

Dear First Year Advisors,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for serving as an advisor for our first-year students. Given that all of our first years will be learning remotely this fall, your guidance, mentorship, and support will be more critical than ever.

Despite the changed (and evolving) circumstance due to the pandemic, our objectives remain the same:

- help students find and nurture diverse and supportive sub-communities of students, staff, and faculty;
- help students develop lasting habits and mindsets of citizenship, ethics, and inclusion; and
- cultivate students' love of learning and teach them the skills to learn effectively on their own and with their peers.

We have been working hard to virtualize the kinds of academic, research, and social experiences that make learning at MIT so special. Please make students aware that the core elements of the first-year experience exist wherever they may be:

- Our office – the home base for advising, orientation, programming, and more;
- the science core – The science and math foundations upon which they will build their course of study.
- HASS – MIT's exciting and rigorous humanities, arts, and social science classes;
- experiential Learning – undergraduate research, service, internships, and more that bring mind and hand together on real-world problems;
- discovery subjects and advising seminars – low time-commitment ways to connect with faculty and explore academic areas of interest; and
- extracurriculars – Discovering their interests and finding their communities.

Further, the [academic support resources](#) that students are familiar with accessing on campus, such as Student Support Services, have also been virtualized, whether they live on or off campus. These online resources will remain available throughout the academic year.

We hope that you find the following information a rich resource to assist in your advising efforts and encourage you to keep up-to-date on any changes to the calendar, academic policies, and health, safety, and campus access protocols. Don't hesitate to reach out to OFY and/or to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a successful, albeit unprecedented, academic year.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Waitz

Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate and Graduate Education and Jerome C. Hunsaker
Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics