



Sons of Italy News Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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OSIA REPORTS ITALIAN ENROLLMENTS ON RISE IN U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

WASHINGTON, November 26, 2003 – Enrollment in Italian grew by nearly 30 percent from 1998 to 2002 in U.S. institutions of higher education, and is growing faster than the enrollment rates for Spanish, French, and German, according to the Order Sons of Italy in America's (OSIA) **2003 Italian Language Enrollment Report**.

The report, using the most current data available from the Modern Language Association (MLA), reveals that Italian language enrollment outpaced enrollments in Spanish, German and French, which increased by 14, 12.5 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

From 1998 to 2002, at the nearly 3,000 U.S. colleges and universities surveyed, the number of Italian language enrollments by undergraduate students in two- and four-year colleges and by graduate students rose from 49,287 to 63,866 (+29.6 percent). At two-year colleges alone enrollments in Italian rose by 55 percent. The combined data represents a 17 percentage point increase from the last MLA survey that covered Italian enrollments from 1995 to 1998.

The report also shows that Italian is the fourth most commonly taught foreign language in U.S. colleges and universities behind Spanish, French and German. According to the 2000 Census, Italian is also the fourth most common European language spoken in U.S. homes.

The OSIA report is available for download on the organization's web site at www.osia.org. For a hard copy of the report, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (\$.37) to OSIA Language Report, 219 E Street NE, Washington, DC, 20002.

The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) is the largest and the longest-established national organization for people of Italian heritage in the country. Founded in 1905, today it has 600,000 members and supporters and a network of 700 chapters throughout the U.S.A.

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ITALIAN LANGUAGE

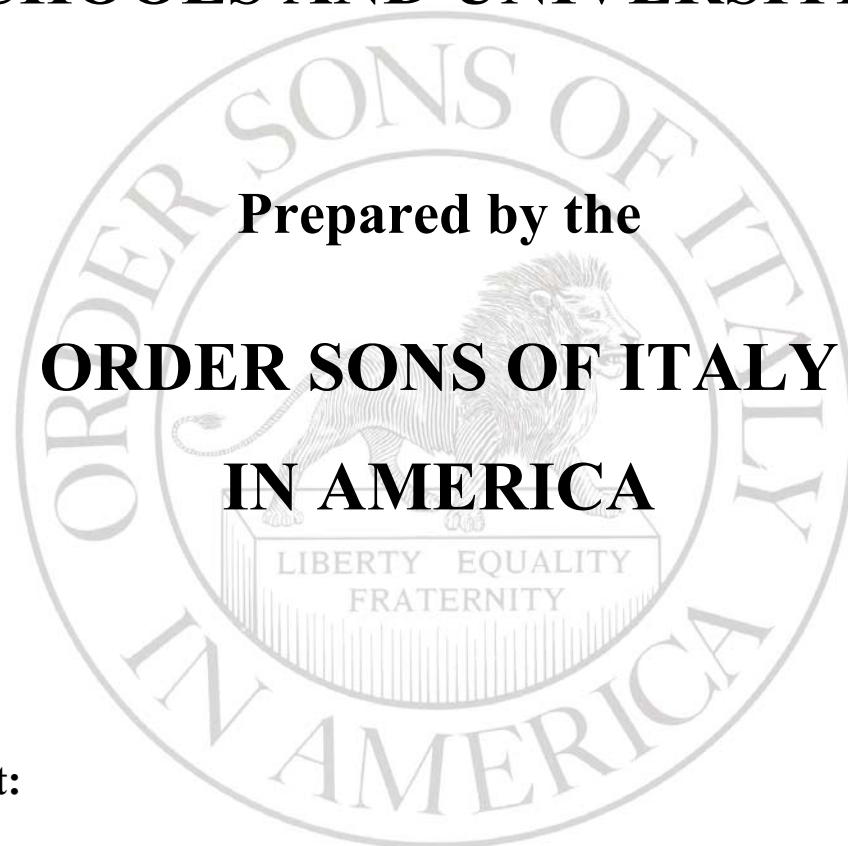
ENROLLMENT IN U.S. HIGH

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

Prepared by the

ORDER SONS OF ITALY

IN AMERICA



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ITALIAN LANGUAGE ENROLLMENT REPORT

Prepared by the

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) report on Italian language enrollment is based on the most recent data available from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), which tracks high school foreign language enrollments, and the Modern Language Association (MLA), which represents two and four-year colleges, and universities.

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE ENROLLMENT IS INCREASING AT
BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVELS.**

In 1994, 43,838 American public high school students (grades 9-12) were enrolled in Italian. By the year 2000, that number rose to 64,098 (+46%).

A survey of nearly 3,000 U.S. colleges and universities reveals that the number of students studying Italian both at the undergraduate and graduate levels rose from 49,287 in 1998 to 63,866 in 2002 (+29.6 %).

[MORE]

**ENROLLMENT IN ITALIAN IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND
UNIVERSITIES IS INCREASING AT A
FASTER RATE THAN ENROLLMENTS
IN SPANISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN.**

Between 1994 and 2000 in U.S. public high schools:

- Italian language enrollment **rose** 46 percent
- Spanish language enrollment **rose** 26 percent
- French language enrollment **dropped** 3 percent
- German language enrollment **dropped** 13 percent

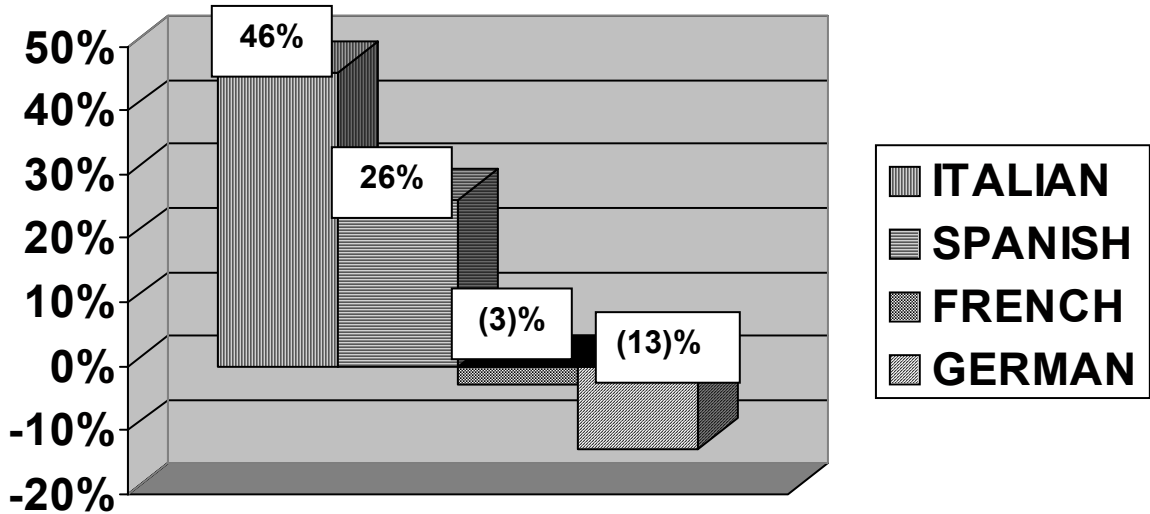
Between 1998 and 2002 in U.S. colleges and universities:

- Italian language studies **rose** 30 percent
- Spanish language enrollment **rose** 14 percent
- French language enrollment **rose** 2 percent
- German language enrollment **rose** 13 percent

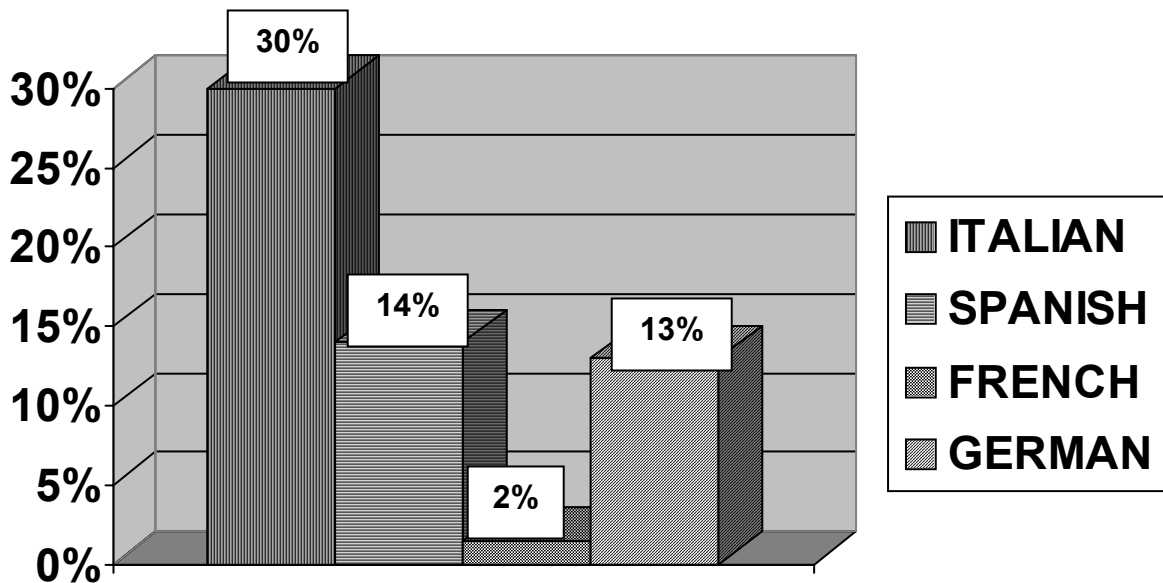
Please see the charts on the following pages

[MORE]

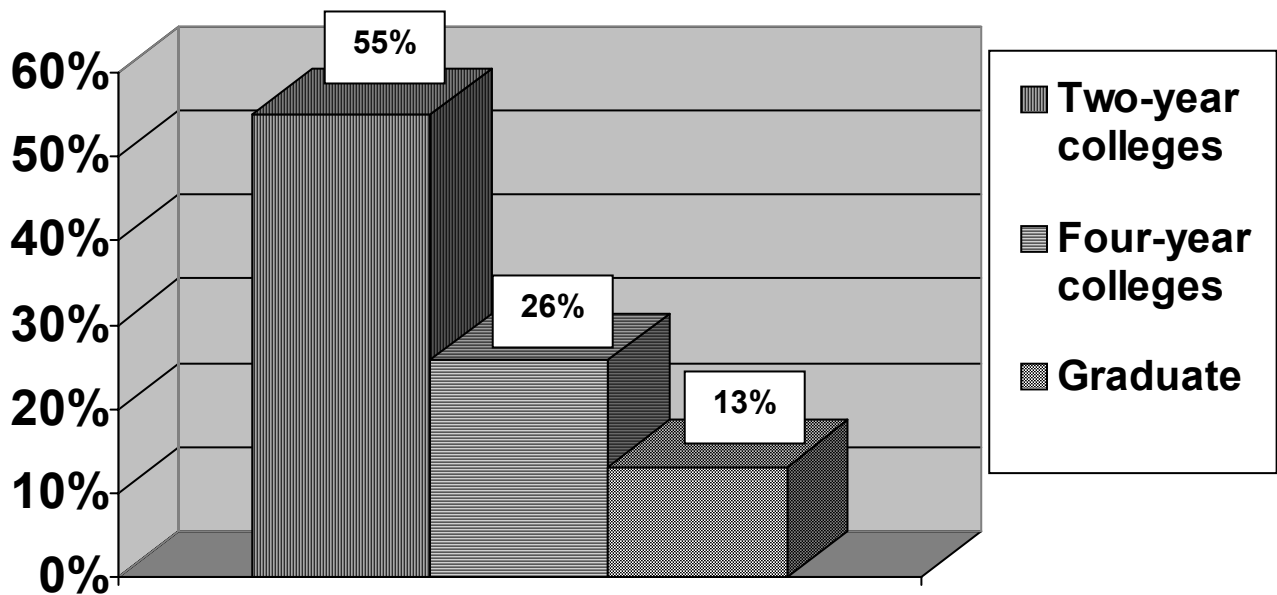
Foreign Language Enrollments in U.S. Public High Schools 1994-2000



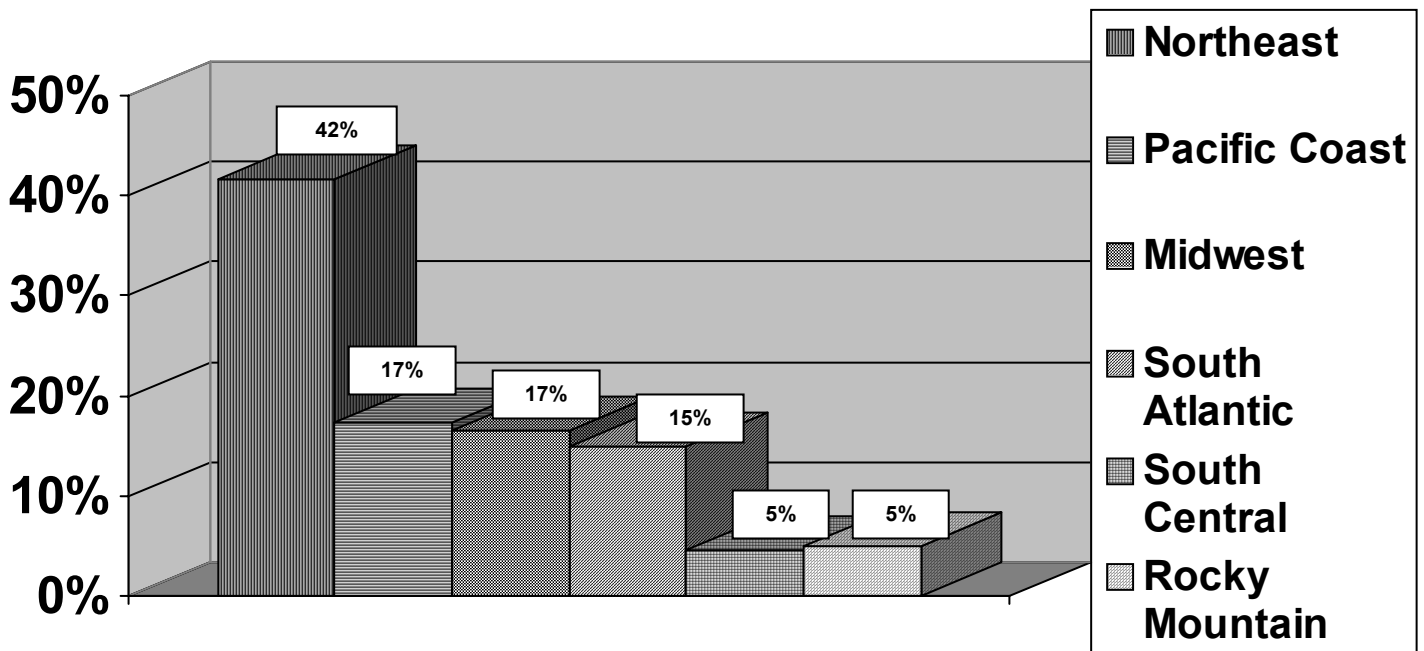
Foreign Language Enrollments in U.S. Colleges and Universities 1998-2002



Italian Language Enrollments in U.S. Institutions of Higher Education 1998-2002



Regional Comparison of 2002 Undergraduate Enrollments in Italian



**TABLE I: U.S. PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS
[1994 – 2000]**

<u>LANGUAGE</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Italian	43,838	64,098	+20,260	+46%
Spanish	3,219,775	4,057,608	+837,833	+26%
French	1,105,857	1,075,421	-30,436	-2.75%
German	325,964	283,301	-42,663	-13%

Source: “*Foreign Language Enrollments in U.S. Public High Schools, 1890 – 2000*”
The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

**TABLE II: U.S. COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENTS
[1998-2002*]**

<u>LANGUAGE</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Italian	49,287	63,866	+14,579	+29.6%
Spanish	656,590	746,602	+90,012	+13.7%
French	199,064	202,014	+2,950	+1.5%
German	89,020	100,112	+11,092	+12.5%

*[Includes Undergraduate and Graduate Levels]

Source: “*Foreign Language Enrollments in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2002*” by Elizabeth B. Welles, The Modern Language Association (MLA)

[MORE]

This report was prepared by the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), the largest and longest-established national organization for people of Italian heritage in the country. Founded in 1905, today it has 600,000 members and supporters and a network of 700 chapters throughout the country.

OSIA works at the local, national and international levels to promote the heritage and culture of an estimated 26 million Americans of Italian descent, the nation's fifth largest ethnic group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The above report was authored by:

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