

Frequently Asked Questions

Want does a successful magnet student in CIS look like?

We have found that this student is...

- Consistently earning A's and B's in advanced/honors English and social studies classes
- On or above grade level on state assessments
- Ready to be challenged and has a love of learning
- Able to use time management skills to turn in assignments on time
- Dedicated to the time and effort the program requires for all four years
- Excited to be part of extracurricular activities and events

What if I want to enter medicine, law, or business rather than pursue an international career? Is CIS still for me?

Yes! No matter what profession you decide to enter—whether medicine, law, business, the Foreign Service, or hundreds of others—developing the understanding and skills to work with peoples of different faiths, cultures, and ethnicities is increasingly important in the “global community” of the 21st century. Many students take advantage of programs available to them at Dr. Phillips HS, which support our goals such as the Medical and Business Academies.

Can I participate in music and/or sports?

Yes. Many CIS students are in band, orchestra, chorus, art, and athletic teams. It just takes good time management skills!

Is transportation provided if we are not zoned in the Dr. Phillips district?

OCPS does not fund transportation outside of your zoned school. However, some students have had success traveling public transportation or joining a carpool.

What universities have CIS graduates gone on to attend?

To name a few—Georgetown, George Washington, Cornell, Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, U.S. Naval Academy, Yale, Harvard, Duke, Notre Dame, American University, and Richmond International College in England, as well as such Florida schools as FSU, UF, UCF, USF, Rollins, and Stetson. We still hear from CIS graduates whose careers range from doctors and lawyers to a company representative for the Pacific Rim.

What is the background of the faculty?

The CIS faculty is an outstanding and dedicated team of teachers, most of whom hold advanced degrees. They have varied international experience, including participation in study-abroad and travel-abroad programs.



From left to right: International Leadership Council, CIS students work, Japan travelers meet Orlando Mayor Dyer

CIS . . . A “World-Class” Education



Center for International Studies

An Advanced Placement Curriculum

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**Ranked 2019 & 2018 "Exemplary" by OCPS Annual Magnet Review
Named 2020 & 2019 "National Magnet School of Distinction" and
2017 "Magnet Program of Excellence" by Magnet Schools of America**

The Dr. Phillips High School's **Center for International Studies Magnet** (CIS) is a high-rigor OCPS school program founded in 1987 to expand awareness of global issues, deepen understanding of human cultures, and develop competence in multilingual abilities. In support of our magnet mission, our students take AP-social studies classes, Honors and AP-English classes, and complete four years of a single world language while maintaining a 3.0 unweighted grade point average. By offering a rigorous curriculum with an international focus, the magnet assists students to develop the skills, attain the knowledge, and cultivate an attitude of cross-cultural awareness vital to success in our diverse and multi-ethnic world.

Our Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum offers challenging, college-level courses in which students can earn college credit for successful performance on national AP exams. Pre-AP English Honors in the ninth and tenth grades help students develop analytical and writing skills that will prepare them for their AP classes. CIS students are held to very high academic and behavioral standards, and are expected to come to school prepared to learn, to take responsibility, and to stay focused on their learning and invested in their education.

In addition to studying history, our CIS program provides an exciting exposure to different cultures and international relationships through many stimulating international experiences, including fun evening events, field trips to local cultural organizations, guest speakers, short-term hosting of foreign exchange students, and participation in study-travel programs abroad; all of which afford students direct interaction with foreign cultures.

Curriculum Requirements

CIS attempts to create a feeling of a “school-within-a-school” by having magnet students take specially-designated CIS classes together, in addition to classes offered to all DP students.

Once accepted into the program, students must comply with all CIS guidelines and maintain the following requirements:

- Enrollment in required on-campus CIS Classes.
- 3.0 **UNWEIGHTED** overall GPA for **each** grading period.
- Good attendance & conduct record with no Level III or IV disciplinary actions.
- A completed “practicum” by the junior year. An experiential international experience which may be fulfilled by hosting foreign students, interning, maintaining a pen-pal correspondence, and/or traveling abroad.
- Participation in scheduled CIS seminars, assemblies, & multicultural activities
- Yearly attendance to a minimum of two evening cultural events.

Typical CIS Schedule

Grade 9

1. **CIS English I Honors** (Pre-AP)
2. **CIS AP Human Geography** (foundation course)
3. **World Language**
4. Math 5. Science 6. HOPE 7. Elective

Grade 10

1. **CIS English II Honors** (Pre-AP)
2. **CIS AP World History**
3. **World Language**
4. Math 5. Science 6. Elective 7. Elective

Grade 11

1. **CIS AP English Language**
2. **CIS AP US History**
3. **World Language**
4. Math 5. Science 6. Elective 7. Elective

Grade 12

1. **CIS Valencia Anthropology or CIS AP Art History**
2. **CIS AP English Literature**
3. **World Language**
4. American Government & Economics (Honors or AP recommended)
5. Math 6. Science 7. Elective

Total: 24 credits required for graduation

Courses in **boldface** are required CIS magnet courses taken on DPHS campus with CIS-designated teachers only. Course requirements are subject to change, pending state curriculum changes and availability of instructors.

[As of 1/10/21]

Advanced Placement Curriculum

One of the advantages of the CIS Magnet in Dr. Phillips High School is the wide range of Advanced Placement courses available. AP courses offer a challenging education and can result in students earning college credit based on their scores on the national exams. The CIS curriculum provides a well-rounded international education. The required components include:

- **SOCIAL STUDIES** (3 years) AP Human Geography, AP World History, and AP U.S. History.
- **WORLD LANGUAGES** (4 years) CIS students will be required to specialize in at least one world language during their entire high school career, culminating in AP-level.
- **ENGLISH:** (4 years) CIS Honors English I + II, AP English Language, and AP English Literature.
- **WORLD CULTURE & ARTS** (1 year) To understand cultures through their varied expressions, CIS students select CIS AP Art History or CIS/Valencia Anthropology during Senior year.

Students who do not pass the AP College Board examinations may still earn a CIS certificate if they meet all magnet requirements. Students who earn high scores on three or more AP courses are recognized by the College Board:

AP Scholar	3 courses
AP Scholar with Honor	4 courses
AP Scholar with Distinction	5 courses
National AP Scholar	8 courses

(Specific criteria of these awards are determined by College Board.)

Academic Partnerships

CIS is fortunate to have multiple partnerships which support student learning. These include our Parent Advisory Board, Dr. Phillips Rotary Club, Youth Exchange Program, City of Urayasu, Urayasu International Friendship Association, BG|BRG St. Martin School (Austria), Aabybro Efterskole (Denmark); and our academic local partnerships with the Global Perspectives Office at the University of Central Florida, and the Holocaust Memorial Resource/Education Center of Florida.

Admission Requirements

If the CIS Magnet at Dr. Phillips High School seems like a great fit for your student, please apply at www.schoolchoice.ocps.net. We would love you to be a part of our highly competitive, college prep program! Rising 9th and 10th graders may apply during the OCPS Magnet Application window.

Contact magnetoffice@ocps.net for more information.

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