A person wishing to be reinstated as an undergraduate must apply to return through Student Support and Wellbeing. No application to return to the undergraduate program will be considered from any applicant who has received a bachelor's degree or the equivalent from another institution. A person wishing to be reinstated as a graduate student must apply to return through the Admissions Office and the department. International students also need to be cleared by the International Students Office.

People on campus who are not registered during a term are not considered students and have no student privileges.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are used to indicate the sequence in which subjects are to be taken and the base of knowledge on which a particular subject will build. Before taking a subject, a student should complete any prerequisite(s) listed for that subject; corequisites, which are listed in italics, are to be taken concurrently. (See subject listings by department/program [http://catalog.mit.edu/subjects]).

Once prerequisites and corequisites are included in a subject listing, it is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that the subject is taught at the appropriate level. At the first class, instructors should reiterate the prerequisites and corequisites, and describe acceptable substitutions.

Students who do not have the stated prerequisites should obtain the permission of the instructor. Instructors may choose to identify students without prerequisites, and in some cases, screen them from the subjects.

If the instructor allows a student to waive or make a substitution for a prerequisite, it is then the student’s responsibility to master any missing background material in a timely fashion so that the content of the subject does not change for other students in the subject.

The instructor may determine that a student does not have the required preparation and knowledge to take a subject and may, with the help of the Registrar’s Office, exclude the student from the subject.

Some departments require students with a D-level performance in certain prerequisite subjects within the departmental program to do additional work or to retake the prerequisite before proceeding with the follow-on subject.

Credit Hours and Designations for Subjects

The credit hours (units) for each subject indicate the total amount of time spent in class and laboratory, plus the estimated time that the average student spends on outside preparation, for one regular term. Each subject is listed in the online MIT Subject Listing & Schedule [http://student.mit.edu/catalog], with three credit numbers, showing in sequence the units allotted to class time (lecture and/or recitation); laboratory, design, or fieldwork; and
preparation. Each unit represents about 14 hours of work per term, or about one hour of work per week for a subject that spans an entire term. The total unit credit for a subject is obtained by adding together all the units shown. Additional information regarding subject designations (http://catalog.mit.edu/subjects/#keytext) may be found in the Subjects Key.

Advanced Standing Examinations/Credit

Undergraduate Students
Advanced standing examinations for undergraduate students are given in August/September, December, January/February, and May. These examinations may be taken only by students who have never been registered for or attended class at MIT in the subject concerned. Special students are not eligible to take advanced standing examinations.

Except for entering first-year and transfer students, who may take advanced standing examinations offered during orientation, students must petition to take an advanced standing examination. The petition must be approved by the instructor in charge of the subject and the student’s advisor, and then submitted to the Registrar’s Office, Room 5-117, at least three weeks before the first day of the examination period.

Students interested in taking higher-level examinations should check in advance what preparation is required. The instructor may require evidence of competence in addition to the examination if the subject normally involves measures of student performance that are qualitatively different from the examination.

If a student fails an advanced standing examination, they may not retake the examination, but may register for the same subject in any subsequent term.

For more information, see the advanced standing examination procedures (https://registrar.mit.edu/classes-grades-evaluations/examinations/advanced-standing-examinations) on the Registrar’s website.

Graduate Students
Academic departments may decide to arrange advanced standing credit for their graduate students. The department may do so, in agreement with the faculty member in charge of the subject concerned, who may require evidence of competence in addition to an examination. A passing grade entitles a student to full credit for the subject. A failing grade will appear on the permanent record.