Application list and tips

The following pieces are contained in this application. Use this space to check off the completion of each step.

- **PART 1** includes biographical information and requires the submission of the $65 application fee.

- **PART 2** asks for your test scores, a list of your activities and honors, and responses to essay questions. Please use our form when listing your activities. Part 2 also asks for self-reported courses and grades, on which you will report your secondary school course work. This form is to be completed only by students in U.S. school systems.

- Two **TEACHER EVALUATIONS** are required. One should be from a math or science teacher and one should be from a humanities teacher.

- The **SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT** form is to be completed by your guidance counselor or principal.

- The **MID-YEAR GRADE REPORT** form is also to be completed by your guidance counselor or principal.

- File **FINANCIAL AID MATERIALS** by February 1.

- The **INTERVIEW** is conducted in your local area by a member of MIT’s Educational Council.

- On the **ATHLETICS INFORMATION CARD**, you may request information on MIT’s extensive athletic programs and make contact with coaches.

- On the **ARTS INFORMATION CARD**, you may request a copy of the arts@MIT brochure.

Please note

- Many of you will want to apply online, and we encourage you to do so. However, we do ask that before you start an application in either paper or digital format that you think about which application best meets your needs. Choose one method and do not switch.

- Complete and submit Part 1 of the application immediately, using the enclosed postage-paid envelope. After you submit Part 1, schedule your interview immediately. Interviews are strongly recommended.

- Read instructions thoroughly before completing the application.

- Please try to get everything in before the deadline. Early filing allows us to create your official file and start processing your application, but does not advantage or disadvantage your application in any way.

- It’s okay to have your application postmarked on the deadline date.

- If you use a courier service or overnight mailing carrier to send your application, address it to: MIT Office of Admissions, Room 3-108, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307.
Applying to MIT

We’re so happy that you are considering applying to MIT.

We’re aware that applying to college can be both scary and exhilarating, a truly daunting task, especially when you add it to your already-packed schedule of tough coursework, activities, social and family life responsibilities. You may wonder why you need to go through it at all. But remember that selection is always based upon the match between you and the school. We’ve introduced MIT to you through our publications, our mailings and our web site. It’s your turn now to introduce yourself to us through the application.

Just keep in mind that, no matter what you have heard about how hard it is to get admitted to MIT or how expensive it is to attend, we do admit approximately 1,700 undergraduate students per year and three out of four of them receive some form of financial assistance.

Since admission is always based upon the match between college and student, we should never select each other based upon reputation alone. There should be a sense of resonance between us. In order to determine that resonance, we each need to understand each other, what our values are, what makes us come alive. So here’s who we are:

MIT is a unique place with specific core values:

- **We are a meritocracy.** We judge each other by our ideas, our creativity and our accomplishments, not by who our families are.

- **We are relevant.** We’re proud to generate useful knowledge that makes a difference in the world, changing it for the better.

- **We are entrepreneurial.** The key to success at MIT is to have a good idea and be prepared to run with it.

- **We are inventive.** While we respect tradition, we are not afraid to abandon the past or to strike out in new or unusual directions in search of a better way to do things.

- **We are unconventional.** In an institution where the currency in trade is intelligence, it is OK to be different. Our acceptance of each other frees us up to be our real selves.

The cost of educating future leaders in engineering, science and technology is expensive, but MIT has always been committed to meeting that cost. We meet the full financial need of all admitted financial aid applicants with a comprehensive financial aid award that includes scholarships and grants, loans and jobs. Furthermore, we offer flexibility in determining the appropriate amounts of borrowing and term-time work for each undergraduate year, allowing you to make the most of your undergraduate experience at MIT.

Since the only way to determine your eligibility for financial aid is to submit an application, we urge you to apply for financial aid. Your prospects of admission are not affected in any way by your family’s financial situation or your need for aid.

This application is our best attempt to learn all about you. We hope that you will do your best to help us get to know you. Don’t worry about trying to be someone you think we want. We want you just the way you are.

All the best,

Marilee Jones
Dean of Admissions

Elizabeth Hicks
Executive Director, Student Financial Services
The application process

We here in the Office of Admissions get lots of questions about the best strategy for completing the application.

In general, our advice is pretty simple: “Be yourself.” While there is no magic formula for admission, we’ve got a few tips to help smooth the process and reduce your stress.

### The important dates

**As soon as possible**
Submit Part 1 (Biographical information)

**November 1**
US citizens/permanent residents only: Postmark deadline for Early Action application and deadline for Early Action interview

**Mid-December**
Early Action applicants notified of admissions decision

**December 15**
Deadline for interviews for Regular Action applicants

**January 1**
Postmark deadline for Regular Action applications

**By February 1**
Deadline for all Financial Aid materials

**Late March**
Regular Action applicants notified of admissions decision

**May 1**
Postmark deadline for enrollment decision of accepted students (Early Action or Regular Action).

### Take the tests and report all your scores

We require a full set of standardized tests: SAT I or ACT Assessment and three SAT II Subject Tests — one in writing, literature, or history; one in physics, chemistry, or biology e/m; and one in math (level Ic or IIc). You should think about which subject tests would best reflect your preparation.

If your native language is not English, review the testing requirements in section 4 of Part 2 (Tests, activities and essays).

We only consider your highest scores in each category of the standardized tests, no matter how many times you take the exams, so reporting multiple scores to us won’t hurt you. As a result, we recommend that when you register to take the test, you ask for all your scores to be officially reported to us. Our SAT and TOEFL code is 3514 and our ACT code is 1858.

### Consider Early Action

You may want to consider MIT’s Early Action option (US citizens and permanent residents only). If you can complete the testing requirements by the November testing date, have your interview by November 1, and file your application (Part 1 and Part 2) and supporting documents by November 1, MIT will consider your application in early December. At that time we will either offer you admission, deny you admission, or defer the decision until March. If we offer you admission, you have until May 1 to decide if you will attend. We’ll reconsider deferred applicants without prejudice in March and will notify you with all other candidates in late March. If you wish to be considered for Early Action, check the appropriate box on Part 1.

### Consider electronic applications

Many of you will want to apply electronically and we encourage you to do so. However, we do ask that before you start an application in either paper or digital format that you think about which application best meets your needs. Choose one method and do not switch.

If you want to submit your application electronically, you’ve got two options.

**1**
Apply online with secure, interactive web forms. See <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/online-app/> to access our web-based form. Note that you still have to submit your transcript and letters of evaluation via postal mail.

**2**

### Submit Part 1 (Biographical information) as soon as possible

The first step in the application process is to submit Part 1 (Biographical information). Submitting this form and your application fee initiates your application process. Please note: In order to submit Part 2 of the application online, you must first submit Part 1 online. So before you initiate the application in paper/PDF format, please be certain that you do not wish to complete Part 2 online.

Part 1 asks you to provide contact information and biographical data. You will also indicate on the Part 1 if you intend to apply for Early Action or Regular Action. The remaining pieces — Part 2 (Tests, activities and essays and Self-reported course work), teacher evaluations and Secondary school report — should be postmarked no later than November 1 for Early Action or January 1 for Regular Action. As soon as first-term grades are available, return the Mid-year grade report.
Schedule the interview early

Next, schedule your interview with a member of MIT's Educational Council, a network of over 2,100 MIT graduates around the world who volunteer to interview for the Office of Admissions. The interview is highly recommended, but optional.

Please take a moment now to look in your application package for your cover letter and check for your Educational Counselor (EC) assignment. If you did not receive your EC's name, submit Part 1 of the application immediately. After Part 1 is processed, we will send you a letter within two to three weeks with your EC assignment. In addition, MIT has an online tracking system for its applicants (a letter will be sent to you with your login ID). Your EC’s name and contact information will appear on your tracking system record. Please note there may be times when there is no EC in your area and we will waive your interview.

You should schedule your meeting with your EC at the earliest possible date. Please do not call your EC late at night, early in the morning, or on holidays. Early Action applicants must contact their EC by October 20 to schedule the interview, and complete the interview by November 1. Regular Action applicants must contact their EC by December 1 and complete the interview by December 15. ECs cannot accept interview requests after December 1. (If you are applying Early Decision/Action elsewhere, you may need to schedule your interview before you submit your application to MIT. This is fine.)

While you will not be penalized if you do not have an interview, the interview does add a personal dimension to your file that cannot be seen through the application forms alone. In fact, last year 23% of applicants who had an interview (or had their interview waived) were admitted, while 10% of those eligible who chose not to have one were admitted.

Keep in mind that the interview is intended to be a two-way exchange. Just as your EC is getting to know you, he or she is providing you with information about MIT. Before your meeting, review your interests and activities and prepare questions for your EC. Then relax and enjoy the conversation.

Distribute the forms early

You will need references from two teachers (one math or science teacher and one humanities, social science, or language teacher). In addition, your guidance counselor or principal will need to send us a Secondary school report and a Mid-year grade report. Give them the forms early so that they have time to fully consider the best way to present your accomplishments.

Read through the application first

Take some time to read through the application and think about the questions. Think about how to present yourself, your abilities, and your goals as fully as possible, and carefully consider what you’d like us to know that test scores and transcripts won’t reveal. We’re not trying to invade your privacy; we simply want to get to know you better and to understand the context in which you’ve achieved your success. The more complete your application, the better the snapshot we get of your life.

Complete Part 2

For Part 2 (Tests, activities and essays and Self-reported course work), we encourage you to use the forms we provide to list your information. For question 11, the essay, you should attach a separate sheet to the page. The Self-reported course work form should be completed only by students in U.S. school systems.

Think about your essays before writing

Use your essays to make a personal statement, to tell us things that demonstrate your character, personality, compassion, sense of fairness, humor, integrity. Redefine our questions or question our assumptions — whatever it takes to show us who you really are. Your essay shouldn’t be long, and it doesn’t have to be fit for publication in The New Yorker. We just want to get a sense of how you think, what you care about, and how you express yourself. Remember that being yourself is interesting enough.

Check the status of your application online

Through our online application tracking system, you can check on the status of your application at any time of the day or night, from any device with internet access. Once we process your Part 1, we will send you a letter with instructions for logging into the secure system to view your personal record.

The tracking system indicates which pieces of your application we have and have not processed, and displays the name of your assigned EC with his or her contact information. The tracking system is updated daily; however, please keep in mind that during peak periods processing may be delayed by up to two weeks.

Information for international students

If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, you are considered an “international” student. International students should be aware that the large number of candidates for the spaces designated makes competition especially keen.

We request that you submit with your application a brief account of the grading system in your school and the results of any external examinations (such as GCSE /“O” and “A” levels or the International Baccalaureate) that are required for entrance to universities in your country. Do not complete the Self-reported course work form if you are in a foreign school system.

If your native language is not English, review the testing requirements in section 4 of Part 2 (Tests, activities and essays).

International students are not eligible to apply for Early Action.

Parting words

That covers most of our advice. Good luck. And remember, we’re here to answer your questions.

MIT Office of Admissions
Room 3-108
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
Phone: (617) 253-4791
http://web.mit.edu/admissions/

MIT Student Financial Aid Office
Room 11-320
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
Phone: (617) 253-4971
http://web.mit.edu/finaid/
About MIT

Who you’ll find here
- 4,178 undergraduates, 1,727 women
- 75% of each entering freshman class
receives financial aid, including scholarships, loans and jobs
- 20% of undergraduates are
underrepresented minorities (African-
American, Chicano / Mexican American,
Native American, Puerto Rican)
- 8% of undergraduates are internationals
- 6,139 graduate students
- 956 full-time faculty
- 11 Nobel laureates
- 3 Kyoto Prize winners
- 14 MacArthur Fellows
- 3 Pulitzer Prize winners

What you study:
General Institute Requirements
- Science Core
  - Physics 2 subjects
  - Calculus 2 subjects
  - Biology 1 subject
  - Chemistry 1 subject
- Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences 8 subjects
- Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) 2 subjects
- Lab Requirement 1 subject

In addition to the seventeen subjects, you must satisfy the Communication Requirement and the Physical Education Requirement.

Some good news
You may be granted some advanced placement
through College Board Advanced Placement tests, college transcripts, advanced higher international exams, and advanced-standing examinations at MIT.

You may cross-register for classes at Wellesley College, Harvard University, Massachusetts College of Art and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts. You may also spend your junior year at the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England, through the Cambridge-MIT Institute.

First semester of freshman year is on a Pass/No Record basis. Approximately 97% of freshmen return as sophomores.

What the majors are
MIT offers degrees in five schools. You choose your major after your freshman year, and approximately 18% add a second major after sophomore year. MIT offers the S.B. degree in the following fields:

Engineering: aeronautics and astronautics; chemical engineering; civil engineering; environmental engineering science; electrical science and engineering; electrical engineering and computer science; computer science and engineering; materials science and engineering; archeology and materials; mechanical engineering; nuclear engineering; ocean engineering.

Science: biology; brain and cognitive sciences; chemistry; earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences; mathematics; mathematics with computer science; physics; physics with electrical engineering.

Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences:
American studies; anthropology; comparative media studies; creative or expository writing; East Asian studies; economics; foreign languages and literatures (French, German or Spanish); history; humanities; humanities and engineering; humanities and science; Latin American studies; linguistics; literature; music; philosophy; political science; psychology; Russian studies; theater; women’s studies.

Architecture and Planning: art and design, with concentrations in architectural design, building technology, visual arts, or history, theory, and criticism of art and architecture; planning.

Management: management, with concentrations in information technology, operations research, marketing research, or finance.

Where you’re headed
- Approximately 57% will major in engineering, 27% in science, 4% in humanities and social sciences, 2% in architecture and planning, and 9% in management.
- More than 80% will graduate with significant research experience through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, UROP.
- After graduation, approximately 70% will eventually go to graduate or professional school, including 10% to medical school and 5% to law school.

Where you live
Approximately 97% of undergraduates live in residence halls or in MIT-recognized fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. Housing is guaranteed for four years.

What you do for fun
Activities: There are over 330 student organizations, including 42 athletic groups; 12 media organizations; 64 ethnic, language, or international student associations; 53 musical, theater, and dance groups; 29 religious organizations; 22 service groups; 21 activism groups; 15 academic societies; and 12 student government groups.

Athletics: There are 41 varsity teams (21 men, 17 women, 3 co-educational), intramural programs in 20 sports, 40 club sports teams, 30 full- and part-time coaches. Member of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC).

Tuition and fees $29,600
Typical room and board 8,710
Books and personal expenses 2,720
Total $41,030

How you pay for it (2003–2004)
Financial aid at MIT is entirely need based and we meet 100% of your financial need. Your ability to pay has no bearing on admissions decisions. Financial aid is available for all four years but requires annual reapplication.

Percent of all undergraduates who received some type of financial aid: 75%
Term-time self-help: $5,500
Minimum contribution from summer earnings: $1,500
Average grant and scholarship: $18,200
Average total financial aid award: $25,400
Making MIT affordable

Our mission at 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 21st century. To achieve this mission we recruit and enroll the most talented and promising students, make all our admissions decisions without regard to family financial circumstances, award all our aid based on financial need, and meet the full need of each student for all four years.

As a result of our strong commitment to making MIT affordable, we have one of the most diverse campus communities among our peer institutions. We urge you not to let the cost of a MIT education deter you from applying to one of the world’s most outstanding universities. Just consider the following facts:

• Approximately three out of four MIT undergraduates receives some form of financial assistance.

• Tuition, fees, room, board, supplies and personal expenses total $41,030 for 2003–2004, but our average financial aid award, including scholarships, loans and work, is more than $25,400.
Q
What does it cost per year to attend MIT?
A
Our estimated cost of attendance for the year 2003-2004 is $41,030, plus travel. Included in that total cost is tuition and fees, totaling $29,600. We estimate that you will spend $8,710 on room and meals, and $2,720 on books and personal expenses.

Q
How do I apply for financial aid?
A
U.S. citizens and permanent residents begin by filing both the 2004-2005 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the federal government and the PROFILE Application with the College Scholarship Service (CSS) as soon after January 1, 2004 as possible, but no later than February 1, 2004. In order to ensure the timely notification of our financial aid decision, you should not wait until your parents file their 2003 federal income tax returns before you file these applications, use best estimates instead. Please refer to “Financial aid application materials” for other forms you may need to submit.

If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you must complete the MIT International Student Financial Aid Application instead of the FAFSA and CSS PROFILE.

Although completing your financial aid application takes some time and effort, we find that gathering this information helps us to distribute our resources in the most equitable manner possible.

Q
What is the income “cut off” for financial aid?
A
We encourage all applicants for admission who think they need assistance to apply for financial aid, regardless of income level. We apply a formula that uses all of the information on the FAFSA and the CSS PROFILE. There are a number of factors other than income that we take into consideration when assessing a family’s ability to contribute. We may also take into account any special financial circumstances.

Q
What does a typical financial aid award from MIT look like?
A
We meet 100% of a family’s calculated need. The award contains a preset “self-help” component that consists of a low interest student loan and an MIT student job. The rest of your family’s calculated need is met with an MIT scholarship.

Q
Will I get the same financial aid for all four years?
A
We review your eligibility for assistance each year with the updated information you and your parents give to us. However, you should expect to receive the same financial aid provided there are no significant changes in your family’s finances and you meet the financial aid renewal deadlines.
Q How are scholarships from outside sources treated by MIT?
A We reward the receipt of merit-based outside scholarships by first reducing the self-help component (student loans and/or work study) dollar for dollar. Should the total amount of all outside scholarships received exceed the amount of self-help, we reduce the MIT scholarship portion of the award.

Q What type of work is available to meet the self-help component of the package?
A A variety of work opportunities are available on campus that can fit into the busy schedule of a typical MIT student. The current campus minimum wage is $8.75 an hour. Many part-time paid jobs are also part of community service programs, enabling students to get involved with the Cambridge/Boston community while earning money to help defray the cost of education. Students can also participate in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), which allows students to participate in research based collaboration with faculty members. International students can work on campus during the academic year and during the summer, but an Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9) must be completed first.

Q When will I be notified about the financial aid decision?
A Both Early Action and Regular Action admits who apply by the February 1 deadline will be notified in mid-March of their financial aid decision. Applicants who do not meet the February 1 deadline will be notified of their eligibility to receive aid shortly after their application becomes complete. However, we reserve the right to stop considering late applications at any time.
Financial aid application materials

If you wish to apply for scholarship, job and loan assistance from MIT, we must receive the following documents from you by February 1, 2004:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you and your parents must complete the 2004-2005 FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or the paper version is available from your high school guidance office. File the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and designate MIT as a recipient by using our name, address and federal school code of 002178.

The CSS Profile
If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you and your parents must also complete the 2004-2005 College Scholarship Service PROFILE application. You may register online at <http://www.collegeboard.com>. Be sure to designate MIT as one of the recipients using our code number of 3514.

CSS Profile Business / Farm Supplement
If you are completing the PROFILE application and either parent is self-employed or owns any part of a business or farm, s/he will need to submit the CSS Business/Farm Supplement (sent to you with the PROFILE Application) for each business or farm in which any interest is held.

Complete copies of your parents’ 2003 Federal Income Tax Returns (including all Schedules and W-2s)
Send us signed photocopies of all pages and schedules of your parents’ 2003 federal tax return, including photocopies of the W-2 forms. If there are corporations, partnerships or trusts, please include copies of those tax returns (Forms 1041, 1065, 1120, 1120S, K-1).

Please note: Clearly write your name and “Class of 2008” on the top of the materials. If the 2003 form is not yet available, send the 2002 form by the February 1 deadline, and send the 2003 return as soon as it is filed.

International Students
Students from countries other than the U.S. must complete the MIT International Student Financial Aid Application. This application is enclosed with this admissions application. If your parents are separated or divorced, each parent must complete an MIT International Student Financial Aid Application. Send us signed photocopies of your parents’ 2003 tax returns and income verification forms from your parents’ employers.

Separated or divorced parents
If your parents are separated or divorced, we also require your non-custodial parent to submit a Noncustodial Parent’s Statement (sent to you with the PROFILE Application) – or the MIT International Student Financial Aid Application as appropriate – with signed photocopies of all pages and schedules of his/her most recent federal income tax return and W-2s. If either parent has remarried, information about the spouse’s income, assets and dependents residing with the family unit must be included.

Additional information
If your family has special circumstances or unusual expenses, please send us a letter with details, which will help us understand more completely your financial situation. You can submit the correspondence to:

Student Financial Aid Office
Room 11-320
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
Fax: (617) 253-9859