

Supporting Educational Innovation and Excellence

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A photograph of two men sitting at a table in a meeting. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a striped shirt, resting his chin on his hand. The man on the right is wearing a blue shirt and holding a small white object. There are papers and a water bottle on the table.



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The ODGE carries out many activities that support innovation and excellence in graduate education and foster information exchange and best practices among graduate programs, including, for example: maintaining membership on Institute committees such as the Committee on Graduate Programs (CGP), The MIT Council on Educational Technology (MITCET), and the Graduate Academic Performance Group (GAPG, chaired by the Dean); sponsoring on *ad hoc* committees such as the Task Force on Teaching and Learning Spaces (TLS); supporting monthly graduate administrator roundtables; and serving as a resource for information on the Graduate Policies and Procedures (GPP). The ODGE helps promote cross-disciplinary interactions through various projects under the Graduate Student Life Grants program and the Graduate Women’s Reading Group, as well as through support for many student groups such as TechLink.

Figure 2: Graduate Programs Offered at MIT, Academic Year 2011–2012

*Interdisciplinary. Note: each program may offer multiple types of degrees

School	Program name	Program code
Architecture and Planning	Architecture	4
	Center for Real Estate	RED
	Media Arts And Sciences	MAS
	Urban Studies and Planning	11
Engineering	Aeronautics and Astronautics	16
	Biological Engineering	20
	Chemical Engineering	10
	Civil and Environmental Engineering	1
	Computation for Design Optimization*	CD0
	Computational and Systems Biology*	CSB
	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	6
	Engineering Systems*	ESD
	Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology*	HST
	Materials Science and Engineering	3
	Mechanical Engineering	2
	Nuclear Science and Engineering	22
	Transportation*	1CT
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Comparative Media Studies	CMS
	Economics	14
	History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society	STS
	Linguistics and Philosophy	24
	Political Science	17
Program in Science Writing	21W	
Sloan School of Management	Management	15
Science	Biology	7
	Brain and Cognitive Sciences	9
	Chemistry	5
	Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences	12
	Mathematics	18
	Microbiology*	7MBD
	Physics	8
Interdisciplinary	Leaders for Global Operations* (Engineering and Sloan)	LGO
	Operations Research*	OR
	Polymer Science and Technology* (Engineering and Science)	PPST
	Systems Design Management* (Engineering and Sloan)	SDM
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute	Joint Program with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute*	WHOI





To further this agenda, the ODGE has defined several key goals.

Promote the Value and Quality of Graduate Education at MIT Through Oral, Electronic, and Print Materials

The academic excellence, accomplishments, and intellectual and research contributions of individual graduate students will be researched, acknowledged, celebrated and publicized using the latest communication tools and venues.

The value and competitiveness of an MIT graduate education will be emphasized by collecting, aggregating, and publicizing relevant data, such as job placement and marketability statistics, graduate program rankings, funding and fellowship data.

The unique strengths of a residential MIT graduate education and how it prepares graduate students for a diversity of career paths will be articulated and publicized.

Information on Institute-wide activities and initiatives in graduate education will be collated and disseminated internally and externally.

Facilitate and Support Innovation in Graduate Programs and Encourage Cross-Disciplinary Interactions

To nurture a rich environment that promotes interchanges that are vital to innovation and cross-pollination, the ODGE proposes to do the following.

- » *Build Cross-Cutting Intellectual Networks.* New cross-departmental and cross-school events will be organized for the graduate population to serve as sources of inspiration, stimulate idea-generation, and help build intellectual networks.

The ODGE will foster cross-cutting intellectual networks to support idea-generation, innovation and collaboration.

- » *Share Best Practices.* New mechanisms for interdepartmental exchange of information and best practices will be explored, in particular to support innovation within graduate curricula, advising and mentoring, pedagogy, and admissions practices.
- » *Information Exchange.* Forums for information gathering and dissemination on topics and trends related to graduate education will be created. Examples may include hosting visiting seminar speakers, and organizing workshops on topics in graduate education.
- » *Online Graduate Education Initiatives.* The ODGE will serve as a resource for initiatives involving online aspects of graduate education and will think strategically about how to utilize online technology to enhance residential graduate education (e.g. building intellectual communities, enhancing recruitment, providing resource information, etc.).
- » *Teaching and Learning Spaces.* We will contribute information on teaching, learning and community space requirements to the 2030 physical plant renovation process, including, for example: technology-enabled spaces for global and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- » *International Engagements.* The ODGE will collate and disseminate best practices for international engagements involving graduate students—for example in the areas of policy; program quality assurance; risk management; cultural training and adjustment; and academic integrity.

Encourage Academic Integrity and Responsible Conduct of Research

In keeping with the values of the Institute, the ODGE will further promote the critical need for academic integrity and responsible conduct of research among the graduate population. We will collaborate with the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Ombuds Office to pursue mechanisms to increase the number of graduate students who receive academic integrity training. This will include developing a communications plan and engaging in a broad dialog with faculty members, department heads, and school deans on this issue; writing an academic integrity handbook specifically for graduate students; and developing clear guidelines, policies, and best practices for graduate students who are involved in entrepreneurship.