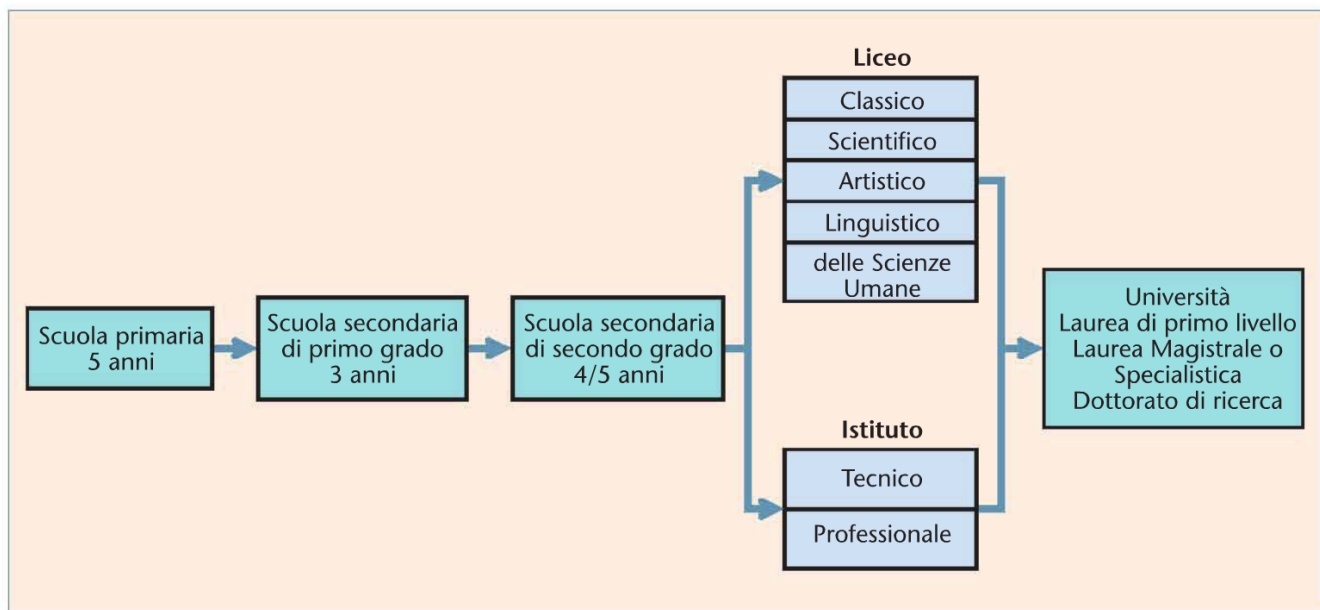


## Studio di parole Il sistema italiano degli studi



Courtesy of the authors

**NOTE:** The great majority of Italian students attend public schools. Children begin elementary school at the age of six. At the end of the **terza media** (*eighth grade*), students begin high school. There are different types of high schools and programs are controlled by the state. Students who want to study humanities or the sciences choose a **liceo classico** or **scientifico**. Those who want to start working soon, without going on to a university, go to an **istituto** where they can learn a practical trade.

## Informazioni

### L'università

At the end of their secondary education, Italian students must pass a comprehensive examination called **l'esame di maturità** in order to be eligible to enroll in a **facoltà universitaria**. Currently some university programs require an additional entry exam. About 75 percent of high school graduates go on to university but a much lower percentage actually graduate.

Most Italian students attend **università statali** (*public universities*) where tuition costs are generally low and based on the student's family income. University curricula are focused on specific areas of studies from the beginning. Classes are large, with attendance often not required, and contact between students and professors is minimal. Almost all universities are located in big cities where there is no centralized campus like in the United States, and the different departments are often widely separated from each other. Universities offer limited student housing. Dormitories, **case dello studente**, are generally reserved for low-income students who usually are from out of town. Most students live with their families and attend local universities, and those who decide to study in a different town, rent a room or an apartment with other students.