

planned destination.^[366] The rivalry has continued, most recently in 2014, when a group of Caltech students gave out mugs sporting the MIT logo on the front and the words "The Institute of Technology" on the back. When heated, the mugs turned orange and read, "Caltech, The Hotter Institute of Technology".^[367]

Activities

MIT has over 500 recognized student activity groups,^[368] including a campus radio station, *The Tech* student newspaper, an annual entrepreneurship competition, a crime club, and weekly screenings of popular films by the Lecture Series Committee. Less traditional activities include the "world's largest open-shelf collection of science fiction" in English, a model railroad club, and a vibrant folk dance scene. Students, faculty, and staff are involved in over 50 educational outreach and public service programs through the MIT Museum, Edgerton Center, and MIT Public Service Center.^[369]



The start of the MIT Mystery Hunt in 2007

Fraternities and sororities provide a base of activities in addition to housing. Approximately 1,000 undergrads, 48% of men and 30% of women, participate in one of several dozen Greek Life men's, women's and co-ed chapters on the campus.^[370]

The Independent Activities Period is a four-week-long "term" offering hundreds of optional classes, lectures, demonstrations, and other activities throughout the month of January between the Fall and Spring semesters. Some of the most popular recurring IAP activities are Autonomous Robot Design (course 6.270), Robocraft Programming (6.370), and MasLab competitions,^[371] the annual "mystery hunt",^[372] and Charm School.^{[373][374]} More than 250 students pursue externships annually at companies in the US and abroad.^{[375][376]}

Many MIT students also engage in "hacking", which encompasses both the physical exploration of areas that are generally off-limits (such as rooftops and steam tunnels), as well as elaborate practical jokes.^{[377][378]} Examples of high-profile hacks have included the abduction of Caltech's cannon,^[379] reconstructing a Wright Flyer atop the Great Dome,^[380] and adorning the John Harvard statue with the Master Chief's Mjölhnir Helmet.^[381]

Athletics

MIT sponsors 31 varsity sports and has one of the three broadest NCAA Division III athletic programs.^{[382][383]} MIT participates in the NCAA's Division III, and the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference. It also participates in NCAA's Division I Patriot League for women's crew, and the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) for Men's Water Polo. Men's crew competes outside the NCAA in the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges (EARC).

MIT's intercollegiate sports teams, called the Engineers, won 22 Team National Championships and 42 Individual National Championships. MIT is the all-time Division III leader in producing Academic All-Americans (302) and ranks second across all NCAA Divisions, behind only the University of

Nebraska.^[384] MIT Athletes won 13 Elite 90 awards and ranks first among NCAA Division III programs, and third among all divisions.^[385] In April 2009, budget cuts led to MIT eliminating eight of its 41 sports, including the mixed men's and women's teams in alpine skiing and pistol; separate teams for men and women in ice hockey and gymnastics; and men's programs in golf and wrestling.^{[386][387]}



The Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center houses a two-story fitness center as well as swimming and diving pools.

People

Students

Student body composition as of May 2, 2023

Race and ethnicity ^[388]	Total	
<u>Asian</u>	34%	
<u>White</u>	22%	
<u>Hispanic</u>	15%	
<u>Foreign national</u>	11%	
<u>Other</u> ^[f]	10%	
<u>Black</u>	8%	
<u>Economic diversity</u>		
<u>Low-income</u> ^[g]	19%	
<u>Affluent</u> ^[h]	81%	

MIT enrolled 4,602 undergraduates and 6,972 graduate students in 2018–2019.^[389] Undergraduate and graduate students came from all 50 US states as well as from 115 foreign countries.^[390]

MIT received 33,240 applications for admission to the undergraduate Class of 2025: it admitted 1,365 (4.1 percent).^[391] In 2019, 29,114 applications were received for graduate and advanced degree programs across all departments; 3,670 were admitted (12.6 percent) and 2,312 enrolled (63 percent).^[392] In August 2024, after the U.S. Supreme Court overruled race-based affirmative action in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023), the university reported that for the class of 2028, Black and Latino student enrollment decreased from previous averages to 5 and 11 percent, respectively, while Asian American enrollment increased to 47 percent.^{[393][394]}

Undergraduate tuition and fees for 2019–2020 was \$53,790 for nine months. 59% of students were awarded a need-based MIT scholarship. Graduate tuition and fees for 2019–2020 was also \$53,790 for nine months, and summer tuition was \$17,800. Financial support for graduate students are provided in large part by individual departments. They include fellowships, traineeships, teaching and research assistantships, and loans.^[395] The annual increase in expenses had led to a student tradition (dating back to the 1960s) of tongue-in-cheek "tuition riots".^[396]

MIT has been nominally co-educational since admitting Ellen Swallow Richards in 1870. Richards also became the first female member of MIT's faculty, specializing in sanitary chemistry.^{[397][398]} Female students remained a small minority prior to the completion of the first wing of a women's dormitory, McCormick Hall, in 1963.^{[399][400][401]} Between 1993 and 2009 the proportion of women rose from 34 percent to 45 percent of undergraduates and from 20 percent to 31 percent of graduate students.^{[182][402]} As of 2009, women outnumbered men in Biology, Brain & Cognitive Sciences, Architecture, Urban Planning, and Biological Engineering.^{[182][403]}

Faculty and staff

As of 2025, MIT had 1,090 faculty members.^[4] Faculty are responsible for lecturing classes, for advising both graduate and undergraduate students, and for sitting on academic committees, as well as for conducting original research. Between 1964 and 2009 a total of seventeen faculty and staff members affiliated with MIT won Nobel Prizes (thirteen of them in the latter 25 years).^[404] As of October 2020, 37 MIT faculty members, past or present, have won Nobel Prizes, the majority in Economics or Physics.^[405]

As of October 2013, current faculty and teaching staff included 67 Guggenheim Fellows, 6 Fulbright Scholars, and 22 MacArthur Fellows.^[4] Faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to their research field as well as the MIT community are granted appointments as Institute Professors for the remainder of their tenures. Susan Hockfield, a molecular neurobiologist, served as MIT's president from 2004 to 2012. She was the first woman to hold the post.^[406]

MIT faculty members have often been recruited to lead other colleges and universities. Founding faculty-member Charles W. Eliot became president of Harvard University in 1869, a post he would hold for 40 years, during which he had influence both on American higher education and on secondary education. MIT alumnus and faculty member George Ellery Hale played a central role in the development of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and other faculty members have been key founders of Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in nearby Needham, Massachusetts.

As of 2014 former provost Robert A. Brown served as president of Boston University; former provost Mark Wrighton is chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis; former associate provost Alice Gast is president of Lehigh University; and former professor Suh Nam-pyo is president of KAIST. Former dean of the School of Science Robert J. Birgeneau was the chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley (2004–2013); former professor John Maeda was president of Rhode Island School of Design (RISD, 2008–2013); former professor David Baltimore was president of Caltech (1997–2006); and MIT alumnus and former assistant professor Hans Mark served as chancellor of the University of Texas system (1984–1992).



A 2000 panel featuring Institute Professors Emeriti and Nobel Laureates (from left to right) Franco Modigliani, Paul Samuelson, and Robert Solow

In addition, faculty members have been recruited to lead governmental agencies; for example, former professor Marcia McNutt is president of the National Academy of Sciences,^[407] urban studies professor Xavier de Souza Briggs served as the associate director of the White House Office of Management and Budget,^[408] and biology professor Eric Lander was a co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.^[409] In 2013, faculty member Ernest Moniz was nominated by President Obama and later confirmed as United States Secretary of Energy.^{[410][411]} Former professor Hans Mark served as Secretary of the Air Force from 1979 to 1981. Alumna and Institute Professor Sheila Widnall served as Secretary of the Air Force between 1993 and 1997, making her the first female Secretary of the Air Force and first woman to lead an entire branch of the US military in the Department of Defense. A 1999 report, met by promises of change by President Charles Vest, found that senior female faculty in the School of Science were often marginalized, and in return for equal professional accomplishments received reduced "salary, space, awards, resources, and response to outside offers".^[412]

As of 2017, MIT was the second-largest employer in the city of Cambridge.^[157] Based on feedback from employees, MIT was ranked No. 7 as a place to work, among US colleges and universities as of March 2013.^[413] Surveys cited a "smart", "creative", "friendly" environment, noting that the work-life balance tilts towards a "strong work ethic" but complaining about "low pay" compared to an industry position.^[414]

Notable alumni

Many of MIT's over 120,000 alumni have achieved considerable success in scientific research, public service, education, and business. As of October 2020, 41 MIT alumni have won Nobel Prizes, 48 have been selected as Rhodes Scholars,^[415] 61 have been selected as Marshall Scholars,^[416] and 3 have been selected as Mitchell Scholars.^[417]

Alumni in United States politics and public service include former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke, former MA-1 Representative John Olver, former CA-13 Representative Pete Stark, KY-4 Representative Thomas Massie, California Senator Alex Padilla, and former National Economic Council chairman Lawrence H. Summers.^[418]

MIT alumni have founded or co-founded many notable companies, such as Intel, McDonnell Douglas, Texas Instruments, 3Com, Qualcomm, Bose, Raytheon, Apotex, Koch Industries, Rockwell International, Genentech, Dropbox, and Campbell Soup. According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, "a survey of living MIT alumni found that they have formed 25,800 companies, employing more than three million people including about a quarter of the workforce of Silicon Valley. Those firms collectively generate global revenues of about \$1.9 trillion (£1.2 trillion) a year". If the companies founded by MIT alumni were a country, they would have the 11th-highest GDP of any country in the world.^{[419][420][421]}

More than one third of the United States' crewed spaceflights have included MIT-educated astronauts, a contribution exceeding that of any university excluding the United States service academies.^[422] Of the 12 people who have set foot on the Moon as of 2019, four graduated from MIT (among them Apollo 11 Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin). Alumnus and former faculty member Qian Xuesen led the Chinese nuclear-weapons program and became instrumental in Chinese rocket-program.^[423]

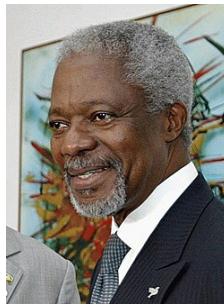
Noted alumni in non-scientific fields include children's book author Hugh Lofting,^[424] sculptor Daniel Chester French, guitarist Tom Scholz of the band Boston, the British BBC and ITN correspondent and political advisor David Walter, The New York Times columnist and Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, The Bell Curve author Charles Murray, and United States Supreme Court building architect Cass Gilbert.^[425]



Apollo 11
astronaut Buzz Aldrin, ScD 1963



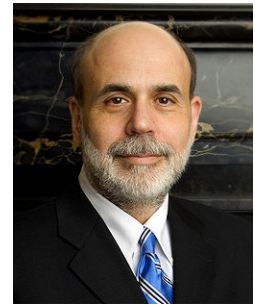
Benjamin
Netanyahu, the
Prime Minister of
Israel, BS 1975 &
MS 1976



UN Secretary-
General Kofi Annan, SM 1972



President of
Colombia Virgilio Barco Vargas, SB
1943



Federal Reserve
Bank chairman
Ben Bernanke,
PhD 1979



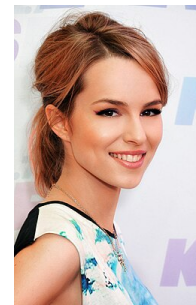
Economics Nobel
laureate Esther Duflo,^[426] PhD
1999



Physics Nobel
laureate Richard Feynman, SB
1939^[427]



NASA astronaut
Michael Fincke,
SB 1989, SB
1989



Actress,
Entrepreneur
Bridgit Mendler,
SM 2020



Economics Nobel
laureate Paul Krugman, PhD
1977



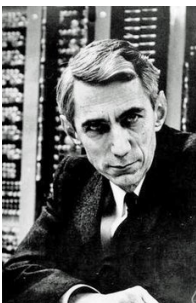
Space Shuttle
Challenger
astronaut Ronald McNair, PhD
1976



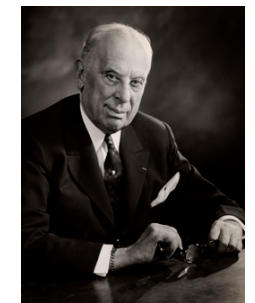
Internet Archive
founder Brewster Kahle, SB 1982



Architect I. M. Pei, BArch 1940



"Father of the
Information Age",
Claude Shannon,
PhD 1940



General Motors
CEO Alfred P. Sloan, SB 1895