Graduate students may pursue work leading to any of the following types of degrees: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Science (ScD), Engineer’s degrees, Master of Science (SM), Master of Architecture (MArch), Master of Applied Science (MASc), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Business Analytics (MBAn), Master in City Planning (MCP), Master of Engineering (MEng), and Master of Finance (MFin). Graduate programs are described in individual department statements, and in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs section (http://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/graduate-programs).

Each graduate student is officially enrolled in a degree program. The programs are not limited, however, to subjects offered in a single department. Subjects and research programs may be chosen from several departments, given the approval of the departmental faculty advisor to ensure that the overall program is integrated and well balanced with respect to a major field of study.

A student who expects to come to MIT for an advanced degree after earning an undergraduate degree elsewhere should give careful attention to undergraduate prerequisites as outlined by each department or program elsewhere in this catalog. For more specific information, a student should consult the department or program in which they wish to enroll.

MIT degrees are "residence" degrees in the sense that a major portion of the work must be done on campus in association with the faculty, other graduate students, and the Institute community. The amount of time required to attain any one degree varies.