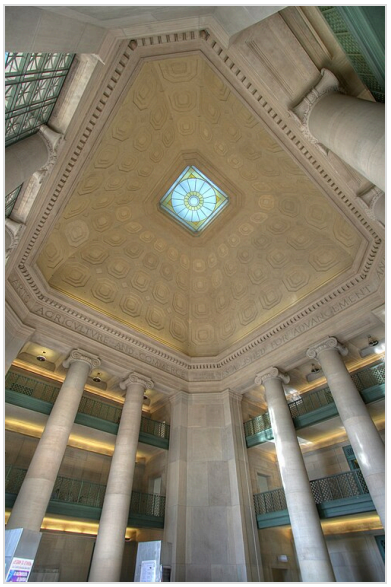
Organization and administration



Lobby 7 at 77 Massachusetts Avenue is regarded as the main entrance to campus.

MIT is a state-chartered nonprofit corporation governed by a privately appointed board known as the **MIT Corporation**.[160] The Corporation has 60–80 members at any time, some with fixed terms, some with life appointments, and eight who serve *ex officio*.[160][161][162][163] The Corporation approves the budget, new programs, degrees and faculty appointments, and elects a president to manage the university and preside over the Institute's faculty.[160][118] The current president is Sally Kornbluth, a cell biologist and former provost at Duke University, who became MIT's eighteenth president in January 2023.[164]

MIT has five schools (Science, Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Management, and Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) and one college (Schwarzman College of Computing), but no schools of law or medicine.[165][b][167] Faculty committees have control over many areas of MIT's curriculum, research, student life, and administrative affairs,[168] the chair of each of MIT's academic departments reports to the dean of that department's school, who in turn reports to the Provost under the President.[169] Academic departments are also evaluated by "Visiting Committees", specialized bodies of Corporation members and outside experts who review the performance, activities, and needs of each department.

MIT's endowment, real estate, and other financial assets are managed through by the MIT Investment Management Company (MITIMCo), a subsidiary of the MIT Corporation created in 2004.[170] A minor revenue source for much of the Institute's history, the endowment's role in MIT operations has grown due to strong investment returns since the 1990s, making it one the largest U.S. university endowments.[171] Among its holdings are a majority of shares in the audio equipment manufacturer Bose Corporation, as well as a commercial real estate portfolio in Kendall Square.[172][173]

Academics

MIT is a large, highly residential, research university with a majority of enrollments in graduate and professional programs.[176] The university has been accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges since 1929.[177] MIT operates on a 4–1–4 academic calendar with the fall semester beginning after Labor Day and ending in mid-December, a 4-week "Independent Activities Period" in the month of January, and the spring semester commencing in early February and ceasing in late May.[178]

Undergraduate admissions statistics

	2022 entering class[174]	Change vs. 2017[175]
Admit rate	4.0%	(▼ –3.2)
Yield rate	85.0%	(▲ +9.5)
Test scores middle 50%		
SAT Total	1520–1570	

ACT Composite	35–36

i. Among students who chose to submit
ii. Among students whose school ranked

MIT students refer to both their majors and classes using numbers or acronyms alone.[179] Departments and their corresponding majors are numbered in the approximate order of their foundation; for example, Civil and Environmental Engineering is Course 1, while Linguistics and Philosophy is Course 24.[180] Students majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), the most popular department, collectively identify themselves as "Course 6". MIT students use a combination of the department's course number and the number assigned to the class to identify their subjects; for instance, the introductory calculus-based classical mechanics course is simply "8.01" (pronounced *eight-oh-one*) at MIT.[181][c]

Undergraduate program

Enrollment in MIT (2017–2023)

Academic Year	Undergraduates	Graduate	Total Enrollment
2017–2018[175]	4,547	6,919	11,466
2018–2019[184]	4,602	6,972	11,574
2019–2020[185]	4,530	6,990	11,520
2020–2021[186]	4,361	6,893	11,254
2021–2022[187]	4,638	7,296	11,934
2022–2023[174]	4,657	7,201	11,858

The four-year, full-time undergraduate program maintains a balance between professional majors and those in the arts and sciences. In 2010, it was dubbed "most selective" by *U.S. News*,[188] admitting few transfer students[176] and 4.1% of its applicants in the 2020–2021 admissions cycle.[189] It is need-blind for both domestic and international applicants.[190] MIT offers 44 undergraduate degrees across its five schools.[191] In the 2017–2018 academic year, 1,045 Bachelor of Science degrees (abbreviated "SB") were granted, the only type of undergraduate degree MIT now awards.[192][193] In the 2011 fall term, among students who had designated a major, the School of Engineering was the most popular division, enrolling 63% of students in its 19 degree programs, followed by the School of Science (29%), School of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences (3.7%), Sloan School of Management (3.3%), and School of Architecture and Planning (2%). The largest undergraduate degree programs were in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course 6–2), Computer Science and Engineering (Course 6–3), Mechanical Engineering (Course 2), Physics (Course 8), and Mathematics (Course 18).[182]

All undergraduates are required to complete a core curriculum called the General Institute Requirements (GIRs).[194] The Science Requirement, generally completed during freshman year as prerequisites for classes in science and engineering majors, comprises two semesters of physics, two semesters of calculus, one semester of chemistry, and one semester of biology. There is a Laboratory Requirement, usually satisfied by an appropriate class in a course major. The Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement consists of eight semesters of classes in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, including at least one semester from each division as well as the courses required for a designated concentration in a HASS division. Under the Communication Requirement, two of the HASS classes, plus two of the classes taken in the designated major must be "communication-

intensive",[195] including "substantial instruction and practice in oral presentation".[196] Finally, all students are required to complete a swimming test;[197] non-varsity athletes must also take four quarters of physical education classes.[194]

The Infinite Corridor is the primary passageway through campus.

Most classes rely on a combination of lectures, recitations led by associate professors or graduate students, weekly problem sets ("p-sets"), and periodic quizzes or tests. While the pace and difficulty of MIT coursework has been compared to "drinking from a fire hose",[198][199][200] the freshmen retention rate at MIT is similar to other research universities.[188] The "pass/no-record" grading system relieves some pressure for first-year undergraduates. For each class taken in the fall term, freshmen transcripts will either report only that the class was passed, or otherwise not have any record of it. In the spring term, passing grades (A, B, C) appear on the transcript while non-passing grades are again not recorded.[201] (Grading had previously been "pass/no record" all freshman year, but was amended for the Class of 2006 to prevent students from gaming the system by completing required major classes in their freshman year.[202]) Also, freshmen may choose to join alternative learning communities, such as Experimental Study Group, Concourse, or Terrascope.[201]

MIT's curriculum encourages students to apply scientific knowledge in practical domains, an idea summarized in the institute motto of *mens et manus* or "mind and hand."[203][204] Courses emphasizes uses of engineering knowledge in arenas like product design competitions and control design.[205][206] In 1969, Margaret MacVicar founded the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to enable undergraduates to collaborate directly with faculty members and researchers. Students join or initiate research projects ("UROPs") for academic credit, pay, or on a volunteer basis through postings on the UROP website or by contacting faculty members directly.[207] A substantial majority of undergraduates participate.[208][209] Students often become published, file patent applications, and/or launch start-up companies based upon their experience in UROPs.[210][211] The program has been widely emulated at other U.S. universities.[212]

In 1970, the then-Dean of Institute Relations, Benson R. Snyder, published *The Hidden Curriculum*, arguing that education at MIT was often slighted in favor of following a set of unwritten expectations and that graduating with good grades was more often the product of figuring out the system rather than a solid education. The successful student, according to Snyder, was the one who was able to discern which of the formal requirements were to be ignored in favor of which unstated norms. For example, organized student groups had compiled "course bibles"—collections of problem-set and examination questions and answers for later students to use as references. This sort of gamesmanship, Snyder argued, hindered development of a creative intellect and contributed to student discontent and unrest.[213][214]

Graduate program

MIT's graduate program has high coexistence with the undergraduate program, and many courses are taken by qualified students at both levels. MIT offers a comprehensive doctoral program with degrees in the humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields as well as professional degrees, including the Master of Business Administration (MBA).[176] The Institute offers graduate programs leading to academic degrees such as the Master of Science (which is abbreviated as MS at MIT), various Engineer's Degrees, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Doctor of Science (DSc) and interdisciplinary graduate programs such as the MD-PhD (with Harvard Medical School) and a joint program in oceanography with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.[215][216][217][218]

Admission to graduate programs is decentralized; applicants apply directly to the department or degree program. More than 90% of doctoral students are supported by fellowships, research assistantships (RAs), or teaching assistantships (TAs).[219]

Rankings

MIT places among the top five in many overall rankings of universities (see table right) and rankings based on students' revealed preferences.[228][229][230] For several years, *U.S. News & World Report*, the QS World University Rankings, and the Academic Ranking of World Universities have ranked MIT's School of Engineering first, as did the 1995 National Research Council report.[231] In the same lists, MIT's strongest showings apart from in engineering are in computer science, the natural sciences, business, architecture, economics, linguistics, mathematics, and, to a lesser extent, political science and philosophy.[232]

Academic rankings

National	
Forbes[220]	3
U.S. News & World Report[221]	2
Washington Monthly[222]	3
***WSJ*/College Pulse**[223]	2
Global	
ARWU[224]	3
QS[225]	1
THE[226]	2
U.S. News & World Report[227]	2

Times Higher Education has recognized MIT as one of the world's "six super brands" on its *World Reputation Rankings*, along with Berkeley, Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, and Stanford.[233] In 2019, it was ranked #3 among the universities around the world by SCImago Institutions Rankings.[234] In 2017, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings also rated MIT the #2 university for arts and humanities.[235][236] MIT was ranked #7 in 2015 and #6 in 2017 of the Nature Index Annual Tables, which measure the largest contributors to papers published in 82 leading journals.[237][238][239] Georgetown University researchers ranked MIT #3 in the US for 20-year return on investment.[240]

Collaborations

The university historically pioneered research and training collaborations between academia, industry and government.[241][242] In 1946, President Compton, Harvard Business School professor Georges Doriot, and Massachusetts Investor Trust chairman Merrill Grisswold founded American Research and Development Corporation, the first American venture-capital firm.[243][244] In 1948, Compton

established the MIT Industrial Liaison Program.[245] Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, American politicians and business leaders accused MIT and other universities of contributing to a declining economy by transferring taxpayer-funded research and technology to international – especially Japanese – firms that were competing with struggling American businesses.[246][247] On the other hand, MIT's extensive collaboration with the federal government on research projects has led to several MIT leaders serving as presidential scientific advisers since 1940.[d] MIT established a Washington Office in 1991 to continue effective lobbying for research funding and national science policy.[249][250]

Eero Saarinen's Kresge Auditorium (1955) is a classic example of post-war architecture.

The US Justice Department began an investigation in 1989, and in 1991 filed an antitrust suit against MIT, the eight Ivy League colleges, and eleven other institutions for allegedly engaging in price-fixing during their annual "Overlap Meetings", which were held to prevent bidding wars over promising prospective students from consuming funds for need-based scholarships.[251][252] While the Ivy League institutions settled,[253] MIT contested the charges, arguing that the practice was not anti-competitive because it ensured the availability of aid for the greatest number of students.[254][255] MIT ultimately prevailed when the Justice Department dropped the case in 1994.[256][257]

MIT's proximity[e] to Harvard University ("the other school up the river") has led to a substantial number of research collaborations such as the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology and the Broad Institute.[258] In addition, students at the two schools can cross-register for credits toward their own school's degrees without any additional fees.[258] A cross-registration program between MIT and Wellesley College has also existed since 1969, and in 2002 the Cambridge–MIT Institute launched an undergraduate exchange program between MIT and the University of Cambridge.[258] MIT also has a long-term partnership with Imperial College London, for both student exchanges and research collaboration.[259][260] More modest cross-registration programs have been established with Boston University, Brandeis University, Tufts University, Massachusetts College of Art, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.[258]

Walker Memorial is a monument to MIT's fourth president, Francis Amasa Walker.

MIT main campus seen from Vassar Street, as The Great Dome is visible in the distance and the Stata Center is at right

MIT maintains substantial research and faculty ties with independent research organizations in the Boston area, such as the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.[218] Ongoing international research and educational collaborations include the