

# CAMPUS BOUND

PREMIER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
and FINANCIAL AID SERVICES

## Massachusetts Institute of Technology

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 3-108, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

### FAST FACTS

**Website:** [www.admissions.mit.edu](http://www.admissions.mit.edu)  
**Public or Private:** Private  
**Campus Setting:** Large City  
**Total Enrollment:** 10,206  
**Undergraduates:** 4,066  
**Male/Female:** 55% / 45%  
**SAT CR Range:** 670 – 760  
**SAT Math Range:** 730 – 800  
**ACT Range:** 30 – 33  
**Applicants:** 12,443  
**Accepted:** 12%  
**Enrolled:** 67%  
**Returning Freshmen:** 98%  
**Living on Campus:** 93%  
**Admissions Contact:**  
617-253-4791  
[admissions@mit.edu](mailto:admissions@mit.edu)

### NEARBY SCHOOLS TO VISIT

[Harvard University](#)  
[Franklin Olin School of Eng.](#)  
[Tufts University](#)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Campus Bound

617.769.0400 (in Mass.)  
888.843.5560  
1266 Furnace Brook Pkwy.  
Suite 212  
Quincy, MA 02169

[info@campusbound.com](mailto:info@campusbound.com)  
[www.campusbound.com](http://www.campusbound.com)

### The Quick Overview

If you enjoy pulling pranks or taking courses in Quantum Physics, Thermal-Fluids Engineering, or Principles of Tomographic Imaging, then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology might be your kind of school. Home to some of the brightest minds in Science, Math, and Technology, as well as some of the most imaginative pranksters, MIT is arguably the most selective and prestigious technical university in the world. It's a university where you'll find seven Nobel Laureates, nineteen MacArthur Fellows, three Pulitzer Prize winners, and one police cruiser sitting atop one famous dome.

### History, Mission, and Geography

MIT was founded in 1861 and enrolled its first students in 1865. Although the original site of the university was in Boston's Copley Square (and initially called Boston Tech), it was soon after relocated to its current home in Cambridge across the Charles River from Boston. Its founder believed "that professional competence is best fostered by coupling teaching and research and by focusing attention on real-world problems." From this belief, the "teaching laboratory" was developed. MIT continues this tradition today as seen in the school motto: "Mens et Manus" (Mind and Hand). As one traverses the 168-acre campus, you will find sculptures throughout and great views of Boston. The university is easy to find as it sits off the "Kendall Square" subway stop. It is located within easy distance to Cambridge's Central Square and is one mile from the other famous Cambridge university, its rival, Harvard.

### Academics

The mission of MIT is "to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the twenty-first century." To this end, the university offers five schools. Although known primarily as a science and engineering university, MIT

# Campus Quick Looks™

## Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.)

offers courses in a variety of fields. The five schools offer degrees in the following areas: Engineering, Science, Management, Humanities, and Architecture and Planning. All students, regardless of major, must take eight Humanities courses. Music is “huge” at MIT and about a third of the students take music classes. In fact, twenty percent of students end up minoring in music. But, of course, most students come to MIT for engineering or sciences. Most classes at MIT are large and the biggest lecture hall at MIT sits 600 students. Not all classes at MIT are that large, however, and as a freshman you should expect to have some classes “between 250-275” students. Overall, the average class size is thirty to forty students, but students insist that “junior and senior year classes are small. Some humanities classes have only 10-12 students.”

With such large classes, it might be hard to get to know your professors well. Students are encouraged to utilize the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). UROP allows undergraduates the opportunity to work on research projects often times with professors. After identifying which professor you’d like to do research for, students are encouraged to contact that professor in the hopes that he/she will provide them with research opportunities in the field of their interest. While the professor may not have research for you, more often than not, students find “that it’s easy to find research work.” Over 80% of students will participate in a UROP by the time they graduate from MIT. Students who are looking to study overseas will find “tons of international programs.” Among the more popular programs are the one year programs in Cambridge (UK) and Singapore. Students find the study abroad options endless and insist “if you want to go somewhere, the administration will work with you to make it happen.”

### Student Body

MIT is highly selective. Only 12% of applicants are typically admitted. Forty-nine percent of those admitted for the Class of 2011 were valedictorians of their high school class. Students come from fifty states and sixty-six countries and there is not one majority ethnic group. Despite its ethnic and geographic diversity, MIT still faces a gender gap. Historically a male-dominated university, the administration has made significant progress in enrolling more female students. In fact, the most recent class consists of 48% female students. Current students, however, find the faculty to be “mostly men.”

It would be huge mistake to talk about MIT and not mention “hacking.” Whatever your feelings toward MIT students, one must admit: they have a great sense of humor. The university is known as much for its student pranks as it is its distinguished faculty. Pranks, or “hacking” as it is referred to on campus, is widely popular. There is code of conduct when it comes to hacking, but as long as it is in good taste and no one gets hurt, pretty much anything goes. These “ethical” hacks have included: concealing the office of the university’s president on his first day on the job by placing a giant bulletin board over his door, changing the logo on the Harvard scoreboard so it read “Huge Ego,” and the most famous incident occurred in 1971 when students placed a MIT police cruiser atop of the famous dome of the university.

### Campus and Residential Life

Walking through the massive maze of halls in the academic and administrative buildings, one is not easily impressed. The exposed pipes and sterile colors are not what one would expect to find at a world-renowned university, but the beauty of MIT is in what lies inside the old and musty doorways. Many of the faculty members are well-known inventors, researchers, and pioneers in their respective fields. Overall, professors seem to be liked by students. Every department is connected, so that professors in the Biology department can easily converse and work with professors in the Chemistry Department.

# **Campus Quick Looks™**

## **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.)**

MIT freshmen are required to live on campus in one of eleven dorms. Dorms range in size from singles to quads and students have a range of options (including an all-female dorm). As sophomores, students can opt to continue living in dorms or choose to become members of Greek housing. Since the university guarantees housing for all four years, 94% of students live in university-owned housing or fraternities or sororities.

The Stata Center is a popular spot on campus. The new, hip, and architecturally mind-boggling building has a sushi bar, Starbucks, and fitness center. Meanwhile, across campus you'll find the student center complete with post office, a grocery store, Anna's Taqueria, Dunkin' Donuts, and a dry cleaners, among other services. The building is open twenty-four hours (although the businesses are not). There is no standard meal plan at MIT; students can eat in one of four dining halls or cook their own meals in their dorms.



### **Athletics**

When your school nickname is "the engineers" and your mascot is a beaver, not much is expected of you athletically. Although "no one goes to the football games" and most people probably don't know that MIT has a basketball team, sports are extremely popular at MIT. About 70-80% of students participate in intramurals and students say they are a "big thing on campus." Aside from the intramurals, students can participate in club sports, where they compete against other Boston schools, or varsity sports. Roughly a quarter of MIT students participate in a varsity sport at some point during their four years and these teams compete at the Division 3 level or against Ivy League schools (except for Crew which is Division 1). According to the university, "MIT sponsors the broadest intercollegiate athletic program in the country, with 41 varsity teams."

Even more surprising than the popularity of sports, is how good they actually are. The university claims that "MIT was tabbed the sixteenth best school in America for 2005–2006 in all divisions when combining both athletics and academics." Most recently, the MIT Pistol team won their second national championship in three years beating out the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies (as one student joked "I'm not sure if that makes MIT safer or less safe, but nevertheless you should come to MIT"). Perhaps the centerpiece of the MIT athletic department is the modern Zesiger Athletic Center, which has six international-sized squash courts, a pool, and weight room. All students must complete four Physical Education classes in order to graduate. Those who suffer from aquaphobia should also take note: all MIT students are required to pass a swimming test in order to graduate as well.



### **The College in a Nutshell**

Students seeking a highly competitive, research based university with top programs in Engineering, Math, and Science can't go wrong with MIT. With cutting-edge research opportunities and accomplished professors, MIT provides a unique educational environment. With its large classes, ultra-selective admissions process, and intense academic environment, MIT might not be for everyone. Bright, independent students—with a good a creative sense of humor and a few pranks up their sleeves—should undoubtedly flourish at MIT.

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