

FIRST YEAR

Terrascope

Terrascope (<https://terrascope.mit.edu>) is a learning community in which first-year students take ownership of their education as they address complex, real-world environmental problems. Every year Terrascope explores a different global sustainability issue, with students driving the process. Students work in teams to develop solutions, drawing on diverse perspectives, interdisciplinary research, and the resources of the Terrascope community. In the process, they learn about how to organize teams around complex problems of any kind, and how to take on and manage large projects.

In the fall class, 12.000 Solving Complex Problems, students develop solutions to the year's theme problem and defend them in front of a panel of global experts in a presentation that is webcast live worldwide. In the IAP (January) class SP.361 Majors and Careers Through a Terrascope Lens, students connect with alumni from a variety of majors and career fields to learn about their career paths and choices. In the spring, two optional subjects are available to Terrascope students. In 2.00C[[J]] Design for Complex Environmental Issues, students design and prototype specific technologies that address aspects of the year's problem. SP.360 Terrascope Radio fulfills a Communication Requirement (CI-H and HASS-A credit) as students produce a professional-quality radio program on an aspect of the year's Terrascope issue.

Students fulfill General Institute Requirements (GIRs) (<https://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/general-institute-requirements>) by attending mainstream core subjects with other first-year students.

Terrascope students are advised by faculty and staff affiliated with the program, and close interactions among first-year students, upper-level students, faculty, staff, and alumni are an important part of the Terrascope experience. Students attend weekly lunches and participate in other program activities. They can also choose to participate in a weeklong field trip over spring break to a site related to the year's work. Past locations have included the Netherlands, New Mexico, Alaska, and Iceland.

Terrascope students have 24-hour access to a variety of facilities in the center of campus, including a kitchen, lounge, and study space.