SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Interphase EDGE: Pre-First-Year Summer Component

SP.100 Interphase
Prereq: Commitment to register as a first-year student in the Fall
U (Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]

Interphase is a seven-week program designed to enhance the academic success of students entering MIT. The program has a dual focus: it gives students an introduction to the MIT experience by exposing them to the rigors of a full subject load while simultaneously preparing them for academic success beyond MIT. The program includes calculus; chemistry; physical education; physics; writing, oral presentation and teamwork skills; and supporting academic activities, including small-group learning. Students can earn transcript credit for subjects taken in the program, sometimes resulting in advanced placement in corresponding subjects taken in the Fall. Activities include day trips to area cultural, recreational, and business sites. Students participate in a range of personal and educational development seminars and activities designed to ensure their smooth transition to college life.
S. Kalloo

Seminar XL

SP.110 Program XL: You Can Be a Success at MIT
Prereq: First-year undergraduate standing
U (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]

Academic enrichment program for first-year students, XL utilizes the innovative and effective small-group learning concept to enhance academic performance in calculus and science. Students meet in study groups of five to six participants with facilitators trained in effective classroom techniques and concept focus. Study groups help students to reinforce concepts learned in the regular curriculum, and help them gain mastery of concepts and problems that are often more challenging than those dealt with during lecture. Emphasizes the full participation of each student with the facilitator acting as guide. The regularity of weekly meetings enhances the students’ understanding of MIT’s academic expectations. After the initial meetings, students are encouraged to take more responsibility and to lead the group in problem-solving sessions. Each study group meets for a minimum of three hours each week. The meeting time is set by the XL facilitator based on students’ schedules.
A. Perry

Institute-wide Discovery Subjects

SP.245 The Sum of All Courses (New)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
2-0-0 units

Provides an overview of the wide variety of majors and joint majors as well as minors and concentrations at MIT. At each lecture, faculty from two to three departments describe their fields. One-hour seminars and panels are given on informative and engaging topics such as, “The Rationale Behind the MIT Curriculum,” “The Purpose of an Education,” “Integrating by Parts and Other Life Hacks,” “Etiquette and Why it Is Important,” “So, Darwin, Shakespeare, and Newton Walk into a Bar,” “How to Avoid Burnout,” “What is your Implicit Bias?,” “How to be a Good Human,” “Social Impact, Unintended Consequences, and Moral Hazards,” and include panel discussions with MIT Administration and MIT’s Distinguished Professors. Subject can count toward the 9-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first year students. Limited to 1132; preference to first-year students.
C. Carter
TERRASCOPE

SP.35UR Undergraduate Research in Terrascope
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate research opportunities in Terrascope.

STAFF

SP.360 Terrascope Radio
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-3-6 units. HASS-A; CI-H

An exploration of radio as a medium of expression and communication, particularly the communication of complex scientific or technical information to general audiences. Examines the ingredients of effective radio programming, drawing extensively on examples from both commercial and public radio. Student teams produce, assemble, narrate, record and broadcast/webcast radio programs on topics related to the complex environmental issue that is the focus of the year's Terrascope subjects. Includes multiple individual writing assignments that explore the constraints and opportunities in radio as a medium. Limited to 15 first-year students.

A. W. Epstein

SP.361 Majors and Careers Through a Terrascope Lens
Prereq: None
U (IAP)
1-0-1 units
Can be repeated for credit.

MIT alumni pursuing sustainability-oriented careers describe ways in which their major and career choices have provided them with the lenses through which they see the problems they work to solve. Students participate in guided reflection, focused on making the discussion relevant to their own personal situations and affinities. Students strengthen their ability to think deeply about their goals, for MIT and for the world beyond, and come into direct contact with alumni who can continue to mentor them through this process. Open to all undergraduates, regardless of Terrascope affiliation.

D. McGee, A. W. Epstein

FIRST-YEAR/ALUMNI SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SP.800 First-Year/Alumni Summer Internship Program
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-0 units

Prepares first-year students for summer internship or research experiences. Enables students to explore their professional interests and careers early, providing an edge in the increasingly competitive internship search process. Includes sessions on self-assessment and career exploration, professional etiquette, internship search skills, interviewing, communications, networking, and dynamics in the workplace. Attendance at the sessions is mandatory.

C. Capozzola

SP.801 First-Year/Alumni Summer Internship Program II
Prereq: SP.800
U (Fall, Summer)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged

Students who have completed the subject requirements for SP.800 and work in an approved internship or research experience are eligible for SP.801, the second component of the First-year/Alumni Summer Internship Program. Students continue their career development and prepare for their sophomore internship search through this course.

C. Capozzola

SP.350 Special Subject: Terrascope
Prereq: Permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Covers areas of study not included in the regular Terrascope curriculum. Preference to students in Terrascope.

STAFF