

HOW TO APPLY TO MIT





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Set Up Your MyMIT Account



Get started on this in September!

MIT does not use the Common Application. Instead, we use our own system called MyMIT.

We encourage you to register for a MyMIT account as soon as possible at my.mit.edu. It only takes a few minutes to sign up. You'll need this account to apply, track the various components of your application, and keep tabs on your financial aid forms.

Applying to MIT is easy and convenient using MyMIT. You can work on your application in multiple sessions, editing it as many times as you wish.

It is your responsibility to ensure we receive all of the required pieces of your application. Your account will be updated frequently so you'll know after we have received materials from your teachers and counselor.



Check your email.

We occasionally email all applicants to gently remind them of upcoming dates, deadlines, and tips.

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Application Part 1



Don't procrastinate!

Submit before November 1 for Early Action
or January 1 if you're applying Regular Action.

Submitting Part 1 of your application through MyMIT initiates your application process.

Early Action or Regular Action

Your application must be submitted no later than November 1 if you're applying Early Action, or no later than January 1 if you're applying Regular Action. There is no advantage or disadvantage to applying through Early Action. Our Early Action program is both nonbinding and nonrestrictive.

Application Fee or Waiver

We ask students to pay a \$75 application fee. If the application fee presents a hardship for you and your family, you may qualify for a fee waiver. We will accept fee waivers from most sources, such as the College Board, ACT, and NACAC, among others. Alternatively, a school counselor, principal, or other school official can submit a letter on your behalf by the application deadline to request a fee waiver. Send waiver materials to feewaiver@mit.edu or MIT Undergraduate Admissions Processing Center, P.O. Box 404, Randolph, MA 02368.



→ Send it in!

Parent Information

If you're a member of a non-traditional family, please provide information about the persons whom you consider to be your parents, whether they are your biological parents, adoptive parents, or stepparents.

Field of Study

We ask about a prospective major because we're curious about what interests you right now. Your answer will not affect your admission—we do not admit by major. Instead, you'll apply to MIT as a whole. You won't declare your major until the end of your first year, which leaves a lot of time between now and then to explore and change your mind.

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Application Part 2



Be honest!

Remember, we are looking for **your** voice.

Now we learn about you, in your words. In Part 2, we begin to understand you as a person, not just as a student.

Essays

Rather than asking you to write one long essay, the MIT application consists of several short-response questions designed to help us get to know you. These are the places in the application where we look for your voice—what drives you, what’s important to you. Be honest, be open, and be authentic. This is your opportunity to connect with us.

Activities

There is only enough space to list four things—choose the four that mean the most to you and tell us a bit about them. This will give us more information about you than any “laundry list” of everything you’ve ever done in high school. It isn’t the quantity of activities or number of leadership positions that matters, but rather the energy and attitude that you bring to your pursuits.

Self-Reported Coursework Form

Here, we’re trying to get a clear picture of your academic preparation by subject area. We see thousands of different transcripts, so it really helps us to view your coursework and grades in a consistent format. Please note that the information you provide does not replace your official high school transcript. You should include all classes you have taken and are currently taking, avoid abbreviations, and if there aren’t enough spaces for all the courses you have taken, start with your current classes and work backwards.



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Letters of Recommendation

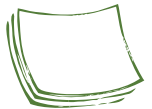


Talk to your teachers ASAP!
They are busy, so give them plenty of time.

We will need two teachers and a school counselor to submit letters of recommendation. These forms can be accessed from your MyMIT account.

Recommendations: Whom to Ask

Evaluation A should be from a math or science teacher.
Evaluation B should be from a humanities, social science, or language teacher. You should ask teachers who know you well and have taught you in an academic class in high school.



Access these forms from MyMIT in September

Secondary School Report (SSR)

Your school counselor should complete the SSR form and submit it to us, along with your transcript. Most counselors also attach a School Profile, describing your school's curriculum and community. Some school counselors do not or cannot write letters on your behalf. We don't hold this against you at all! We understand that there are different types of schools out there, and you will not be penalized in this case.

Provide your school counselor with access to this form early so that they have time to write thoughtfully about your match with MIT.

Supplemental Recommendations

Supplemental recommendations are also welcome, but in no way are expected or required. We simply ask that they provide different or additional context beyond the two we've already requested. Most applicants, and most admitted students, do not submit any supplemental recommendations. If you have a supplemental letter of recommendation, it can be submitted using the same system as the teacher recommendations.

Some supplemental evaluations, such as those from research mentors and music teachers, can be submitted via our portfolio system, which is described further in section 7 of this booklet.

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Tests and Scores



Plan ahead!

The last standardized tests that will be considered by the selection committee are the test dates in November for Early Action or December for Regular Action.

Standardized tests are required for any first-year application to MIT. However, they are not the only factor, or even the most important factor.

You shouldn't stress out too much about your scores, because we admit people, not numbers. Seriously. That said, tests are important, and you should prepare for them as best you can. If you take the same test (SAT, ACT, or an SAT Subject Test) multiple times, we will consider the highest score achieved in each section.

Your scores must be reported to us officially from the testing agency. We do not have cutoff or recommended scores for any of the tests (with the exception of the TOEFL), as scores are evaluated within an applicant's context.

For native English speakers:

We require the SAT or the ACT. We do not prefer one over the other, and we do not require the optional writing test. We also require two SAT Subject Tests: one in math (level 1 or 2), and one in science (physics, chemistry, or biology). We do not have a preference as to which science you take or which level math you take.

For non-native English speakers:

You can take the tests required for native English speakers, or you may take the TOEFL and two SAT Subject Tests, one in math (level 1 or 2) and one in science (physics, chemistry, or biology).

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Interview

We don't just want to see how you look on paper: we're interested in the whole person.

Whenever possible, we offer students an interview with a member of the Educational Council, a network of over 5,000 MIT graduates around the world who volunteer to meet with applicants in their home area.

After you submit your application, you may be contacted by one of our Educational Counselors (ECs) if there's one available. ECs will typically use the email address you provided on your application to contact you, so please monitor your inbox and respond promptly.

Interviews are conducted in your local area in a public setting like a coffeehouse or library, or if your EC is not located in your region, your interview may take place via Skype. Most interviews last about an hour, although they can range from 30 minutes to 90 minutes. The interview is not a quiz! Think of it as a nice conversation, and a chance to chat with someone who has attended MIT. All you need to do to prepare is to come ready to talk about yourself.

Due to limited capacity, we cannot offer every applicant an interview. If we are unable to offer you one, your interview will be waived, and this will not adversely affect your application.

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Additional Material



Find out online!
See mitadmissions.org/apply
for details on how to submit materials.

If you have a special talent, skill, or something else you'd like to show us, you may send in a portfolio or other supplemental information.

While we neither expect nor require additional material beyond the application, we know that many students are involved in many cool activities outside of class, and we love to hear about them!



Visual artists, makers, performing artists, and researchers may send in portfolios for review by MIT staff or faculty. You might wonder what a “maker” portfolio is. Many different projects would fit the bill, for example: new origami designs, a chainmail suit, bookbinding, a knitted fractal, or a computer program/app. We love creative people who enjoy making things!



MIT will also consider research that you have conducted outside of class. A letter of evaluation from your research mentor can be especially helpful.

Details on how to have your art, architecture, maker, music, theater arts, and/or research talents considered can be found on our website, mitadmissions.org/apply.

If you are an accomplished athlete and you plan to participate at the varsity level in college, we encourage you to contact the MIT coach for your sport; find out more at mitathletics.com. If you are interested in participating in one of MIT's ROTC programs, visit catalog.mit.edu and search for ROTC.

February Updates and Notes Form

All applicants are required to submit a February Updates and Notes Form, available on your MyMIT account in January. Update the form with your grades as soon as possible after completion of the fall semester (or after completion of the second quarter, if your school uses a quarter-based system). If your school uses a trimester schedule, please use your first trimester grades.

The February Updates and Notes Form also includes an opportunity for you to update us on anything important that has occurred since you submitted your application. Using the online form is preferred over mailed or emailed updates.

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Financial Aid



MIT is need blind!

This means needing financial aid will not count against you in the admissions process.

If you are admitted to MIT, we will meet your family's full demonstrated need.

MIT is committed to being financially accessible to admitted students. If you belong here, we will work with you and your family to help you finance your education.

Applying for financial aid will not negatively impact your chance of being admitted. We consider your application regardless of your family's financial need. We won't admit you because you can pay full-freight, and we won't deny you because you can't pay a nickel. It's your mettle, not your money, that gets you in to MIT.

MIT does not award money based on any measure of merit—academic, athletic, artistic, or anything else. You may qualify for private outside scholarships based on your merits; if you do, then they become part of your financial aid package. Many students use bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search to find outside scholarships.



MIT will meet every single cent of your family's demonstrated financial need. Believe it or not, the sticker price to attend MIT is actually thousands of dollars less than what it costs to be a student at MIT—even students who don't receive financial aid are already receiving a considerable subsidy to study here!

Use our financial aid calculator at mitadmissions.org to get a sense of what it may cost you to come to MIT.

→ Now you are ready to get started. Go to it!

Notes





mitadmissions.org