MIT's strength—as represented by its official seal and motto, *mens et manus*, mind and hand—is the fusion of academic knowledge with practical purpose. MIT believes the best education occurs when students are self-motivated and engaged participants in a dynamic community of learners. Consequently, an MIT undergraduate education combines rigorous academics with a “learning-by-doing” approach.

To earn a bachelor’s degree, undergraduates must complete the General Institute Requirements as well as the course of study prescribed for the degree to be awarded. This section outlines the general requirements together with other important aspects of undergraduate education, including admissions and financial aid.