

**Office of the Provost
Institutional Research**

**MIT
The Parents Survey
2002**

Contents

1. Survey response rate
2. Frequency tables for each survey question (unweighted)

The Parents Survey 2002

Survey Response Rate

Invited to Respond	Responses	Response Rate
3,736	1,201	32.1%

Part I: You and Your Child

1. What is your child's year in college?

	Frequency	Percent
First year	368	30.7%
Second year	278	23.2%
Third year	305	25.4%
Fourth year	244	20.3%
Fifth year or later	5	0.4%
Total	1,200	100.0%

October 2001 actual

	Frequency	Percent
First year	1,033	24.5%
Second year	1,039	24.7%
Third year	1,037	24.6%
Fourth year	989	23.5%
Fifth year or later	115	2.7%
Total	4,213	100.0%

2. What is your relation to this child?

	Frequency	Percent
Parent	1,198	99.9%
Step-parent	1	0.1%
Total	1,199	100.0%

3. Gender

	You		Your child	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Male	525	44.7%	686	57.8%
Female	649	55.3%	500	42.2%
Total	1,174	100.0%	1,186	100.0%

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Part II: Your Child's College or University

4. For each of the following topics, how would you rate the information that your child's college/university has provided *directly* to you as a parent? If you cannot recall having seen any information on the topic, please indicate that and move on to the next item on the list.

The information I have received has been...

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	I do not recall having seen any information about this.	N
Academic life and policies	4.5%	17.2%	41.3%	28.8%	8.2%	1,161
Social life and policies	6.1%	22.9%	40.8%	18.9%	11.2%	1,157
Residential life and policies	6.8%	20.6%	39.6%	24.4%	8.6%	1,156
Religious life	8.3%	19.9%	29.0%	10.2%	32.5%	1,143
What graduates do after college	9.9%	18.8%	21.6%	15.8%	34.0%	1,145
Student support services	7.0%	21.8%	39.1%	21.5%	10.6%	1,153
Cultural and extracurricular activities	5.2%	23.5%	37.4%	19.7%	14.2%	1,151
Campus safety	5.0%	18.1%	42.1%	25.2%	9.5%	1,152
Events for parents	1.8%	10.3%	44.8%	42.6%	0.5%	1,157
Student Organizations	4.8%	22.4%	39.0%	18.4%	15.3%	1,145
Off-campus programs	9.3%	21.1%	18.3%	8.1%	43.1%	1,145
Financial aid	7.2%	18.5%	37.1%	30.2%	6.9%	1,138
Financing (installments, pre-pay, etc.)	5.0%	18.3%	39.6%	28.3%	8.8%	1,143
Why college costs what it does	12.1%	21.6%	25.4%	11.5%	29.4%	1,142
Other: (please specify)	17.9%	5.1%	15.4%	20.5%	41.0%	117

5. Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education so far?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	12	1.0%
Generally dissatisfied	24	2.0%
Ambivalent	65	5.5%
Generally satisfied	432	36.4%
Very satisfied	655	55.1%
Total	1,188	100.0%

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6. Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles you child (same background, abilities, interests, and temperament) to attend your child's college/university?

	Frequency	Percent
Definitely not	17	1.4%
Probably not	42	3.5%
Maybe	106	8.9%
Probably would	225	18.9%
Definitely would	801	67.3%
Total	1,191	100.0%

7. Please answer the following only if your child is a first year student – otherwise skip to question 9. How would you rate your child's college/university in the following areas?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Don't Know/ Does Not Apply	N
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The admissions process

The admissions process in general	0.2%	4.5%	16.2%	27.1%	49.3%	2.6%	420
Admissions forms and required documents	0.7%	3.8%	17.7%	29.6%	45.6%	2.6%	419
College visits	1.0%	6.9%	15.8%	28.0%	39.7%	8.6%	418
Easing the stress of the admissions process	3.6%	10.7%	21.1%	28.0%	29.1%	7.6%	422

Between admission and fall enrollment

The financial aid application process	3.6%	12.6%	18.2%	20.1%	24.0%	21.5%	413
Communications about housing	9.3%	14.4%	19.4%	27.3%	28.0%	1.7%	418
Information about payment and billing options	3.6%	11.9%	20.0%	30.5%	30.0%	4.0%	420
Other pre-arrival communications	1.9%	9.4%	22.3%	30.5%	32.9%	3.1%	417
Arrival/orientation activities for parents	3.6%	8.4%	16.3%	25.2%	36.1%	10.3%	416

8. Please answer the following only if your child is a first year student – otherwise skip to question 9. Was your child accepted to this college/university through early action/early decision (with applications generally due in November) or through the regular admissions process?

	Frequency	Percent
Early action/Early decision	153	39.9%
Regular admissions	228	59.5%
Don't know	2	0.5%
Total	383	100.0%

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9. As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following services or aspects of your child's college/university?

	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't know	N
Quality of the academic experience						
Overall quality of instruction	0.3%	2.7%	31.6%	55.5%	9.8%	1,182
Emphasis on undergraduate education	1.1%	3.3%	36.0%	48.7%	10.9%	1,181
Quality of academic advising	4.2%	12.6%	35.7%	33.4%	14.3%	1,178
Tutorial help and other academic assistance	2.4%	6.3%	30.0%	32.6%	28.7%	1,176
Quality of campus services and facilities						
Student housing	7.5%	12.7%	45.0%	30.7%	4.1%	1,184
Campus security office/campus police	0.4%	3.6%	38.4%	33.8%	23.8%	1,182
Career counseling and placement	3.3%	9.0%	24.2%	16.3%	47.3%	1,180
Student health and counseling services	3.3%	9.5%	37.2%	28.7%	21.3%	1,180
Financial aid office	3.8%	6.7%	28.8%	33.2%	27.4%	1,179
Your financial aid award(s)	11.3%	12.9%	22.4%	26.8%	26.6%	1,150
Financial services (bursars office, student accounts, etc.)	1.8%	5.4%	42.9%	40.0%	10.0%	1,176
Administration's responsiveness to parent and student concerns	3.9%	6.6%	31.6%	29.9%	27.9%	1,174
Quality of campus life						
Social life on campus	3.0%	6.8%	40.8%	32.8%	16.6%	1,185
Your child's safety on campus	0.4%	3.0%	48.2%	38.3%	10.1%	1,184
Sense of community on campus	3.0%	9.7%	36.5%	31.5%	19.4%	1,182
Sense of community in your child's residence (on or off campus)	1.9%	6.8%	31.7%	52.1%	7.5%	1,186
Intellectual atmosphere outside classroom	0.7%	2.0%	24.8%	52.9%	19.6%	1,181
Relations between ethnic and racial groups	0.7%	1.8%	28.5%	38.9%	30.1%	1,182
Extent of ethnic and racial diversity	0.6%	1.8%	31.1%	46.6%	20.0%	1,181

10. How would you rate the level of attention given to this college/university?

	Frequency	Percent
Not enough attention is given to intercollegiate athletics	111	9.4%
About the right level of attention is given to intercollegiate athletics	603	51.0%
Too much attention is given to intercollegiate athletics	19	1.6%
Don't know	450	38.0%
Total	1,183	100.0%

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11. How much have you been concerned this academic year about the following aspects of your child's life?

	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Quite a bit	Very Much	N
Your child's development						
Intellectual	41.4%	13.3%	15.9%	12.4%	17.0%	1,174
Social/interpersonal	32.5%	19.5%	16.8%	15.4%	15.8%	1,173
Religious/moral	51.5%	15.5%	16.4%	8.7%	7.9%	1,170
Political	63.6%	15.2%	13.9%	3.9%	3.3%	1,168
Your child's behavior						
Eating habits	29.5%	21.0%	22.1%	13.4%	14.0%	1,180
Use of alcohol	62.9%	17.1%	9.0%	4.3%	6.6%	1,174
Use of illegal drugs	77.7%	10.0%	5.0%	2.3%	5.0%	1,175
Sexual activity	56.8%	23.8%	10.2%	3.7%	5.5%	1,175
Study habits	41.0%	20.4%	15.6%	9.9%	13.1%	1,177
Your child's future						
Admission to graduate/professional school	37.0%	17.3%	16.4%	11.6%	17.8%	1,174
Child's career choice	33.2%	19.8%	16.8%	12.8%	17.3%	1,176
Getting a job after college	35.4%	20.1%	16.2%	11.6%	16.8%	1,176
Repaying student loans	49.4%	16.0%	13.9%	10.3%	10.5%	1,155
The college environment						
Academic stress/pressure	11.6%	21.0%	24.0%	20.2%	23.3%	1,176
Social stress/pressure	31.3%	28.7%	20.5%	11.1%	8.4%	1,174
Relations with roommate	62.3%	16.1%	10.1%	5.6%	5.8%	1,165
Residence hall environment	45.1%	22.1%	16.5%	7.6%	8.7%	1,152
Use of alcohol by other students	35.7%	29.5%	16.0%	9.4%	9.4%	1,170
Drug and substance abuse on campus	38.8%	28.8%	15.3%	7.4%	9.7%	1,167
Safety in campus neighborhood	29.4%	30.3%	20.0%	10.3%	9.9%	1,170
Other						
Other: (please specify)	19.6%	2.0%	8.8%	10.8%	58.8%	102

Part III: More about You and Your Child

12. Does this child have any older siblings who have attended, or who are now attending, college?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	482	40.6%
No older siblings attend/attended college	86	7.3%
No older siblings	618	52.1%
Total	1,186	100.0%

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13. Where did your child live during the fall term?

	Frequency	Percent
Residence hall	737	61.9%
Fraternity/sorority	370	31.1%
Other college housing	24	2.0%
Off-campus	38	3.2%
With parent(s)	10	0.8%
Studying abroad or at another off-campus program	11	0.9%
Total	1,190	100.0%

14. In which of the following areas is your child majoring?
Please mark all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent of Respondents
Arts/humanities	42	3.5%
Business	102	8.5%
Engineering	730	61.2%
Natural sciences	260	21.8%
Social sciences	25	2.1%
Other	80	6.7%
No major declared	79	6.6%
Don't know	10	0.8%

15. Has your child played an intercollegiate sport during his or her undergraduate years?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	464	39.2%
No	721	60.8%
Total	1,185	100.0%

16. What is your citizenship status?
What about your child?

	You		Your child	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
United States citizen	1,100	92.7%	1,127	94.4%
U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) and citizen of another country	54	4.5%	32	2.7%
Citizen of another country with a non-immigrant/student visa	33	2.8%	35	2.9%
Total	1,187	100.0%	1,194	100.0%

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17. Please tell us about your ethnic and racial backgrounds.
Please mark all that apply.

	You		Your child	
	Frequency	Percent of Respondents	Frequency	Percent of Respondents
American Indian or Alaska Native	15	1.3%	27	2.3%
Asian	287	24.5%	303	25.8%
Black or African American	45	3.8%	53	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino	90	7.7%	114	9.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	0.7%	10	0.9%
White	757	64.5%	745	63.5%

18. Please tell us about your own education.

Please mark your highest degree.

	Frequency	Percent
No high school diploma or equivalent	8	0.7%
High school diploma or equivalency	30	2.6%
Some college (associate's degree or no degree)	117	10.3%
Bachelor's degree	351	30.9%
Graduate degree(s)	629	55.4%
Total	1,135	100.0%

Please indicate which graduate degree or degrees you have by marking all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent of Respondents
Master's degree	441	63.9%
Doctoral degree	177	25.7%
Medical degree	88	12.8%
Law degree	39	5.7%

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19. Do you expect your child to obtain a degree beyond the bachelor's, either at this college/university or another?

	Frequency	Percent
No	38	3.2%
Yes	1,141	96.8%
Total	1,179	100.0%

If yes, what is it most likely to be? Please mark all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent of Respondents
Master's degree in the Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS)	307	27.0%
Professional master's degree (e.g., MBA, MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)	365	32.1%
Professional doctorate (e.g., EdD, DDiV, Business)	30	2.6%
Ph.D.	355	31.3%
Medical degree (MD, DO, DDS, DVM)	118	10.4%
Law degree (JD, LLB)	59	5.2%
Other advance degree	42	3.7%
Specific degree not known	158	13.9%

20. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended the college/university that sent you this questionnaire? *Please mark all that apply.*

	Frequency	Percent of respondents who answered question	Percent of total respondents
You	137	51.9%	11.4%
Another parent or step-parent	38	14.4%	3.2%
A sibling of this child	46	17.4%	3.8%
Another close relative	86	32.6%	7.2%

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Part IV: Financing your Child's Education

21. Which of the following best describes the financial aid this college/university provides for your child this academic year (include federal grants but not athletic or other merit-based aid).

	Frequency	Percent
We did not apply for financial aid	350	30.1%
We applied for aid but did not receive any	135	11.6%
We receive aid only in the form of loans and work study	156	13.4%
We receive an aid package that includes some need-based grants, but less than \$15,000 in grant aid	250	21.5%
We receive an aid package that includes \$15,000 or more in need-based grants	270	23.3%
Total	1,161	100.0%

22. How are you funding your *family's* portion of the cost of your child's education *this* academic year?

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-100%	N
Family assets					
Family savings (sales of financial assets such as mutual funds, CDs, and stocks)	39.4%	19.0%	10.9%	30.6%	1,163
Sale of non-financial assets (e.g., car, real estate)	95.2%	2.1%	1.4%	1.3%	1,165
State-sponsored college savings plan or prepaid tuition plan	96.9%	1.5%	0.9%	0.6%	1,165
Withdrawal from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)	94.8%	2.2%	1.3%	1.6%	1,165

Question 22 continued on next page

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Borrowing

Parent loans (e.g., PLUS)	82.3%	4.0%	3.5%	10.3%	1,164
Student loans (Stafford, University, and other loans)	57.4%	32.0%	6.5%	4.1%	1,164
Home mortgage refinancing/home equity loan/second mortgage	83.7%	6.9%	4.2%	5.2%	1,164
Borrowing from relatives or family friends	94.5%	3.7%	1.1%	0.7%	1,165
Borrowing from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)	95.6%	2.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1,165
Other types of borrowing (please specify)	96.5%	1.4%	0.8%	1.4%	1,165

Current income from parent or student

Income from parents' usual job(s)	25.5%	28.2%	18.4%	27.8%	1,160
Income from a parent's second job or overtime work	85.7%	9.8%	2.0%	2.6%	1,165
Student work-study/term-time job	70.6%	27.5%	1.1%	0.8%	1,162
Student earnings during vacation periods	54.9%	42.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1,164
Tuition assistance benefits from parents' or student's employers	94.7%	3.7%	0.4%	1.2%	1,163

Gifts and scholarships

Gifts from relatives or family friends (such as grandparents)	83.4%	11.6%	2.5%	2.5%	1,165
Scholarships (including merit-based aid from all sources and all scholarships other than needs-based aid from this institution or the government)	58.9%	32.5%	4.1%	4.5%	1,161

Other

Other (please specify)	96.7%	0.8%	0.7%	1.9%	1,165
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Note: The data for this question were reconstructed using COFHE decision rules to account for non-responses. Many non-responses were coded as "0%."

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23. In total, how much money have you borrowed so far to pay for this child's college education? Include all amounts that you are obligated to repay, including *all* types of borrowing from the list in question 22. Do not include amounts that your child is obligated to repay. Just give your best estimate.

	Frequency	Percent
\$0	601	51.9%
\$1-4,999	80	6.9%
\$5,000-9,999	82	7.1%
\$10,000-14,999	68	5.9%
\$15,000-19,999	65	5.6%
\$20,000-24,999	58	5.0%
\$25,000-49,999	118	10.2%
\$50,000 or more	86	7.4%
Total	1,158	100.0%

24. What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend this institution?

	Frequency	Percent
None/slight	224	18.9%
Moderate	418	35.3%
Considerable	398	33.6%
Severe	125	10.6%
Not applicable (we have not contributed funds for our child's education)	18	1.5%
Total	1,183	100.0%

25. Has your child's experience at this institution been worth the impact on your family's finances?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, definitely. <i>The benefits of attending this institution will out-weigh whatever financial sacrifices our family has had to make.</i>	947	80.4%
Somewhat. <i>I have sometimes doubted whether the benefits of this institution will be worth the financial sacrifices.</i>	211	17.9%
No, definitely not. <i>I feel that the benefits of attending this institution will not be worth the financial sacrifices that our family had had to make.</i>	20	1.7%
Total	1,178	100.0%

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26. Because of a lack of money, has your child had to forego any of the following while in college?
Please mark each item that applies to your child.

	Frequency	Percent of Respondents
Study abroad	172	35.1%
Extracurricular clubs	60	12.2%
Internships	60	12.2%
Fraternity/sorority membership	47	9.6%
Community service	54	11.0%
Vacation and break-time travel	390	79.6%
Non-paying research/internships	184	37.6%

27. Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2001.

	Frequency	Percent
Under \$25,000	42	3.9%
\$25,000-\$49,999	83	7.6%
\$50,000-\$74,999	161	14.8%
\$75,000-\$99,999	188	17.3%
\$100,000-\$124,999	167	15.4%
\$125,000-\$149,999	130	12.0%
\$150,000-\$174,999	67	6.2%
\$175,000-\$199,999	55	5.1%
\$200,000 or more	194	17.8%
Total	1,087	100.0%

28. Currently, most financial aid is based on financial need. If the federal government were to give out *additional* financial aid, on what basis should it be distributed? Should the *additional* aid be given out based only on financial need, based solely on academic ability, or somewhere in between? What about additional aid given out by this college/university from its own resources?

	On financial need only	More on need than ability	Equally on both	More on ability than need	On academic ability only	N
The federal government	19.1%	20.7%	45.2%	8.9%	6.0%	1,152
This college/university	10.2%	15.7%	47.4%	17.6%	9.1%	1,143

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Part V: Your Comments

29. What has most pleased you about your child's college/university?
Analysis to follow.

30. What has most disappointed you about your child's college/university?
Analysis to follow.

Part VI: MIT Supplemental Questions

As a parent, how satisfied are you with the following opportunities or aspects of your student's collegiate experience?

		Very satisfied	Generally satisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	N
31.	My student has been made aware of opportunities for involvement in campus life through student activities and organizations	39.2%	44.4%	6.1%	0.9%	9.4%	1,119
32.	My student is aware of the various support services and resources on campus to assist with personal issues	26.8%	49.4%	10.3%	3.0%	10.6%	1,114
33.	My student is aware of opportunities for involvement with MIT supported leadership experiences	25.1%	37.4%	11.5%	1.8%	24.1%	1,114
34.	My students feels part of a supportive learning community at MIT	39.0%	39.4%	9.8%	3.1%	8.7%	1,117
35.	My student in aware of the availability of research opportunities for undergraduate students	49.2%	35.8%	6.5%	2.6%	5.8%	1,116
36.	My student has had the opportunity to receive quality academic and/or research mentorship	40.0%	32.0%	10.5%	5.1%	12.4%	1,115

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As a parent, how satisfied are you with the impact of MIT on the development of your student in the following areas.

		Very satisfied	Generally satisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	N
37.	Leadership skills	34.9%	41.7%	9.7%	1.7%	11.9%	1,122
38.	Sense of personal responsibility and competence	50.0%	40.2%	5.1%	2.0%	2.7%	1,121
39.	Interpersonal communication skills	36.2%	46.6%	9.3%	1.5%	6.3%	1,119
40.	Ability to get along with others	42.0%	47.9%	3.9%	1.1%	5.0%	1,118

Connecting to the Institute

41. How would you prefer to receive information about MIT?

	Frequency	Percent
By checking a Web site	86	8.0%
By email	331	30.8%
By postal mail	657	61.2%
Total	1,074	100.0%

42. Which statement best describes how you use *Parents News*?

	Frequency	Percent
I/We read all of it now, but would prefer to read it on-line	83	7.5%
I/We read all of it now, and would like to continue receiving it in the mail	475	43.0%
I/We read some of it now, but would prefer to read it on-line	120	10.9%
I/We read some of it now, and would like to continue receiving it in the mail	381	34.5%
I/We don't read it	46	4.2%
Total	1,105	100.0%

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43. On which of the following would you most like to receive more information?

	Frequency	Percent
Student life issues	313	38.3%
Academic issues	256	31.3%
Events for parents	38	4.6%
MIT news	208	25.4%
Fundraising opportunities	3	0.4%
Total	818	100.0%

44. In which of the following ways are you most interested in connecting with MIT?

	Frequency	Percent
Social and networking events with other MIT parents	144	15.4%
Attending receptions with and hearing presentations from senior administrators, deans, and faculty	165	17.6%
Participation with regional MIT Alumni Clubs	117	12.5%
Attending on-campus events and programs	322	34.3%
Not interested	190	20.3%
Total	938	100.0%

45. If you have not attended a Family Weekend, why not?

	Frequency	Percent
I/We had visited campus on my/our own	274	44.5%
I/We did not feel the program would satisfy my/our interests	19	3.1%
I/We had a conflict that weekend	91	14.8%
I/We could not afford to make the trip	224	36.4%
I/We have no interest in visiting the campus	8	1.3%
Total	616	100.0%

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Parents can make financial contributions to MIT, above and beyond tuition, through the MIT Parents Fund. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

		Strongly agree	Agree	Ambivalent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N
46.	My/Our gift will have an impact on MIT's standing as a world-leading research institution	19.0%	26.1%	26.0%	15.9%	13.0%	976
47.	My/Our gift will have an impact on MIT student life and learning	18.4%	32.1%	27.1%	11.9%	10.6%	970
48.	I/We am/are not in a financial position to make a gift to MIT	39.2%	23.2%	17.6%	14.4%	5.7%	1,019
49.	Other organizations and causes need my/our gift more than MIT	14.5%	24.7%	28.9%	22.6%	9.2%	964
50.	Tuition should be enough to cover the cost of my/our child's education	17.8%	26.5%	23.8%	22.4%	9.5%	973