

UAIS Policy for Counting Electives for CAS

The extent to which full diploma candidates may count electives toward CAS is left to the discretion of the CAS coordinator, who—in conjunction with teachers—has created a list of possible options to earn CAS hours. As with all other CAS experiences and projects, electives can count for CAS provided that students:

- Engage in real, purposeful experiences with significant outcomes
- Seek personal challenge, not engage in experiences that are more of the same
- Thoughtfully consider, plan, review, and report their experiences/projects
- Reflect on the seven CAS learning outcomes

Limitations and Restrictions:

1. Students may earn a maximum of 50 total CAS hours from elective classes, either by completing up to 50 hours in one elective class or any combination of up to 50 hours two elective classes across 11th/12th grade.
2. Students are strongly discouraged from using senior-year electives to complete CAS hours or otherwise assume that their schedule will provide an opportunity to complete hours in a CAS strand they wish.
3. IB Full Diploma candidates who elect to take eight IB classes (testing in 7 subjects plus TOK) are eligible to earn CAS hours **in their elective class only**. Any class a student uses toward the IB diploma itself cannot earn any CAS hours.
4. Students & teachers may not create independent studies for the purpose of satisfying CAS requirements.

Important Considerations for Students:

1. Sitting in class does not constitute CAS. Students must initiate challenging experiences unique to them as individuals. These may occur naturally as part of the class, or they may be independent projects or experiences. Students are expected to reflect on their strengths and before discussing options with the supervising teacher. Teachers are not responsible for providing CAS experiences to students.
2. Due to the extra responsibilities these teachers assume, teachers and students should work together to develop experiences that allow for some student freedom but fit within the natural curriculum of the class.
3. Students acquiring CAS hours within an elective class are expected to show a renewed effort to earn a significant portion of their remaining CAS hours outside UAIS. Completing CAS with nothing but teacher supervisors and school-sponsored experiences and projects is not in the spirit of CAS because such a CAS programme lacks diversity.
4. This is an internal set of UAIS guidelines, developed by the CAS coordinator, that will be discussed at length during the full-day CAS training for sophomores later this spring. Students should simply be aware of the possibility of using their elective to satisfy some CAS requirements, but they should not make decisions in their schedule based on this document. The CAS coordinator will answer student questions during the training day.

Description of CAS Eligible Electives at UAIS

IB Physics/IB Chemistry/IB Biology/IB Computer Science (Elective Only): Students who take an additional IB Physics class for which they are not testing for the IB Diploma can count CAS hours through completion of the classes' Internal Assessments. Students must design and conduct their own experiments to earn creativity hours. Each IA can count for approximately 10-15 hours.

Physiology: Please see Ms. Kasperek for more details.

Team Sports Boys/Team Sports Girls: Earning action hours for gym class is intended to provide UAIS students not on sports teams or otherwise active to improve physical fitness. While each student begins at an individual level of fitness, students will be expected to demonstrate gains in aerobic fitness and push themselves to the next level. Sweating is required! There also exists the potential for some creativity hours in helping teachers design certain games and workouts. Students can earn up to 50 hours of activity and/or creativity combined. Supervising Teacher: Mr. Scalici.

Spanish/Japanese/French Elective: Students may earn up to 50 creativity hours by taking an additional group 2 class. Students may begin or continue to develop their speaking and writing skills. Completion of creativity hours may be grade-based, depending on the teacher. Students must be active in class and participate in a variety of presentations, essays, and written work—all indicative of challenging skill levels.

Band 10-12/Vocal Solo and Ensemble: Students may earn 50 creativity hours through a number of experiences, including the following: arranging a chorale piece, working towards personal goals, such as improving various aspects of vocal technique or music reading ability, participating in the UAIS talent show, presenting at the UAIS Extravaganza, compiling additional practice pieces at home, caroling in the community or school, or performing at a retirement home. This also goes for band experiences. Students are encouraged to explore techniques, ranges, and culturally unfamiliar music to their experiences. If interested, students should propose this experience sooner in the year rather than later. Please note: IB music performance candidates are not eligible to earn CAS hours in this class.

Advanced Art Studio: Students may earn up to 50 creativity hours through the proposal of a goal-oriented plan of work. Students will focus on particular themes and fashions. Additionally, they should expect to complete a series of three-week projects in class as well as submit a digital culminating their learning experience during the year. Please note that all interested students must propose and have approved this class for CAS hours by the end of September to be eligible.

Newspaper and Yearbook: Students may earn up to 40 creativity hours in this class by designing a layout for the yearbook, learning and participating in photography techniques, improving creative writing skills, and developing interview skills with teachers and students. Students must be organized, detail-oriented, self-motivated, be open to constructive criticism, focused, and able to work in groups. To earn hours, students must complete each project on time and may not earn hours if they drop the class at any point. Additionally, seniors may earn hours by focusing on the senior supplement. Please note: students must participate in both newspaper and yearbook in this class—not either one.

IB Theatre Arts (Elective Only): Students may earn up to 50 creativity—and possibly activity—hours through research-based or performance-based tasks, or critical observation. Generally, students will be assessed through culminating performances previously agreed-upon with the teacher and in conjunction with a theatrical focus for the year. Students are expected to be very specific and clear in their proposals, reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses as a performer.

IB Psychology (Elective Only): Students who take IB Psychology as an elective class for which they are not testing for the IB Diploma can count CAS hours through completion of the class. Internal Assessment. Students must design and conduct their own experiment to earn creativity hours.