

GENERAL INSTITUTE REQUIREMENTS

To be recommended for the degree of Bachelor of Science, students must have attended MIT not less than three regular academic terms, which ordinarily must include the term of graduation. In addition, students must have satisfactorily completed a program of study approved in accordance with the faculty regulations, which includes the General Institute Requirements (GIRs) and the departmental program of the Course in which the degree is to be awarded. Departures from the departmental programs are allowed with departmental permission. See the Schools section (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools>), as well as individual degree charts (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts>), for information about specific programs.

Substitutions for GIR subjects are allowed only by petition. Petitions pertaining to the Communication Requirement (<https://registrar.mit.edu/registration-academics/academic-requirements/communication-requirement/pace-planning>) must be directed to the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement (SOCR), and petitions for any substitutions in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement (<https://registrar.mit.edu/registration-academics/academic-requirements/hass-requirement/substitutions-within-hass-requirement>) must be directed to the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement (SHR). The Committee on Curricula (CoC) considers petitions for substitutions in the Institute Laboratory Requirement (<https://registrar.mit.edu/faculty-curriculum-support/faculty-curriculum-committees/committee-curricula/petitions/institute>) and the Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement (<https://registrar.mit.edu/faculty-curriculum-support/faculty-curriculum-committees/committee-curricula/petitions/restricted>).

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements ¹

General Institute Requirements (GIRs)

The General Institute Requirements include a Communication Requirement that is integrated into both the HASS Requirement and the requirements of each major; see details below.

Summary of Subject Requirements	Subjects
Science Requirement	6
Chemistry (3.091, 5.111, or 5.112)	
Physics (8.01, 8.011, 8.012, or 8.01L; and 8.02, 8.021, or 8.022)	
Mathematics (18.01 or 18.01A; and 18.02, 18.02A, or 18.022)	
Biology (7.012, 7.013, 7.014, 7.015, or 7.016)	
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement; at least two of these subjects must be designated as communication-intensive (CI-H) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.	8

Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement	2
Laboratory Requirement (12 units)	1
Total GIR Subjects Required for SB Degree	17

Physical Education Requirement

Swimming requirement, plus four physical education courses for eight points.

Departmental Program

Choose at least two subjects in the major that are designated as communication-intensive (CI-M) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.

A departmental program includes the following elements:

Between one and six subjects that also satisfy the GIRs. ²

180–198 additional units beyond the GIRs, which must include a minimum of 48 units of unrestricted electives. The "units beyond" total does not include ROTC subjects. However, the units associated with CI-M subjects are normally included in this calculation. ³

Each program is designed so it can be completed with a normal academic load—the equivalent of 8 to 8.5 subjects each year—for a total of 32–34 subjects. ⁴

Units in Major	114-186
Units in Unrestricted Electives	48-138
Units in Major That Also Satisfy the GIRs	(12-72)
Total Units Beyond the GIRs Required for SB Degree	180-198

The units for any subject that counts as one of the 17 GIR subjects cannot also be counted as units required beyond the GIRs.

¹ Transfer students generally will graduate under the requirements that apply to the class they join when they enter MIT.

² These subjects are taken from among REST subjects, Institute Laboratory subjects, and/or HASS subjects. Each degree chart specifies how GIR subjects are integrated into the program. Most programs include an overlap of 36 units, or three subjects.

³ Exception: If a CI-M subject is also one of the 17 GIR subjects in a student's program (such as a required Institute Laboratory subject), then the units associated with the subject will not be included in the "units beyond" calculation.

⁴ For the purpose of counting subjects, 6-unit subjects count as half-subjects; subjects of 9–15 units count as one subject; 18-unit subjects count as 1.5 subjects; and subjects of 21–24 units count as two subjects.