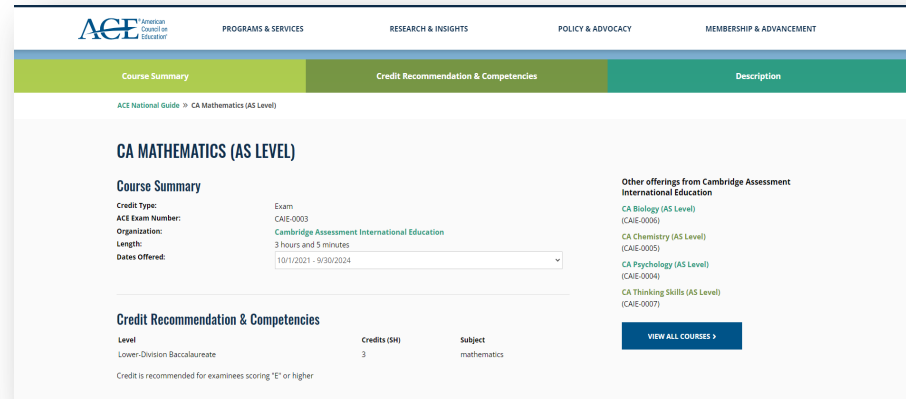
FSU Graduation Rate by Advanced Academic Program

FSU Graduation Rate by Credit Program



American Council on Education CREDIT® Review

- ▶ ACE stands as an independent evaluator of courses and exams whose credit for prior learning recommendations are *trusted* by higher education faculty.
- ▶ Courses or exams are reviewed on a 3-yr cycle.
- ▶ ACE Faculty Reviewers considered how well the assessment (or course) matches to the content and skills covered in college-level courses in that subject. Our exam development and psychometric processes were also reviewed.
- ▶ The AS Level exams submitted
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Mathematics
 - ▶ Psychology
 - ▶ Thinking Skills



Recommendations are now published on [ACE National Guide](#).

The review recommended college credit awarded for grade of E or higher across the five subjects.

