Academics at MIT
2020 Orientation
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How to discover...

1. Your academic interests
2. Your MIT community
3. Your learning needs
Discover Your Academic Interests
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) requirement

Distribution (3 subjects)
- Humanities
- Arts
- Social Sciences

Concentration (3-4 subjects)
- Conc. Subject 1
- Conc. Subject 2
- Conc. Subject 3
- Conc. Subject 4

Elective (1-2 subjects)
- Elective 1
- Elective 2

Total: 8 subjects
In the Humanities, you can delve into the ethics of climate issues in a philosophy class (24.07)...

MIT is ranked No. 4 worldwide for the Arts and Humanities

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, 2020
In the Arts, you can take a Music & Technology class with new media pioneer Eran Egozy...

“Technology and humanity are now deeply interlinked.”

ERAN EGOZY ‘95, CO-FOUNDER OF HARMONIX
In the Social Sciences you can discover how to use economics to alleviate global poverty (14.73)...

MIT ranked No. 1 worldwide for Social Sciences

Times Higher Education, World University Rankings, 2020
explore how gender, race, abilities and other aspects of identity affect your world.
Physics 1 (Course 8)
Math 1 (Course 18)
Chemistry (Course 5 or 3.091)
Biology (Course 7)

Physics 2 (Course 8)
Math 2 (Course 18)

The Science Core
Why explore?
Because uncertainty is normal...

9% of the Class of 2023 was completely unsure of their major at this point last year...

and only 50% were confident that their current choice would be the right major.

84% said that they were open to having their minds changed about their planned major.
and future you knows best...

within 5 years of graduating, 75% of MIT undergrad alums are working in a field not directly related to the major they studied at MIT!
How to Explore

1. Talk with people
2. Participate in an advising seminar
3. Do a UROP or other ELO
4. Do an Internship/Externship
5. Try out non-credit activities
6. Take exploration and discovery subjects
Have more than one interest? You are not alone.

100% of students complete a HASS concentration. Many HASS concentrations are only 2 classes away from a minor.

16% of students double major

27% of students complete at least 1 minor, 3% complete 2

Composite majors (e.g. 5-7), flexible majors (e.g. 2A), and interdisciplinary majors/programs (e.g. 21E, NEET, etc.) allow students to pursue related interests without having to complete two full majors.
Discover Your MIT Community
Participate in Community-Building Activities

“Where in the galaxy is Tim the Beaver?” Puzzle Hunt

Regional and Themed Dinners with classmates and alumni

Connect with dorm communities through SCUFFY

Check out student organizations at the virtual Activities Midway
Don’t be afraid to reach out

• Close friendships take time, but a fun game night or study session could be just one text message away.
• We can help you identify student organizations or activities that might suit you, but only you can choose to engage.
• All of you are new to MIT. This is a rare opportunity to redefine yourself and reach out to any of >1,000 peers also looking to make friends.

Breathe. Smile. And say hello.
Discover Your Learning Needs
Making the Most of Advising

• Respond promptly and be on time to meetings
• Maintain regular contact
• Be in touch as soon as problems arise
• Set and share academic and personal goals for the year
• Share your expectations for the advising relationship
• Follow up if your advisor refers you to someone
• Keep an open mind and explore academic pathways you may not have considered
• Prepare for meetings by writing down questions, concerns, and goals
Learning Remotely

- Try to keep to a schedule, but remember to take breaks.
- Be proactive about communicating your needs.
- Be patient with instructors, peers, and family as we all navigate this challenging time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synchronous learning</th>
<th>Asynchronous learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ask questions</td>
<td>• Take notes as you go</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bond with peers and instructors</td>
<td>• Replay/reread confusing pieces</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Participate actively throughout the session</td>
<td>• Reach out to instructors and peers if you have questions</td>
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Learning from home can make it harder to focus.

You should establish a routine that...

- Gives you enough time to finish your coursework
- Builds in time for exercise, food, sleep, socializing, etc.
- Respects your needs and the needs of others in your household
New Support for Remote Learning

• Office hours that work for every time zone
• Peer mentoring in Physics GIRs
• Virtual tutoring through OME and departments
• Strategies for success at http://learnremote.mit.edu/
• Explain Everything, explain.mit.edu, iPads, Canvas and more
Keep in mind

You got in to MIT. (Really!)

The first-year can set you up for ANY major.

45% of first-years add/drop subjects in the first five weeks.

10% of students switch majors (after declaring).

Standard practice is to choose your major by the end of spring term of your first year ...
...but you have more flexibility than that if you want it!
The most important advice...

Slow down and find support

It might take one, two, or even three semesters to get used to MIT, so ease yourself into it.
Student Best Practices Flowchart

Navigating Resources at MIT

1. I would like support...
   - Learning + processing the material in a class
   - Dealing with general stress
2. With exam conflicts and/or overlapping assignments
   - Finding Institute-wide Support Systems
3. With remote learning, syllabus violations, or financial matters
   - Processing an incident of discrimination, bias, hate, or sexual misconduct
4. Building Healthy Habits

Advice is everywhere!

resources.mit.edu

Your Advisor / Associate Advisor
Career Advising & Professional Development (CAPD)
OFY Staff
Dept. undergrad admins
UROP Office
Alumni Advisors Hub
OME Mentor Advocate Partnership (MAP)
Orientation Leaders
Resident Peer Mentors
First Gen Peer Mentor Program
International Students Assoc. Mentorship Program