



REC'D FEB 20 2003

February 3, 2003

Dear Educator:

Because the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) has an established reputation for high-quality, rigorous academic courses, a reputation that is recognized and respected by U.S. colleges and universities, some secondary schools have begun to attach the "AP" label to subjects (such as sociology or accounting) that are not part of the official portfolio of 34 Advanced Placement Program courses.

Courses receive their AP designation by following the content and curricular goals outlined in the AP Course Description booklets. A course that fails to follow the AP Course Description in a particular subject is not, and should not be designated, an AP course. Such a designation is an improper use of a College Board registered trademark.

Affixing the AP trademark to courses that are not part of the AP suite or do not follow the AP Course Description not only violates trademark requirements but also misleads colleges and universities, who have come to trust the AP label as an indicator of high-quality standards as delineated in AP Course Descriptions and assessed via the annual AP Examinations.

We ask that you review course titles and content, comparing the titles to the enclosed list, AP Courses and Exams. If a course is not on this list, it is not part of the AP portfolio and should not be listed on transcripts with an AP designation. Additionally, please ask AP teachers to compare current course matter to the curricular goals outlined in the AP Course Descriptions. The AP Course Descriptions are available as free downloads on AP Central™ ([apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com)). Regarding AP science courses (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics) in particular, note that all AP science courses are required to incorporate a laboratory component.

The College Board will soon be sending to all colleges, information addressing this issue and listing the official courses for which the AP designation is valid. Please note that many colleges and universities continue to tell the AP Program that they often will not attach value to a course labeled AP that was taken during a student's sophomore or junior year, unless an official AP Exam grade is also presented for that course.

Thank you for your support of the AP Program. We appreciate your cooperative efforts in this attempt to ensure that the validity and integrity of the Program are maintained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee R. Jones".

Lee Jones  
Vice President, K-12 Operations

Enclosure