The purpose of the academic program at MIT is to give students a solid command of basic principles, a versatility of insight and perspective concerning natural and social phenomena, the habit of continued learning, and the power that comes from a thorough and systematic approach to learning. From these attributes comes the best assurance for continued professional and personal growth, especially in today's rapidly changing world.

The undergraduate academic program is based on a core of General Institute Requirements (GIR) and on the specific curricula offered by departments for undergraduate majors. All undergraduate Courses at MIT lead to the Bachelor of Science (SB) degree. For most undergraduates, degree-granting programs require four years of full-time study.

Graduate degrees include Master of Architecture (MArch), Master of Science (SM), Master of Applied Science (MASc), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Business Analytics (MBAn), Master in City Planning (MCP), Master of Engineering (MEng), Master of Finance (MFin), Engineer, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Doctor of Science (ScD). Graduate students may also take advantage of a number of standing interdisciplinary graduate programs or develop individually tailored programs in consultation with the faculty.

Engineer degrees include Civil Engineer (CE), Electrical Engineer (EE), Engineer in Aeronautics and Astronautics (EAA), Engineer in Computer Science (ECS), Environmental Engineer (EnvE), Materials Engineer (MatE), Mechanical Engineer (MechE), Naval Engineer (NavE), and Nuclear Engineer (NuclE).

Each of the academic departments and units listed below offers one or more degree-granting programs, as described in the Schools and College section of this Bulletin (additional degree-granting programs are described in the Interdisciplinary Programs section). More detailed information can be obtained from the program and department offices.