

MIT Professional Education

Academic year 2012 marked the tenth year of operation for [MIT Professional Education](#) (formerly Professional Education Programs, or PEP), which was established in 2002 under the School of Engineering as the umbrella organization for all non-degree, certificate-bearing professional education programs at MIT. All the MIT Professional Education programs (Short Programs, Advanced Study Program, International Programs, Career Reengineering Program, and Custom Programs) deliver practical learning benefits to science and technology professionals, furthering MIT's educational mission and enhancing the Institute's leadership and influence globally. Teaching in MIT Professional Education programs in turn allows faculty to enhance their connections with the global practitioner community.

Current Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

MIT Professional Education seeks to continue expanding student enrollments in all its programs, with particular emphasis on expanding international enrollments to further the influence and relationship of MIT and the School of Engineering with professionals and companies around the world. It aims to increase impact globally through the delivery of targeted science, technology, and technology management courses at an increasing number of international locations. Principles that guide MIT Professional Education 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 manufacturing and energy—to industry professionals
- Maintain a small but nimble self-supporting, results-oriented organization

During its 10th year, MIT Professional Education focused on adding new courses to its Short Programs portfolio, enhancing international enrollments across all its programs, increasing International Programs deliveries, and pursuing new Custom Programs potential outside the United States.

Accomplishments and Program Developments

International Engagement

Highlights of MIT Professional Education's international engagement in FY2012 include:

- After the successful introduction of short courses in Singapore, Japan, India, and the Netherlands in FY2009 and FY2010, expanded gross revenues by 300 percent in FY2012 to Chile, Mexico, and Italy
- In conjunction with a local executive training ground partner, delivered two highly successful programs on Lean manufacturing, led by professor emeritus Earl Murman, of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, in Chile

- Delivered a supply chain course in conjunction with the University of Monterrey, in Monterrey, Mexico
- In conjunction with an Italian ground partner for human resources services, delivered a filled-to-capacity program titled Architecting the Future Enterprise, featuring professor Deborah Nightingale and senior lecturer Donna Rhodes of the Engineering Systems Division

MIT Professional Education completed its sixth year of engagement in information technology curriculum review and examinations development for the Accenture Solutions Delivery Academy (ASDA). More than 30,000 Accenture employees across 40 countries are actively pursuing ASDA certification in software design and testing, and over 10,000 have earned certificates 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 students at the company's university partners in India and the Philippines. Professor Muriel Medard of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science lectured in India, with a focus on "role model" conversations with young women engineers. This was well received.

In the last quarter of FY2012, MIT Professional Education initiated a new engagement with Accenture whereby MIT faculty will develop introductory computer science curricula that Accenture will place on its new online learning and recruiting platform. Complementary conversations have begun also with MIT OpenCourseWare to support the same project.

Short Programs

Marking 62 years of operation of [Short Programs](#) (originally called Summer Sessions), 47 one- to five-day courses taught by MIT faculty and invited lecturers were delivered in summer 2011. More than 850 students from over 50 countries attended the summer courses in Cambridge, marking an expansion from the previous year. Several new courses, including ones addressing innovation and crisis management, were added to the portfolio. In addition, for the first time, researchers from Lincoln Laboratory offered a course on building a radar on the MIT campus, receiving enthusiastic response.

Career Reengineering Program

Marking the [Career Reengineering Program's](#) sixth anniversary, nine participants with diverse backgrounds and interests completed the personalized professional development program aimed at those who seek career change and/or need retooling to excel in their fields of work. One of the program's graduates has secured a full-time position in a research laboratory at MIT.

Advanced Study Program

In its 48th 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 grew its enrollments from 48 to 62 students, marking an impressive 30 percent increase over 2011.

Custom Programs

In conjunction with the MIT Sloan School of Management's Office of Executive Education, [Custom Programs](#) resumed running the Projects and Engineering Academy, as well as the Operations Academy for British Petroleum (BP), one of the world's largest energy companies. Enrollments returned to full capacity in 2011, following a suspension of training activities due to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill incident in 2010. More than 200 executives had attended terms on campus by the end of FY2012.

Funding

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

Future Plans

Plans for the MIT Professional Education program in FY2013 include the following:

- Continue international outreach and delivery activities, extending presence in Europe and Latin America (with emphasis on Brazil); support MIT agreements in Russia and Saudi Arabia with professional programs, when called upon; look for quality ground partners in India and China to offer programs in conjunction with MIT
- Bring in new short courses supporting MIT's manufacturing and environment initiatives
- Continue deploying web- and social media-based marketing efforts toward building growth in enrollments across all open enrollment programs
- Aggressively seek out potential Custom Programs clients from within and outside the US
- Investigate the potential of offering revenue-bearing online courses utilizing the MITx platform

Personnel

Dawna Levenson, associate director, Academic Programs, joined the MIT Sloan admissions office in March 2012; Tish Schilling Miller of MIT Sloan Executive Education, replaced Ms. Levenson. Patricia Robertson, associate director of Custom Programs, assumed responsibility for the Accenture program, in addition to her management of the BP Operations Academy.

Bhaskar Pant
Executive Director