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# *Section 3*

## *Students*

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# Students

The Institute’s fall 2015 student body of 11,331 is highly diverse. Students come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three territories and dependencies, and 120 foreign countries. The Institute’s 3,411 international students make up eleven percent of the undergraduate population and 43 percent of the graduate population. See pages 110-111 for more information about international students.

**Student Profile, 2015–2016**

Student Level	Count	Percentage
Undergraduate	4,527	40
Graduate	6,804	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,331</b>	<b>100</b>

In fall 2015, 46 percent of MIT’s first-year students (who reported their class standing) were first in their high school class; 93 percent ranked in the top five percent.

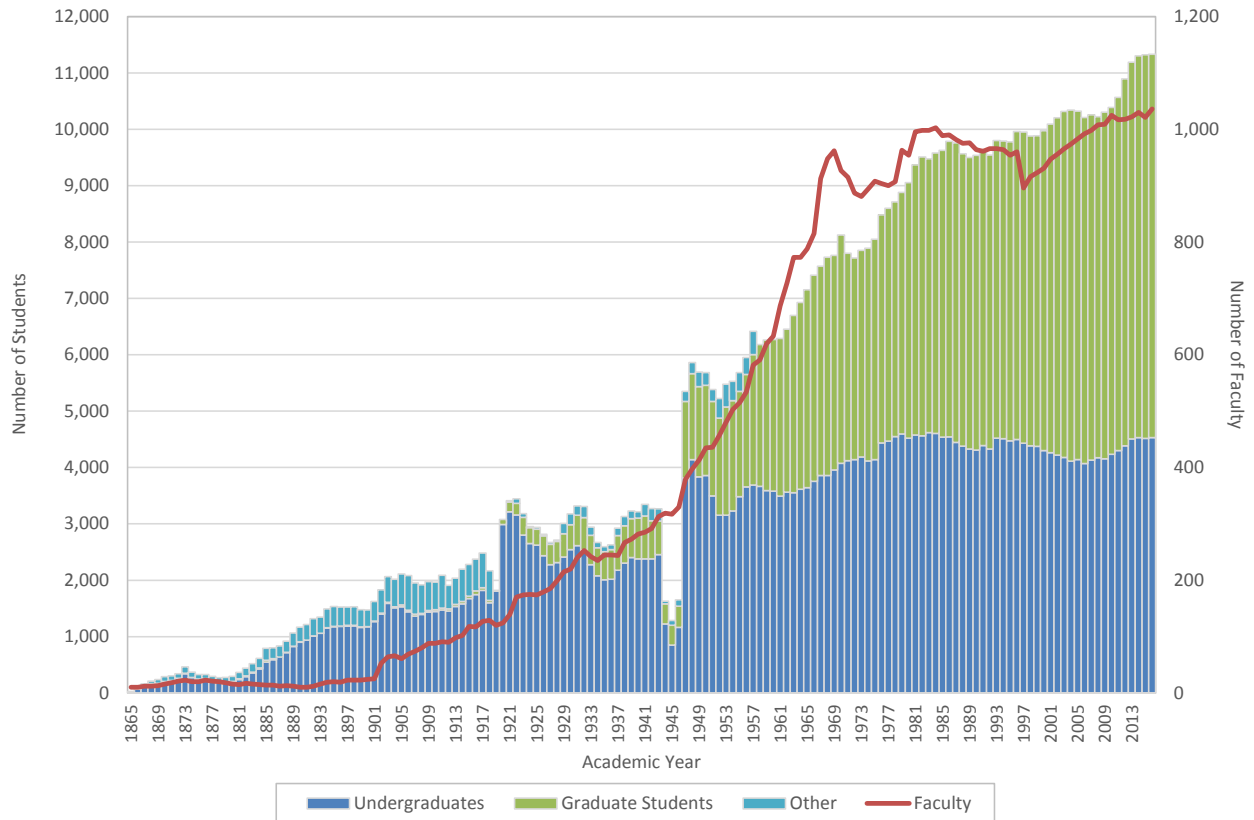
**U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident Student Minorities, 2015–2016**

Ethnicity	Undergraduate Count	Graduate Count
Asian American	1,259	840
Hispanic or Latino	682	385
African American	337	118
American Indian or Alaskan Native	46	40
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	7

Students may identify with more than one race or choose not to identify with a group. Seventy-nine undergraduates and 427 graduate students chose not to identify an ethnicity or race. These figures may not precisely reflect the population because they are self-reported.

Students who identified, at least in part, as a U.S. minority group totaled 3,709—51% of undergraduate and 20% of graduate students.

**Faculty and Students, 1865–2016**



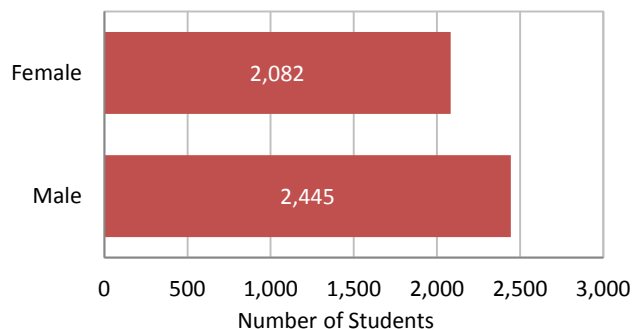
## Undergraduate Students

Students first enrolled at MIT in 1865. Twenty-seven students enrolled as undergraduate students that first year. In fall 2015, there were 4,527 undergraduate students.

**Undergraduate Students by Citizenship, 2015–2016**

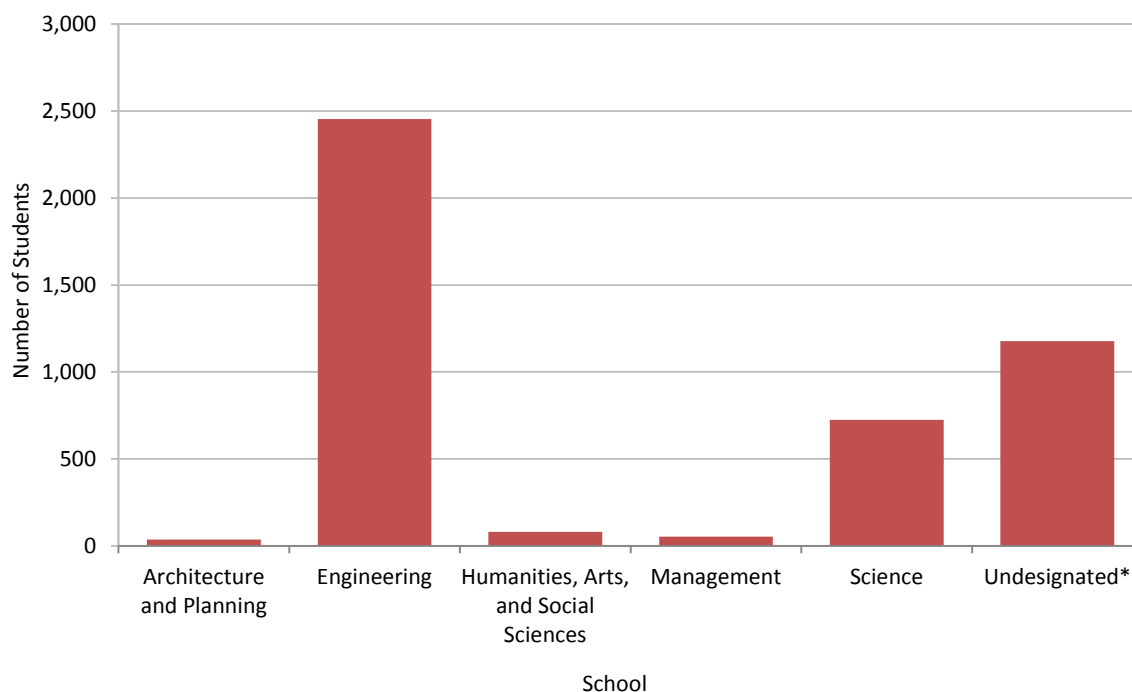
Citizenship	Count	Percentage
U.S. citizen	3,836	84.7
U.S. permanent resident	206	4.6
International	485	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Undergraduate Students by Gender, 2015–2016**



**Undergraduate Students by School, 2015–2016**

School	Count
Architecture and Planning	37
Engineering	2,455
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	81
Management	52
Science	724
Undesignated*	1,178
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,527</b>



\*Undesignated comprises freshman who do not enroll in a major and undesignated sophomores.

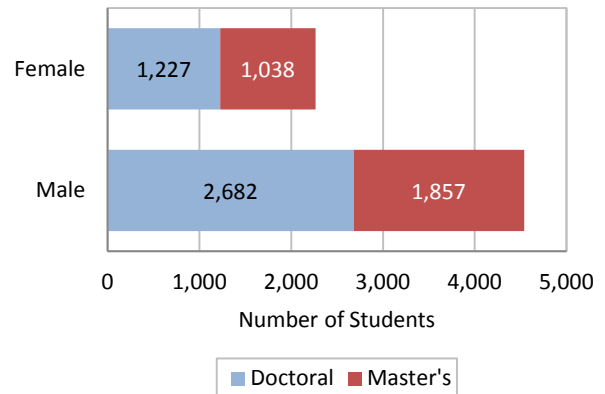
## Graduate Students

Graduate students have outnumbered undergraduate students at MIT since 1980. In fall 2015, they comprised 60 percent of the student population with 6,804 students—2,895 master’s students (includes 173 non-matriculating) and 3,909 doctoral students.

**Graduate Students by Citizenship, 2015–2016**

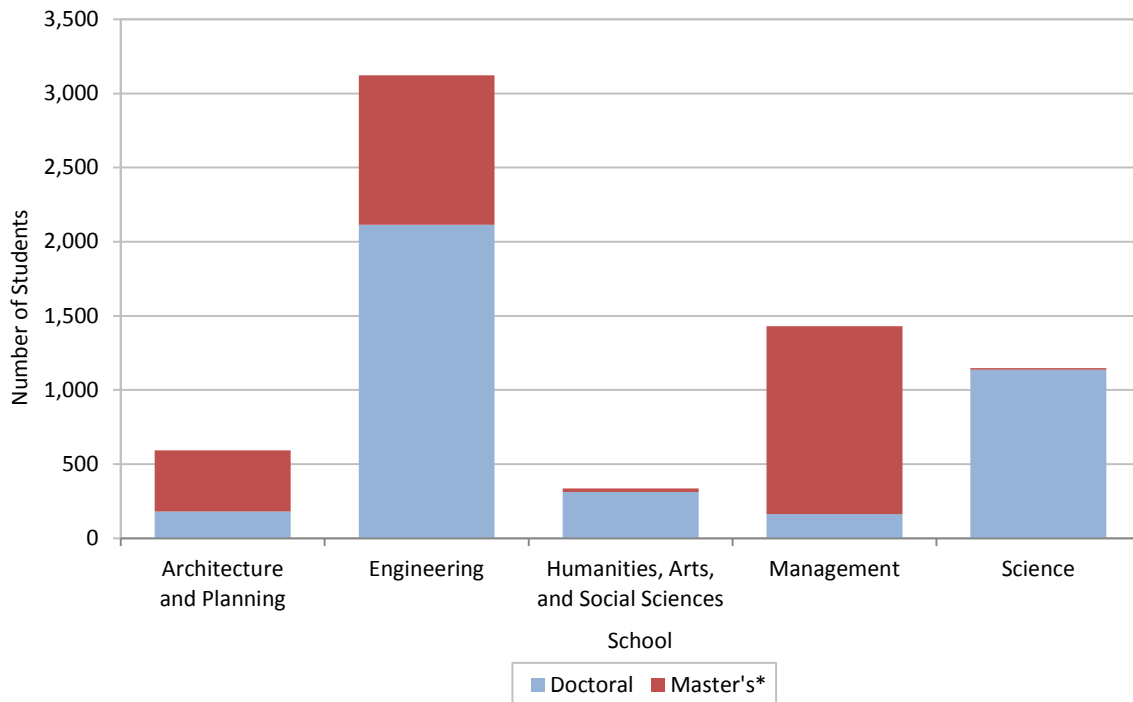
Citizenship	Count	Percentage
U.S. citizen	3,631	53.4
U.S. permanent resident	247	3.6
International	2,926	43.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Graduate Students by Gender, 2015–2016**



**Graduate Students by School, 2015–2016**

School	Master's Count*	Doctoral Count	Total
Architecture and Planning	413	181	594
Engineering	1,009	2,114	3,123
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	25	312	337
Management	1,266	164	1,430
Science	9	1,138	1,147
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>6,631</b>



\*Excludes non-matriculating students

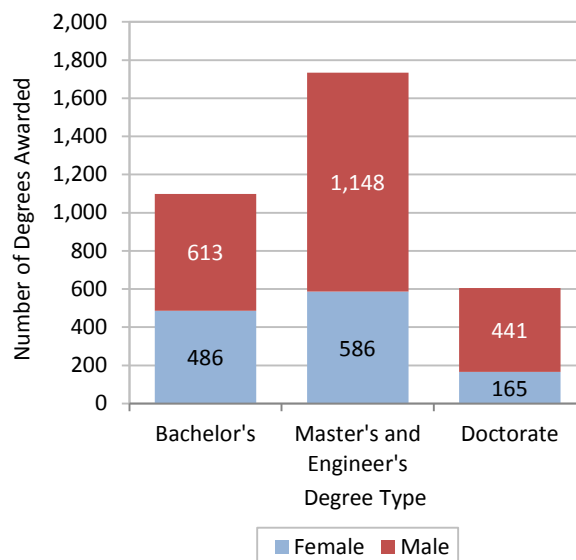
## Degrees

In 2014–2015, MIT awarded 3,439 degrees.

Degrees Awarded by Type, 2014–2015

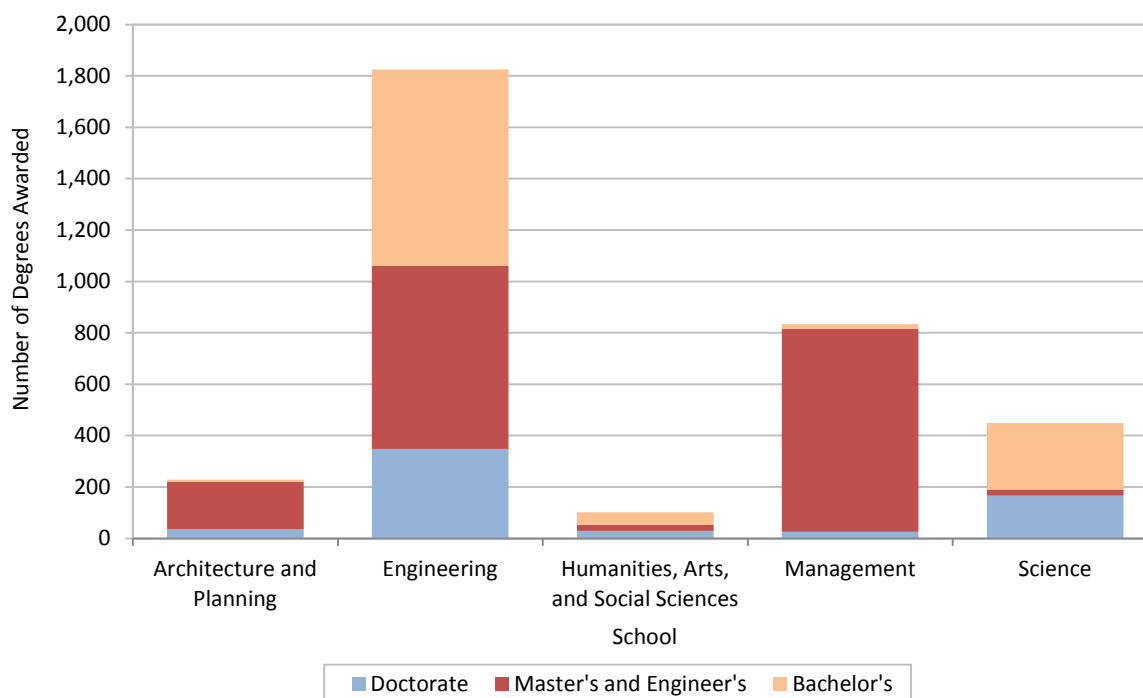
Degree Type	Count
Bachelor of Science degrees	1,099
Master of Science degrees	685
Master of Architecture, Master in City Planning, Master of Engineering, Master of Business Administration, and Master of Finance degrees	1,034
Engineer's degrees	15
Doctoral degrees	606

Degrees Awarded by Gender, 2014–2015



Degrees Awarded by School, 2014–2015

School	Bachelor's Count	Master's and Engineer's Count	Doctorate Count	Total
Architecture and Planning	9	184	36	229
Engineering	764	713	348	1,825
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	49	24	29	102
Management	18	790	26	834
Science	259	23	167	449
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>3,439</b>



## Alumni

In spring 2013, MIT invited over 5,900 undergraduate alumni from the classes of 2008, 2002, 1999, 1994, 1989, and 1984 to participate in a survey (<http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/alumni.html>) that asked them about their postgraduate education, their career, and their MIT undergraduate experience. The survey closed with a 36% response rate.

Seventy-five percent of alumni respondents said they have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program since graduating from MIT. Of those who have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program, over half did so immediately upon graduation. This includes students who earned a graduate degree simultaneously with their bachelor's degree. Eighty-five percent of respondents said they are employed either full-time or part-time. An additional 4% are unemployed and seeking employment. The remainder is either on leave or unemployed and not currently seeking employment. Among those respondents who are employed, 64% work in the for-profit sector, 13% work in government or military agencies, 14% work in the nonprofit sector, and 9% are self-employed. Twenty-two percent of respondents reported having started a company. Fourteen percent said they are currently developing a start-up company.

Service is a part of the lives of our alumni. Eighty-seven percent of respondents have served as an officer or on a committee for a local club, organization, or place of worship in the last 10 years. Thirty-seven percent have been a board member for a nonprofit organization. Seventy-three percent have done volunteer work at least once in the last year.

A fall 2012 survey of graduate alumni ([http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/grad\\_alum.html](http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/grad_alum.html)) revealed that 93% of respondents are employed, with just 2% seeking employment (others are engaged in such activities as travel and caring for family). The average annual salary was reported to be \$156,793; the median was \$137,500. Graduate alumni, overall, were most likely to report working in a private for-profit organization (54%), in a U.S. four-year college or university (13%), or to be self-employed (9%). 3.8% were employed by the U.S. federal government; 0.4% by U.S. state government; and 0.7% in U.S. local government. A spirit of entrepreneurship flourishes, as 28% of all surveyed graduate alumni have started a company. Among doctoral alumni, 41% have at least one patent or invention.

MIT's 132,373 living alumni are connected to the Institute through graduating-class events, departmental organizations, and over 47 clubs in the United States and 42 abroad. More than 14,000 volunteers offer their time, financial support, and service on committees and on the MIT Corporation, the Institute's Board of Trustees. MIT graduates hold leadership positions in industries and organizations around the world. Over 21,000 alumni reside in Massachusetts, and about 86 percent of MIT's alumni live in the United States.

## Undergraduate Financial Aid

### Principles of MIT Undergraduate Financial Aid

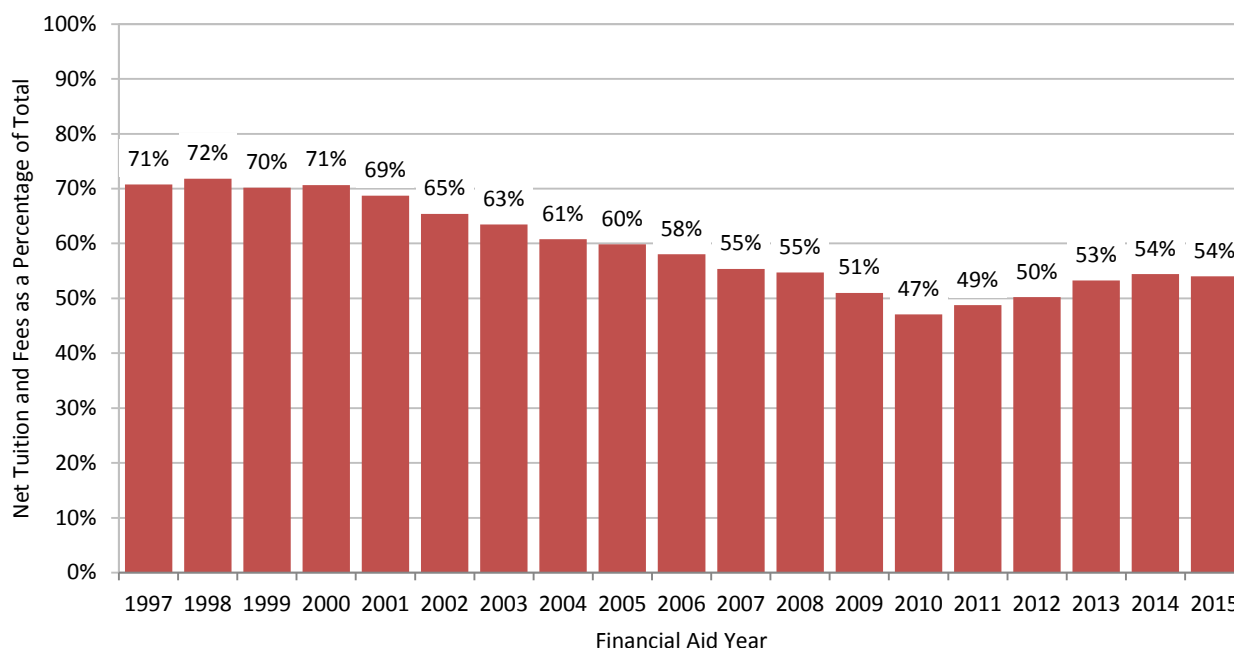
To ensure that MIT remains accessible to all qualified students regardless of their financial resources, MIT is committed to three guiding financial aid principles:

- Need-blind admissions: MIT recruits and enrolls the most talented and promising students without regard to their financial circumstances.

- Need-based financial aid: MIT awards aid only for financial need. It does not award undergraduate scholarships for academic or athletic achievements or for other non-financial criteria.
- Meeting the full need: MIT guarantees that each student’s demonstrated financial need is fully met.

As a result of these guiding principles, the Institute significantly discounts tuition.

**Net Undergraduate Tuition and Fees  
as a Percentage of Total Tuition and Fees\***



\*Net tuition and fees calculated as a percentage of gross undergraduate tuition and fees received, minus MIT undergraduate scholarships.

### Who Pays for an MIT Undergraduate Education

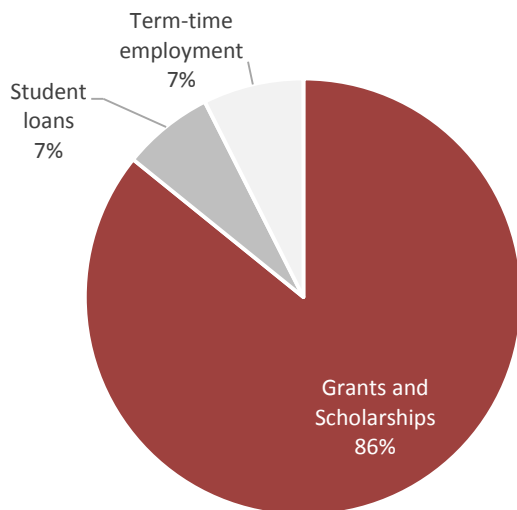
In 2014–2015, the annual price of an MIT education totaled \$61,530 per student—\$45,016 for tuition and fees, \$13,224 for room and board, an estimated \$2,790 for books, supplies, and personal expenses, and a per-student average of \$500 for travel. With 4,476 undergraduates enrolled, the collective price for undergraduates was \$275.4 million. Of this amount, families paid \$146.1 million, or 53 percent, and financial aid covered the remaining 47 percent, or \$129.3 million. Since MIT subsidizes the cost of educating undergraduates through its tuition pricing and continues to be the largest source of financial aid to its undergraduates, the Institute is the primary source for paying for an MIT undergraduate education, and families the secondary source.

### Forms of Financial Undergraduate Aid

The primary form of financial aid to MIT undergraduates is grants or scholarships—terms that are used interchangeably, although grants are gift aid based on need and scholarships are gift aid based on merit. Since 2005–2006 the share of undergraduate aid in the form of grants/scholarships rose from 80.9 to 85.8 percent while the share in the form of student loans fell from 11.1 to 6.7 percent and term-time work decreased from 8.0 to 7.4 percent.

From the students’ perspective, grants are the sole form of aid that unambiguously increases the financial accessibility of college, since they don’t require repayment and don’t increase the students’ indebtedness. The preponderance of grant aid at MIT sets the Institute apart from other higher education institutions.

**Types of Financial Aid for MIT Undergraduates  
2014–2015**



**Amounts of Financial Aid for  
MIT Undergraduates, 2014–2015**

Aid Type	Amount (in U.S. Dollars)	Percentage
Grants and Scholarships	111,003,808	86
Student Loans	8,710,328	7
Term-time employment	9,623,864	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,338,000</b>	<b>100</b>



### Sources of Undergraduate Financial Aid

In 2014–2015, MIT provided 77.1 percent of undergraduate financial aid. The federal government provided 11.7 percent, and the remaining 11.2 percent came from state and private resources. MIT differs here from the national trend of relying on the federal government as the largest source of financial aid.

Approximately 56 percent of MIT undergraduates received an MIT scholarship, averaging \$36,726 each. These scholarships come primarily from MIT’s endowed funds, gifts from alumni and friends, and general Institute funds.

MIT participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program, the Federal Direct Loan Program and the three campus-based programs: the Federal Supplemental

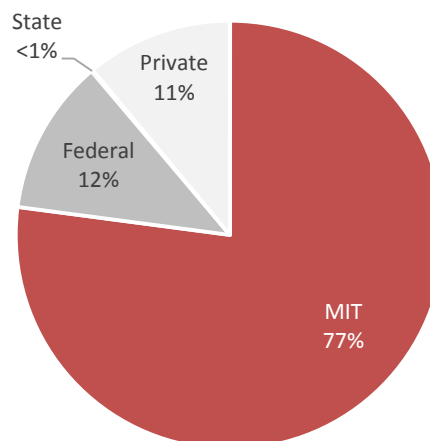
Educational Opportunity Grant, the Federal Perkins Loan Program, and the Federal Work-Study Program. Approximately 18 percent of MIT undergraduates receive a Pell Grant. MIT has participated in these programs since their inception and values their role in making an MIT education accessible to all qualified students. In addition, MIT undergraduates receive federal aid for their participation in the Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC. ROTC aid is not based on need.

Students receive private scholarships in recognition of their academic accomplishments, athletic or musical skills, career interests, and many other criteria. Two states, in addition to Massachusetts, allow their residents to receive a state grant while attending MIT: Pennsylvania and Vermont. Most state grants are need-based.

Sources of Financial Aid for MIT Undergraduates  
2014–2015

Sources of Financial Aid for  
MIT Undergraduates, 2014–2015

Aid Source	Amount (in U.S. Dollars)	Percentage
MIT Financial Aid	99,710,485	77
Federal Financial Aid	15,154,350	12
State Financial Aid	174,078	0
Private Financial Aid	14,299,087	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,338,000</b>	<b>100</b>



The following table summarizes the sources and types of financial aid MIT undergraduates received in 2014–2015.

Undergraduate Financial Aid, 2014–2015

Source	Scholarships/Grants		Loans		Employment		Total*	
	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students
MIT	91,852,488	2501	290,000	89	7,567,997	2556	99,710,485	3755
Federal	7,289,187	842	5,809,296	823	2,055,867	544	15,154,350	1704
State	174,078	91	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	174,078	91
Private	11,688,055	1327	2,611,032	118	N/A	N/A	14,299,087	1411
<b>Total*</b>	<b>111,003,808</b>	<b>3138</b>	<b>8,710,328</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>9,623,864</b>	<b>3040</b>	<b>129,338,000</b>	<b>4072</b>

\*The total column and row are unduplicated numbers of students.

## Graduate Financial Aid

### Principles of MIT Graduate Financial Aid

MIT makes financial support available to graduate students from a variety of sources and in several different forms. Many forms of support are granted solely on the basis of merit (teaching and research assistantships; on-campus employment; some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships), while others are granted on the basis of financial need (federal loans; some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships; on-campus employment) or a combination of merit and need (some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships; on-campus employment).

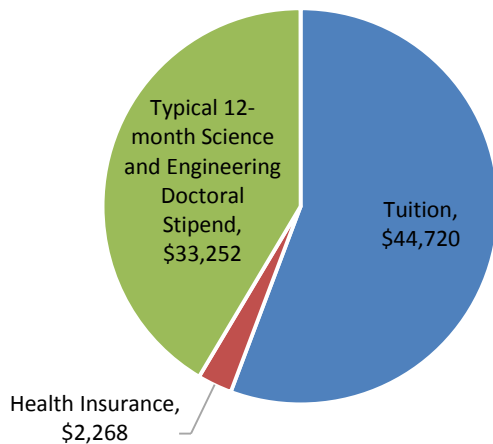
Tuition support, in particular, is provided to graduate and professional students in connection with research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and fellowship appointments. Tuition revenue support from MIT funds is considered financial aid but is not included in this report, as no singular office administers these sources of support.

A typical financial support package for a graduate student includes tuition, health insurance, and stipend support. The largest part of an MIT graduate student's expenses is dedicated to tuition (\$44,720 for the 2014–2015 academic year). Another portion (\$2,268) is dedicated to health insurance, unless a student already has comparable coverage. General living costs, including housing, food, transportation, and books, are largely covered by a stipend (approximately \$33,252 for a doctoral student). MIT houses approximately 36% of the graduate student body on campus, which contributes to keeping average housing costs at a reasonable level for graduate students within the context of the Boston area. The graduate residences also help foster a thriving on-campus graduate community that many graduate students cite as one of the most positive aspects of their time here.

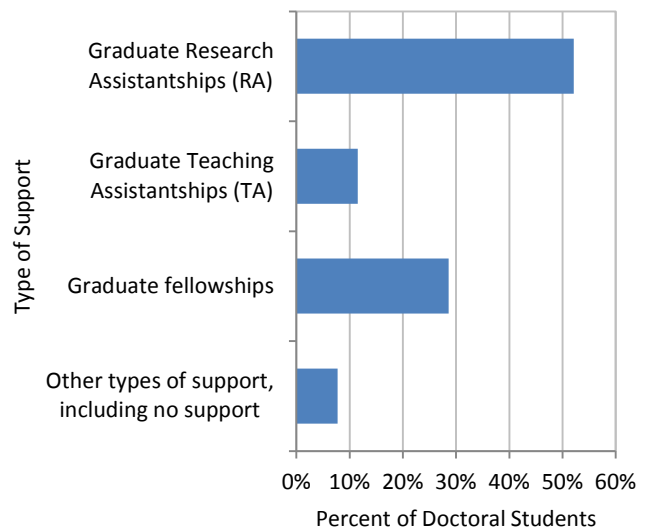
### How Graduate Students are Supported

Enrollment is determined at the department and program level and departments and programs admit as many students as they can support based on their RA, TA, and fellowship resources as well as the number of faculty available to advise on research.

**Graduate Student Financial Support, 2014–2015**



**Doctoral Graduate Student Support, 2014–2015**



## Forms of Graduate Financial Aid

### *Fellowships, Traineeships, and Scholarships*

At MIT, fellowships and traineeships differ from scholarships. A fellowship award to a graduate student covers full or partial tuition, and also provides a stipend to help defray living expenses. In the context of graduate study, a scholarship covers full or partial tuition only. Although most awards are made on the basis of academic merit, financial need is a factor in some instances. Recipients of graduate financial aid must be enrolled as regular resident students. The Institute annually receives funds from individual and corporate donors for the support of fellowships and scholarships. In addition, government agencies and private foundations provide grants and fellowships—often directly to outstanding students—for use at institutions of the student’s choice. But occasionally these funds are directed to MIT for Institute designation of recipients.

For the fall semester 2014, the breakdown of funding sources for students that were primarily supported by fellowships were as follows:

Sponsor	Count
Department of Defense	89
Department of Energy	22
National Institutes of Health	32
NASA	24
National Science Foundation	199
Other Federal Agencies	1
Other U.S. sources	43
Non-U.S. sources	100
MIT Internal	1,303
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,813</b>

### *Teaching Assistantships*

MIT employs about 1,160 graduate students each year as part-time or full-time teaching assistants to assist the faculty in grading, instructing in the classroom and laboratory, and conducting tutorials. Teaching assistants receive stipends as well as tuition support for the services that they provide.

Appointments to teaching assistantships are made upon recommendation of the head of a department. Only full-time graduate students who are candidates for advanced degrees may be appointed, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for all teaching assistants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

### *Research Assistantships*

Each year about 3,600 graduate students at MIT hold appointments as research assistants. The principal duty of a research assistant is to contribute to a program of departmental or interdepartmental research. Research assistants receive stipends as well as tuition support for the services that they provide, and are compensated on the basis of time devoted to their research.

Students who receive financial support from other sources (fellowships, scholarships, etc.) may receive supplementary stipends as teaching or research assistants in accordance with Institute and departmental guidelines.

### *Self-Support*

Graduate and professional students are eligible for need-based financial aid, including student loans, as well as student employment under the Federal Work-Study Program, both of which are administered and reported by MIT Student Financial Services (SFS). Graduate student employment earnings under the Federal Work-Study Program, including on- and off-campus programs, totaled \$0.9 million in 2014–2015, with 0.78 percent of graduate and professional students (52 students) earning \$17,458 on average.

In AY2015, graduate students borrowed loans that totaled \$43.3 million, a decrease of approximately \$1.6 million from the prior year, with 11.2 percent of graduate and professional students (741 students) borrowing an average of \$58,471.