

MIT Professional Education

Academic year 2011 was the ninth year of operation for the office of [MIT Professional Education](#) (MIT PE). Formerly known as Professional Education Programs, or PEP, the office was established in 2002 under the School of Engineering as the umbrella organization for all non-degree, certificate-bearing professional education activities at MIT. All MIT Professional Education programs (Short Programs, Advanced Study Program, Career Reengineering Program, and Custom Programs) are delivered by MIT faculty and provide science and engineering professionals a continuing education opportunity to gain new knowledge and to keep up-to-date with latest advances in their fields of interest.

Current Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

MIT PE seeks to establish a leadership position for MIT and the School of Engineering in the area of learning in the science, engineering, and engineering management fields for working professionals. It aims to create an impact globally through the delivery of highest-quality educational courses for professionals on campus and increasingly in several other parts of the world, utilizing traditional classroom and distance delivery methods. MIT PE operates on an “enterprise” basis and is self-supporting. Its programs deliver practical learning benefits to professionals and to industry, furthering MIT’s educational mission and enhancing MIT’s leadership globally. Principles that guide MIT PE include the following:

- Utilize the best of MIT expertise to meet the professional learning needs of industry globally
- Extend knowledge from MIT research and discoveries, particularly related to institute-wide initiatives such as the Energy Initiative, to industry professionals
- Maintain a small but nimble, self-supporting, results-oriented organization

During its ninth year, MIT PE focused increasingly on international outreach, enhancing international enrollments across all its programs, and pursuing new custom program opportunities outside the U.S.

Accomplishments and Program Developments

International Engagement

After the successful introduction of pilot short courses in Singapore and in India the previous year, MIT PE continued its focus on Asia while also extending its outreach to Latin America and Europe.

Working with professor Victor Zue, the Chair of the China Strategy Group, a three-year executive education agreement was negotiated with Shanghai Jiang Tong University to enable Chinese government and industry officials connected with the energy sector to come to MIT to learn about new developments and advancements in the field of energy. Given the program’s focus on energy, the responsibility to run the program was moved from MIT PE to the MIT Energy Initiative.

Short Courses related to pharmaceutical manufacturing and supply chain were delivered in Singapore and Amsterdam respectively.

MIT PE completed its fifth year of collaboration in curriculum and examinations development for the Accenture Solutions Delivery Academy (ASDA). Among more than 30,000 Accenture employees across 40 countries actively pursuing ASDA certification in software design and testing, more than 4,000 earned certificates in FY2011, bringing the total number of certificate holders to over 9,000 since the inception of the program. In addition, as part of the MIT lecture series component of the agreement with Accenture, MIT faculty delivered lectures to company employees and to potential recruits at company's university partners in India, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Mexico.

Short Programs

Marking 61 years of operation of [Short Programs](#) (originally called Summer Sessions), 46 one- to five-day-long courses taught by MIT faculty and invited lecturers were delivered in the summer of 2010. Total enrollment for these on-campus courses rose by 24 percent from 2009 in spite of a continuing economically challenging environment. Eight hundred forty-six students from more than 10 countries secured funding from their employers and attended the summer courses in Cambridge. For the 2011 summer season, several new courses, particularly in the area of "Innovation", have been introduced. With the economy recovering slowly, it appears that the 2011 enrollment will surpass 840 again.

Career Reengineering Program

Marking the [Career Reengineering Program's](#) fifth anniversary, enrollment in the very personalized program grew from 12 to 13 participants with diverse backgrounds and interests in areas such as biology, physics, energy, and health care. In addition to receiving training in non-technical career re-entry skills, participants took a variety of MIT undergraduate and graduate courses and interned at government agencies, in private industry, and on the MIT campus. Significant effort was placed on continuing to raise awareness of this program through marketing campaigns targeted at local alumni and professional societies.

Advanced Study Program

In its 47th year, the [Advanced Study Program](#) continued to offer professionals the opportunity to attend MIT for a semester or a year and pursue a customized academic program of regular MIT courses. The Advanced Study Program enrolled 26 students in the fall and 23 in the spring, maintaining similar levels from the previous year in spite of an unfavorable economy.

Custom Programs

In conjunction with the Sloan School of Management's Office of Executive Education, [Custom Programs](#) continued to offer the Projects and Engineering Academy, as well as the Operations Academy, for BP, one of the world's largest energy companies. However, due to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill incident, all terms in both the BP academies were suspended during the second half of calendar year 2010. The academies resumed in full force in 2011 with approximately 250 executives attending terms on campus by end of FY2011.

Funding

The program continues to be fully self-supporting. No external funding was needed or received this year.

Future Plans

Plans for FY2011 include the following:

- Continue international outreach and delivery activities, extending presence in Asia and Latin America
- Continue leveraging all MIT connections with industry and alumni in developing new clients for all MIT PE programs
- Continue deploying web and social media-based marketing efforts toward building growth in enrollments across all open enrollment programs
- Identify and partner with appropriate global professional and industry associations for promotion of MIT PE courses
- Aggressively seek out and develop new custom program clients from within and outside the United States

Personnel

Patricia Robertson, working previously with the Sloan School, came on board in January as the new associate director for Custom Programs with primary responsibility for the BP Operations Academy, while Nadia Ustariz, formerly with the MIT Work-Life Center, joined MIT PE as the new financial administrator in April.

Bhaskar Pant
Executive Director