

Sanskritam

as a foreign language



विदेशभाषारूपेण संस्कृताध्ययनम्

Sanskrita Bharati

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Why Sanskrit?

Often considered the mother of many Indian languages, Sanskrit (aka Samskritam) is an essential tool for understanding the diverse culture and ancient heritage of India. As philosophies, disciplines and other practices of India have traversed beyond Indian borders, knowledge of Sanskrit has become important globally. Several universities worldwide currently recognize the importance of studying Sanskrit and provide students with opportunities to pursue Sanskrit. Students who study Sanskrit gain insight into the various aspects of Indian culture which are practiced in India, and throughout the world.

The sheer number and variety of Sanskrit texts alone reflect the depth of Indian thought encoded in the Sanskrit language. At least five million manuscripts exist covering a wide array of topics such as history, medicine, science, religion, philosophy, poetry and mathematics. Students equipped with the knowledge of Sanskrit can use these texts to understand the progression of India.

Students can also use Sanskrit to understand the theories behind many internationally practiced disciplines, religions and philosophies, which have their foundations in Sanskrit texts. Yoga and Ayurveda, both of which originated in India, are in fact growing in popularity in many Western countries. East Asian scholars revere the Sanskrit texts which detail the fundamentals of Buddhism. The Bhagavad Gita, a philosophical Sanskrit text, has been translated into at least 75 different

languages, attesting to the work's popularity across different cultures. This ancient text, originally valued for its philosophical content, has also gained recognition in modern times as a source of guiding principles for the management sector.

As the study of Sanskrit receives more attention, new avenues for analysis and exploration are becoming available. Opportunities exist in researching the link between Paninian Grammar and semantic representation in computational methods. This is currently an area of increased interest to researchers as evidenced by the growing number of symposiums on computational linguistics. As efforts are increasing to make a variety of Sanskrit texts digitized and thus more readily accessible, students will soon be able to research any area of interest in Sanskrit literature.

The study of Sanskrit can lead to an abundance of new, exciting, and valuable opportunities for your high school student. Prepare your high school student for success by encouraging him/her to learn Sanskrit.



"I like two things most about SAFL: the teachers, and the pride I feel in knowing that I am preserving the link to my ancient heritage. Learning a classic language like Samskritam expands my horizons and helps me appreciate Indian culture more."

Suryateja Rao, 8th grader, Massachusetts

न हि ज्ञानेन सदृशं पवित्रमिह विद्यते ।

Sanskritam As a Foreign Language

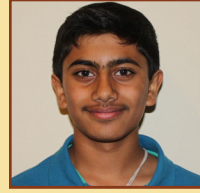
The SAFL program is a highly innovative distance learning course designed specifically for high school students. Our experienced instructors, online classrooms, and creative teaching methods attract and engage high school students in Sanskrit learning.

Our students become proficient in all aspects of the Sanskrit language – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through our mentoring program, interactive weekly sessions, and residential programs, students have ample opportunities to improve conversational skills, learn the nuances of grammar, and become familiar with Sanskrit literature and Indian culture. Our stimulating multimedia lessons also help students develop their reading and writing skills with ease. Upon successful completion of the SAFL program, students are well-equipped to pursue university level Sanskrit courses.

Despite being an online distance education program, SAFL maintains a low student to teacher ratio to ensure that students receive highly individualized attention. Teachers are easily accessible via phone or email

outside of class time. Technical support is readily available; students need not be technologically savvy. Should students choose to enroll in SAFL for credit, SAFL instructors communicate regularly with school officials to make certain that grades are submitted on time.

High school students who enroll in the SAFL program automatically become part of a Sanskrit learning community of children, youth and adults. We hope that your high school student will take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn Sanskrit.



“I enrolled in SAFL because I thought it would be interesting to learn the ancient language and would give me an opportunity to know more about our rich Indian culture and heritage. It certainly did ! I was very pleased with how much I learned in the program and I will continue to learn Samskritam.

Rahul Joshi, 8th grader, California

Why SAFL?

Students become proficient in all aspects of the Sanskrit language - listening, speaking, reading, and writing

Experienced instructors use a variety of stories, songs and games to engage high school students in Sanskrit learning.

Residential camps, weekly online classes and mentoring sessions provide ample opportunities for exposure to India’s cultural heritage and student-to-student interaction.





Courses

The SAFL program consists of three years. The 100, 200 and 300 level courses represent the first, second and third years of the program respectively. All courses include a one and a half hour, online, weekly class taught by an experienced instructor. SAMS 099, SAMS 103, SAMS 203 and SAMS 303 are the required residential courses for each level.

Year 1: SAMS 099, SAMS 101, SAMS 102, & SAMS 103

These introductory courses aim to develop elementary competency in each of the major communication skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students learn phrases necessary for simple conversation, basic grammar, as well as reading and writing using the Devanagari script. The residential courses required in this level (SAMS 099 & SAMS 103) give students the opportunity to develop their skills in an immersive environment.

Year 2: SAMS 201, SAMS 202, & SAMS 203

Students in this level improve their vocabulary and gain fluency in speaking, reading and writing. Students speak weekly with a mentor in Sanskrit, as well as begin to read short stories. Grammatical topics include the seven case endings, present, past and future tenses, the passive voice and the subjunctive mood. During the residential course required in this level (SAMS 203), students solidify their Sanskrit knowledge while mentoring newer students.

Year 3: SAMS 301, SAMS 302 & SAMS 303

Students in these courses read both prose and poetry. Topics in this level include euphonic vowel and consonant combinations, consonant ending nouns, and interpretation of poetry. To allow students to gain invaluable insight into the history, culture and traditions of India, the residential aspect of this course level takes place near Delhi, India.



“SAFL really got me interested in Samskritam. It was organized, well-taught and engaging. I learned a lot, and I had fun doing it. I highly recommend this course.”

Suma Anand, 11th grader, Massachusetts

How to register

- 1) Visit safl.sanskritabharatiusa.org. Only online registration is available for the SAFL program. Registrations are accepted only for the fall semester. All registrations are year-long (two semesters).
- 2) Complete the online registration and payment on the website before the registration deadline.
- 3) If you are enrolling for a course that has a prerequisite and you have not completed it, then you must indicate on the registration form that you will take a waiver exam to waive the prerequisite course.
- 4) After registering, you will receive an email with your student id, and log in information for the online portal. If you have requested to waive a prerequisite course, then you will also receive your exam date and details.

How can I get credit for taking SAFL?

Independent study credit, foreign language credit, or waiver credit for taking SAFL must be given by your high school. In order to see if your school will give credit for taking SAFL, complete the steps listed below before registering for SAFL.

- 1) Talk to your school guidance counselor or principal about your interest in taking SAFL for credit. It is best to do this during the spring session before you intend to take SAFL.
- 2) Provide your guidance counselor with the complete syllabus for SAFL, the contact information for SAFL, and this brochure (all these items are included in the enrollment packet). If you do not have any of these items, please contact us (see the “Contact Us” section at the end of this brochure).
- 3) Some schools allow students to take SAFL for foreign language credit, while others give only independent study credit or waiver credit. Make sure that you discuss all these options, as well as follow any procedures your school may have for approving courses for credit.

Students from many states currently take SAFL for credit. If you need any assistance during this process, please contact us (see the “Contact Us” section at the end of this brochure).



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I get credit for taking SAFL?

It is possible to obtain credit for taking SAFL in some schools. Please see the “How can I get credit for taking SAFL?” subsection of the “How to register” page for more details.

Can I take SAFL if I am taking/have taken another foreign language?

Yes, many of our students study another foreign language while taking SAFL.

How much time does this course take each week?

We estimate that students spend around five hours a week in this program.

Are there any fees for this course?

Yes, please see the Fee Schedule included in the enrollment packet.

Are the residential courses required for successful completion of SAFL?

Yes.

When are the weekly classes?

Please see the Course Schedule included in the enrollment packet.

What are the technical requirements?

Students need a computer with an internet connection, a scanner, webcam and microphone. Please see the full FAQ posted on our website for more details.



If you have a question that has not been addressed, please see our full FAQ posted on our website or contact us (see the “Contact Us” section at the end of this brochure).

Contact Us

For any questions related to the SAFL program, please contact us at:

Email: safli@sanskritabharatiusa.org

Website: safli.sanskritabharatiusa.org

Phone: 978-268-8406