



News Release

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College Board to Reinstate Advanced Placement Program[®] in Italian Beginning in 2011-12 Academic Year

NEW YORK — The College Board announced today that the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]) will reinstate the AP Italian Language and Culture course and exam next fall, with the first AP Exam to be administered in May 2012. The AP Italian Language and Culture course and exam will immerse students in Italian culture while also helping them master the Italian language.

“We are so pleased that students will once again have the opportunity to develop their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills within a frame of reference that reflects the richness of Italian language and culture and the rigor of college-level Advanced Placement,” said Gaston Caperton, president of the not-for-profit College Board. “Thanks to the hard work of the Italian Embassy and the advocacy of proud Italian Americans, the program is now fully funded. This is a great day for the Italian language, the Italian people and all of us who are enraptured by the culture of Italy and its beautiful language.”

The College Board began offering AP Italian in September 2005. However, a decision was made to suspend AP Italian following the 2008-09 school year because student participation failed to meet projections and the costs to maintain the program became unmanageable. Since the suspension of AP Italian in 2009, the Embassy of the Republic of Italy has coordinated the effort to raise funds, with donor contributions from the Republic of Italy, Italian American organizations, individual donors and Italian companies, including *American Association of Teachers of Italian, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, Coccia Foundation, Columbus Citizens Foundation, Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, COPILAS, Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D., Matilda Raffa Cuomo, ENI, FIAT, Finmeccanica, Frank Guarini, Italian Language Foundation, Italian Welfare League, Luxottica, Mediterranean Shipping Company, National Italian American Foundation, National Organization of Italian American Women, Order Sons of Italy in America, Berardo Paradiso, David Pope, Louis Tallarini, UNICO and UniCredit.*

“Promoting Italian language is a high priority for our foreign policy. The Italian government has strongly supported the reinstatement of Italian in the AP Program, and I am here tonight to show our great appreciation and gratitude to those whose contributions made it possible,” said Vincenzo Scotti, Italy’s Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at a signing ceremony at the Consulate General of Italy in New York. “Over the years, Italian language has been growing in U.S. schools and universities. It is actually the only European language with a positive trend, and today’s announcement is a very important step to foster the teaching of our language. I am sure that, also with the support of the Italian American community, American families will take the opportunity the College Board is giving them to advance their children’s education through the study of Italian language and culture.”

“What we see today is nothing less than a success story of *Sistema Italia* at work. Teamwork proved to be key in reinstating Italian in the AP Program,” said Giulio Terzi di Sant’Agata, ambassador of Italy to the U.S. “The Italian government, major Italian American organizations and some of the most important Italian corporations in the U.S. made it possible, and I think they deserve our gratitude and appreciation.”

The AP Italian Language and Culture course is part of the College Board’s embrace of globalization and the recognition that America’s students must be well-versed in world languages and cultures. In addition to Italian, the College Board offers AP classes in Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Latin and Spanish.

About the Advanced Placement Program®

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 college-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them. Each AP teacher’s syllabus is evaluated and approved by college faculty from some of the nation’s leading institutions, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. AP is accepted by more than 3,800 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. This includes over 90 percent of four-year institutions in the United States. In 2010, 1.8 million students representing more than 17,000 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took 3.2 million AP Exams.

About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,700 of the nation’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.com.

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