

## Office of Admissions

The MIT [Office of Admissions](#) enrolls a diverse and talented undergraduate student body composed of some of the world's most intelligent and creative individuals interested in an education centered on science and technology. The office also coordinates and supports the graduate admissions process across the Institute's 24 graduate departments. The Institute upholds a commitment to meritocracy and fair access to the admissions process for students from all backgrounds.

The admissions office works closely with the offices of Student Financial Services, Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, Minority Education, and the Registrar, as well as the Office of the President, the Alumni Association, Information Services and Technology, and the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid. During Campus Preview Weekend, it coordinates with other offices in the Division of Student Life, the Department of Facilities, and academic departments. It also supports the admissions process for the Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science program, run by the Office of Engineering Outreach Programs in the School of Engineering.

### Review and Accomplishments

The Office of Admissions received 18,357 applications for the freshman class in AY2014, a decrease of 3% from last year. Admitted students totaled 1,447, including 28 students admitted from the wait list, together representing 7.9% of the applicant pool. We admitted 101 fewer students than last year due to the decline in available beds following the closure of Bexley Hall.

Prior to AY2014, any applicant who began the application process by submitting his or her biographical information and either paid the application fee or requested a fee waiver was considered an applicant. In order for a student to be considered an applicant this year, he or she had to have completed the second part of the application, which includes submission of personal essays, a listing of interests and activities, and self-reported grades. If counted in the previous way, the number of students applying to MIT in AY2014 would have increased by 2.5%.

The overall yield on admitted students reached an all-time high of 73%, and we are expecting 1,050 freshmen to enroll this fall. Women will make up 48% of the freshman class, bringing MIT's undergraduate student body closer than ever to gender parity. The yield on women reached another high at 71%.

We had 537 applications for transfer admissions, and of those applicants 19 were admitted and 17 are expected to enroll.

In AY2014, the Office of Admissions introduced a new supplemental application component known as the "maker portfolio" to standardize the process of identifying and evaluating students who self-identify as "makers." The maker portfolio was created to evaluate students' independent projects in engineering, including robots, software applications, and more. In June 2014, the White House highlighted the portfolio in conjunction with the first White House Maker Faire.

Also in AY2014, the Admissions Office began a pilot program to recruit talented low-income students. Through a publication designed specifically for that audience, a select group of students was mailed information about applying to MIT and encouraged to request an application fee waiver. Preliminary results of the program are promising, and it will be expanded in AY2015. In January 2014, the MIT low-income publication was included in the first White House Summit on Increasing College Opportunity for Low-Income Students.

Another change, now in its second year, was the addition of an optional application question asking students to describe their sexual orientation and gender identity. MIT is now one of just a few schools to offer this question on its application.

In AY2014, we visited 39 states and Canada through 76 Central Meeting programs, of which 44 were MIT-only and 32 were group meetings in collaboration with peer schools. These meetings attracted nearly 10,000 people. On campus, we welcomed roughly 30,000 admissions visitors. The Campus Preview Weekend yield event continued to be popular, with nearly 1,100 admitted students and approximately 800 parents attending.

The composition of the Class of 2017 reflects the Institute's ongoing commitment to student body diversity and excellence. Of the freshmen entering in 2014, 48% are women, 17% would be the first generation in their families to graduate from college, and 9% are international citizens. Students will be coming from 49 states and 54 countries. Ninety percent of the incoming class members have been leaders (president, captain, etc.) of an organization, and nearly a third (32%) have founded an organization or business. Forty-five percent were valedictorians and 93% graduated in the top 5% of their high school class. Fifty-seven QuestBridge students will also be enrolling in the fall (QuestBridge, a nonprofit organization, recruits high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds). The freshmen enrolling in 2014 arrive with mean Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of 721 verbal and 768 mathematics.

US students in the enrolling class self-identified in the following racial/ethnic groups: American Indian/Alaskan Native (2%), Asian American (30%), Black/African American (11%), Hispanic/Latino (14%), and White (51%). Students can self-identify with more than one racial/ethnic group, and the percentages listed indicate the share of the entire class, not just domestic students. Twenty-five percent of enrolling class members self-reported as minority students in one or more ethnicities.

The MIT Educational Council increased the number of alumni interviewers to 4,426. Educational counselors conducted 15,571 interviews. The pool of interviewers is 18% international and 37% female. This year's group of educational counselors included members from the classes of 1941 to 2013, with 74% of the volunteers hailing from the last 30 graduating classes.

The affirmative action case *Fisher v. the University of Texas*, which was sent back to the appellate court for a decision, has not yet been decided (as of June 30, 2014). Therefore, we continued with our policies and operations without change.

**Staffing**

In AY2014, the Office of Admissions created an associate director position for training and development. The office was composed of 20 administrative staff and 11 support staff, consisting of 23 women and eight men. Twenty-nine percent of the staff members were underrepresented minorities.

**Stuart Schmill**

**Dean of Admissions**