SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
Since 1986

The Global Assessment Certificate (GAC) information booklet 2014/2015

Corporate brochure: http://www.actinternationalservices.com/en/gac/
Pathway universities: http://www.actinternationalservices.com/en/aesl/pathway.html
Global Assessment: www.globalassessment.com
ACT Education Solutions: www.acteducationsolutions.com
The ACT website: www.act.org
ACT test preparation: http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE®

ACT EDUCATION SOLUTIONS, LIMITED

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
The Global Assessment Certificate™ (GAC) COURSE PROGRAMME

Understanding the Global Assessment Certificate

The Global Assessment Certificate™ (GAC) program is an internationally recognized university preparation program for students who do not have English as their first language. It is a product of ACT Education Solutions, Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of ACT Inc).

Why do GAC?

GAC is designed to transition students from being dependent high school learners to independent university learners.

- Emphasizes and develops 'soft' skills
- Teamwork/leadership
- Effective study habits
- Manage their time effectively
- Independent learning
- Critical thinking and problem solving; conduct qualitative/quantitative research
- Give oral presentations and lead group discussions
- Develops academic skills that help students adapt to international classrooms
- Encourages debate and discourse in the classroom
- Is accredited and internationally recognized
- All students have the opportunity to prepare for and take the $ACT^®$ test, a multiple-choice college entry test that covers English, mathematics, reading, and science. An optional writing test is also available. This test is recognised by all universities in the USA and many universities elsewhere. The GAC is the only international university preparation program that includes the ACT

How is the GAC recognised?

- American Council on Education - 13 modules – 39 credit recommendation (2012)
  - University of Iowa 28 credit points
  - Oklahoma State University up to 34 credit points – depends on program
- Many universities provide credit transfer after evaluation of curriculum
- Some use high school GPA for entry, GAC GPA for credit, $ACT^®$ score for scholarships
- Some universities waive TOEFL/IELTS & recognize Level III English modules scores or $ACT^®$ English scores
- Australian Skills Quality Authority - Certificate IV in Foundation Studies

Pathway Universities

Approximately 100 "Pathway" institutions participate in the GAC program, including universities in Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam. Currently, more than 3,000 students are completing their GAC program.

Selected Pathway Universities in the United States offer GAC graduates up to one year of credit. This allows you to complete your university studies faster, saving you a significant amount in tuition fees and living expenses. The University of Iowa (UI) is one of the GAC program's Pathway Universities. UI accepts credit toward a bachelor's degree for the following courses:
- College of Business;
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences;
- College of Business General Education Program: Social Science,
- College of Engineering General Education Program: Social Science & International and Global Issues

Research the Pathway universities: http://www.actinternationalservices.com/en/aesl/pathway.html.
For more information about UI: http://international.admissions.uiowa.edu/future-students/global-assessment-certificate-program

GAC Entry Requirements

All applicants must have completed, as a minimum, the equivalent of Year 11 in the Australian school system and be 17 years of age by the time they complete the course.

Achievement of one of the following minimum standards of proficiency in English language is also required for entry to the course:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Academic Module 5.0
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®): PBT 500–530, iBT 62–65.
- An overall score of at least 60% in the GAC Entry Test.

Program Completion

In order to graduate from the program, students must successfully complete the ten core modules plus a minimum of eight specialisation modules across four subject areas in Levels II and III. Students must achieve a mark of 55% in each assessment event in every module undertaken in order to receive a passing grade for the GAC.

Exit Requirements

Students must be at least 17 years of age and have completed at least 12 years of schooling in order to be eligible to graduate from the GAC program. Students must be found to be competent in the 10 compulsory core modules and eight specialisation modules in four subject areas. Students must successfully complete all assessment events with a pass of 55% or above. If a student fails any assessment event, they will be reassessed. If 55% has not been achieved over a maximum of three attempts, the module will need to be repeated in order to demonstrate competence in all learning outcomes.

If students do not satisfactorily complete the required number of modules, they are issued with a Statement of Attainment which identifies all modules undertaken and the score achieved.

Assessment Strategy - Formative and Summative Assessment

Formative (informal) assessment is an integral part of the teaching strategy which provides feedback to students. Where possible, assessment is holistic. It may take different forms such as peer assessment, informal critique and self-assessment.

Summative assessment is the measure of the student's competence against the module purpose and learning outcomes. This is comprised of a range of individual, pair and team assessment tasks as appropriate.

Assessment tasks are holistically designed, meaning that they link to other assessments, measure clusters of competencies and can therefore provide a complete picture of the student's competence across a number of criteria at the same time.

Assessment Methods

Assessments are designed to prepare students for the rigors of university study, and include the same kind of assessments students found at university in the first year. The same assessments are conducted in every ATC worldwide to ensure a global standard.

A range of assessment methods are used, including:

• written tests	• computer-based tasks
• written assignments including essays and reports	• role-plays and demonstrations
• research projects – individual and group	• log books
• oral presentations	• course work
• seminar, tutorial & group presentations	• reflective learning journals
• group presentations	• continuous assessment
• examinations	• formative and summative
• tutorials and practical demonstrations	

AY2014_15 Global Assessment Certificate Program Overview

Location: Singapore International School @ Saigon South   DATE: 18 Aug 14 – 03 Jul 15
          Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam   HOURS: 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM
                                                    DAYS: Monday-Friday

LEVEL I (18AUG14-21NOV14) 13 weeks

GAC001	Academic English I: Listening & Speaking Skills
GAC002	Academic English I: Reading & Writing Skills
GAC003	Study Skills for Independent Learning
GAC004	Mathematics I: Fundamentals
GAC005	Computing I: Introduction to Computing for Academic Study
GAC006	Business, Science, & Social Science I: Communication Skills
GAC019	IELTS Preparation Skills
VNRQD	Vietnamese History, Literature, Geography (VN MOET requirement for VN nationals)
TOTAL HOURS LEVEL I:	315 GAC Classroom Hours 120 Independent/Home Study Hours

LEVEL II (24NOV14-03APR15) 14 weeks

GAC007	Academic English II: Listening & Speaking Skills
GAC008	Academic English II: Reading & Writing Skills
GAC010	Mathematics II: Probability, Statistics & Finance
GAC011	Computing II: Data Management
GAC012	Business II: Business Studies
GAC019	IELTS Preparation Skills
GAC026	ACT Assessment Preparation Skills
GAC027	Social Science II: Identity & Interaction in Society
VNRQD	Vietnamese History, Literature, Geography (VN MOET requirement for VN nationals)
TOTAL HOURS LEVEL II:	315 GAC Classroom Hours 120 Independent/Home Study Hours

LEVEL III (06APR15-05JUL15) 13 weeks plus Graduation Night during the week 6-10 July

GAC014	Academic English III: Listening & Speaking Skills
GAC015	Academic English III: Reading & Writing Skills
GAC016	Mathematics III: Calculus & Advanced Applications
GAC017	Computing III: Graphics & Web Design
GAC022	Business III: International Business Studies
GAC026	$ACT^®$ Assessment Preparation Skills
GAC028	Social Science III: Research Skills and Global Issues
VNRQD	Vietnamese History, Literature, Geography (VN MOET requirement for VN nationals)
TOTAL HOURS LEVEL II:	315 GAC Classroom Hours 120 Independent/Home Study Hours

GAC019 IELTS Preparation Skills
All GAC students are strongly advised to sit the official IELTS exam towards the end of Level II. Students who have already taken the IELTS test are encouraged to re-sit the examination, as there should be an improvement in their final score. This module supports the GAC001 and GAC002 Academic English 1 modules. The preparation course is included in the tuition fees. Students are responsible for registering and paying for the IELTS test at a registered testing center. The fee to sit the IELTS exam is not included in the tuition fees.

GAC026 ACT Assessment Preparation Skills
This module will be undertaken during Level II and Level III. The ACT Test, a standardized test used for admittance into many US Universities, is included as part of the GAC program and fees for both the prep class and test are included in the tuition payment. SIS@SS is an $ACT^®$ official test center and students will sit this exam at SIS@SS in June each year.

Laptops:
As per the enrolment contract addendum: Students are required to have their own personal laptop and software (Microsoft Suite including Word, Excel & Access and web page software). Laptops should be brought to school each day.

SUMMARY OF MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

GAC001 Academic English I: Listening and Speaking Skills

- Distinguish between general and academic spoken text types, and state the purpose, audience, and level of formality of each type
- Apply a variety of listening skills to obtain meaning from spoken texts
- Respond to spoken texts in a range of ways including following instructions
- Prepare and deliver short formal oral presentations
- Communicate with accuracy on a variety of general and academic topics in a range of interactive situations.

GAC002 Academic English I: Reading and Writing Skills

- Apply key reading skills to obtain meaning from general and academic text types
- Decode unknown vocabulary through contextual clues, and use an English-English dictionary effectively
- Identify and explain the function of the parts of a paragraph and use them when constructing paragraphs
- Describe plagiarism in the western educational context and demonstrate an understanding of how to avoid it in academic writing
- Compose a range of text types for general and academic purposes, demonstrating awareness of style, purpose and audience
- Demonstrate an ability to research, plan and synthesise ideas in a short essay format

GAC003 Study Skills for Independent Learning

- Recognise different learning styles and intelligences, and analyse personally preferred learning styles and independent learning strategies
- Plan a study workload to meet assignment deadlines over a course of study
- Identify and utilise study skills and strategies that promote effective independent learning
- Identify and explain study problems and apply strategies for dealing with them
- Define the major elements of the higher education study environment
- Research and evaluate higher education options and create a personal profile and Curriculum Vitae/Resumé suitable for academic and vocational usage

GAC004 Mathematics I: Fundamentals

- Solve elementary math problems using basic arithmetic operations
- Perform basic algebraic operations and solve equations and inequations using algebraic methods
- Analyse simple problems involving planar shapes and solids and solve problems in Euclidean geometry
- Calculate solutions using trigonometric methods
- Graph algebraic relations and use coordinate geometry to solve problems on the Cartesian number plane
- Solve and graph exponential and logarithmic functions and equations

GAC005 Computing I: Introduction to Computing for Academic Study

- Understand, evaluate and discriminate between available and emerging technologies to use, store and protect information
- Use the Internet to research, interpret and interactively and ethically manage academic projects
- Create, revise and publish academic documents using a word processing program
- Create an academic oral presentation using a presentation software program
- Use open source platforms to collaboratively create and share academic documents

GAC006 Business, Science & Social Science I: Communication Skills

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of personality type differences, and the influences of personal factors on people's behaviour
- Apply a range of social skills needed for effective communication with others
- Contribute to effective team relationships by demonstrating knowledge of key leadership styles and team skills and roles
- Reflect on and record insights from personal experiences and group discussions in the classroom
- Demonstrate how an understanding of cultural diversity promotes a healthy and harmonious society.

GAC007 Academic English II: Listening and Speaking Skills

- Compare and contrast differences in general and academic spoken text types, and analyse speech functions within these text types.
- Apply a range of listening skills and strategies to comprehend spoken text types
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken text types through note-taking and summarizing strategies
- Describe graphs, procedures and processes using visual materials as prompts
- Deliver formal oral presentations using relevant digital media
- Communicate and encourage discussions in a range of interactive situations

GAC008 Academic English II: Reading and Writing Skills

- Identify and analyse the features of general and academic text types, and apply this knowledge to create written texts
- Demonstrate key reading skills
- Decode unknown vocabulary and idioms
- Write complex sentences which link ideas in a variety of ways
- Write well-constructed paragraphs containing topic sentences with supporting statements, and a range of cohesive devices
- Demonstrate writing skills which assist students to avoid plagiarism
- Use acquired knowledge and skills to research and create academic texts demonstrating synthesis of ideas
- Demonstrate information literacy through selecting appropriate research materials and using accurate referencing and citation conventions

GAC010 Mathematics II: Probability, Statistics and Finance

- Solve problems using arithmetic and geometric sequences and series
- Apply algebraic methods to solve financial problems and analyse information
- Solve problems using probability and counting techniques
- Analyse collected data using statistical methods
- Use the normal distribution to analyse data

GAC011 Computing II: Data Management

- Create and operate a spreadsheet package
- Create and operate a database package
- Apply knowledge of and skills in using spreadsheet and database packages to solve problems in academic study tasks

GAC012 Business II: Business Studies

- Demonstrate an understanding of important business concepts
- Identify, evaluate and apply the process and theories of effective management
- Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the function of the law, human resources management and industrial relations within business contexts
- Demonstrate and apply an understanding of marketing strategies
- Demonstrate an understanding of finance and accounting in its application to business environments
- Demonstrate investigative and analytical skills for a business research task
- Communicate information using appropriate formats for business

GAC014 Academic English III: Listening & Speaking Skills.

- Apply a wide range of critical listening skills and strategies to comprehend and analyse spoken text types
- Communicate on general and abstract topics in a range of interactive academic situations Evaluate points of view or arguments demonstrating awareness of validity, reliability and bias Deliver oral presentations using relevant digital media
- Conduct a formal class seminar on an academic topic

GAC015 Academic English III: Reading & Writing Skills

- Demonstrate critical and analytical thinking skills when reading and writing for academic purposes
- Select, evaluate and reference relevant ideas from valid and reliable sources
- Analyse and create logical arguments using data from valid and reliable sources
- Research and evaluate in-depth academic texts in an annotated bibliography format and identify suitable material to include in academic writing
- Use acquired skills and knowledge to plan and create an in-depth academic essay demonstrating synthesis of complex ideas
- Demonstrate information literacy through selecting appropriate research materials and using accurate referencing conventions

GAC016 Mathematics III: Calculus & Advanced Applications.

- Determine the derivative (if it exists) of most mathematical functions and use the derivative to analyse functional behaviour
- Use techniques of integration to find indefinite and definite integrals
- Apply differentiation and integration techniques in a variety of practical problems

GAC017 Computing III: Digital Communication

- Outline the background of website development
- Locate, process and store graphical content
- Use graphical content in web design
- Design and create a basic website
- Use the website to complement academic work conducted in other media

GAC019 IELTS Test Preparation Skills

- Recognise and recall the question-types in the IELTS Academic Listening test and apply appropriate strategies when responding during the Listening test
- Recognise and recall the question-types in the IELTS Reading test and apply appropriate strategies when responding during the Reading test
- Recognise and recall the question-types in the IELTS Writing test and identify the required type of response and apply appropriate strategies when responding during the Writing test
- Recognise and recall the question-types in the IELTS Academic Speaking interview and appropriate strategies when responding during the Speaking interview

GAC022 Business III – International Business Studies

- Describe and analyse key concepts around globalisation
- Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the external factors impacting on the development of international business
- Demonstrate, evaluate and apply an understanding of the internal factors which contribute to successful international business interactions
- Apply knowledge of marketing strategies to international business contexts
- Demonstrate investigative and analytical skills for a business research task
- Communicate information using appropriate formats and language for business

- ### GAC026   ACT$^{®}$ Assessment Preparation Skills

- Recognise and recall the content areas and question-types in the ACT English Test and apply appropriate strategies when responding
- Recognise and recall the content areas and question-types in the ACT Mathematics Test and apply appropriate strategies when responding
- Recognise and recall the content areas and question-types in the ACT Reading Test and apply appropriate strategies when responding
- Recognise and recall the content areas, formats and question-types in the ACT Science Test and apply appropriate strategies when responding
- Recognise and recall the content areas and question-types in the ACT Writing Test and apply appropriate strategies when responding

GAC027 Social Science II: Identity and Interaction in Society

- Demonstrate an understanding of personal identity within a community and a nation, and their nation within the world
- Describe the impact of existing paradigms on interactions and behaviours in societies
- Compare primary and secondary research methods and apply them to a societal research project
- Apply initiative and analytical skills to a research task
- Communicate information and opinions using effective and appropriate academic format and language

GAC028 Social Science III: Research Skills and Global Issues

- Explain the nature of global issues and outline the major global issues of the past century
- Analyse and discuss selected global issues using arguments supported by authoritative sources
- Compare and contrast quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and discuss appropriate applications
- Research and evaluate sources on global issues for validity and bias
- Work together to present information and lead a discussion in an academic setting
- Apply quantitative and/or qualitative research methodologies and analytical skills to research a global issue and suggest possible solutions
- Communicate information and opinions using effective academic register and language, and awareness of audience
- Use problem solving skills in groups and teams

GRADING SYSTEM

Students are awarded a GPA (Grade Point Average) at the end of each Level. This is the overall mark based on the average of the Result for each individual subject module. After the successful completion of each of the three (3) levels, an Academic Transcript and a Certificate are issued to students. The Transcript provides a full record of grades achieved in each module together with a cumulative GPA.

Pathway universities set a minimum GPA, so it is important that the students aim higher than the set GPA as this can be the basis of a scholarship and extra credit.

Grade	Points	Description	% Guide
A	4.0	Very High achievement	94-100
A-	3.60		90-93
B+	3.30		87-89
B	3.00	High Achievement	83-86
B-	2.60		80-82
C+	2.30		77-79
C	2.00	Average Achievement	73-76
C-	1.60		70-72
D+	1.30		67-69
D	1.00		60-66
D-	0.60	Pass	55-59
F	0.00	Fail	<54

GPA SCORING SHEET