In late March 2013, MIT invited 5,911 undergraduate alumni from the classes of 2008, 2002, 1999, 1994, 1989, and 1984 to participate in a survey that asked them about their postgraduate education, their career, and their MIT undergraduate experience. The survey closed at the end of May with a 36% response rate.

MIT conducts the Undergraduate Alumni Survey every four years. This is the third administration. On our website (http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/alumni.html) you may find reports from the earlier alumni surveys. Also on that site are frequencies for each question on this survey. Below are some of the highlights.

**Education Since College**

- 75% of alumni answered that they have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program since graduating from MIT. Looking at respondents in three cohorts of 5-9 years out, 10-19 years out, and 20 or more years out, the percentage who have enrolled increases somewhat with time away from MIT, with 70% of the most recent cohort having enrolled in a graduate degree program and 80% of the cohort furthest out.
- 36% of alumni 5 to 9 years out are currently either full-time or part-time students.
- Of those who have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program, over half of all cohorts did so immediately upon graduation. This includes students who earned a graduate degree simultaneously with their bachelor’s degree.
- Overall, 71% of alumni respondents said that MIT prepared them “very well” for their graduate or professional degree.
- Overall, the two most popular degrees are a Master of Science (32% of respondents reporting having earned or enrolled in such a program) and a Doctorate (also 32% of respondents). 7% of respondents reported having earned both of these degrees.
- Among those who indicated having enrolled or earned a doctorate since graduation, the two most popular fields of study are Engineering or other applied sciences (46% of respondents) and Physical sciences (23% of respondents).

**Jobs and Careers**

- 85% of alumni respondents are employed either full-time or part-time. An additional 4% are unemployed and seeking employment. The remainder was 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 non-profit sector, and 9% are self-employed.
- Overall, the most commonly reported industries of employed alumni are Computer Science/Technology (17% of respondents), Engineering (10%), Financial Services (9%), Higher education (9%), and Medicine (9%).
- 69% of respondents reported that their current position is either related to or in the same field as their MIT undergraduate major.
• Overall, 22% of respondents report that they have started a company. 14% report that they are currently developing a start-up company.
• Among those alumni who report having started a company, the median number of companies started is one. Among the cohort of alumni 20 or more years out, the median number of companies started is 2.
• Overall, 80% of respondents said that MIT prepared them “Very well” or “More than adequately” for their current career.
• 86% of respondents report that they are “Generally satisfied” or “Very satisfied” with their career thus far.

Community and Family

• 73% of respondents report having done volunteer work at least once in the last year. This figure is higher for the 20 or more years out cohort (80%) and lower for the cohort of alumni 5 to 9 years out (67%).
• Of respondents 5 to 9 years out, half have a spouse or partner. Among respondents 10 to 19 years out, 81% are married or partnered, and this figure is 87% for alumni 20 or more years out.
• Overall, half of respondents have at least one child. Of those who have children, half have two children. Female graduates overall had slightly fewer children on average than male graduates.

Their Lives Now

• Overall, 89% of respondents are “Very satisfied” or “Generally satisfied” with their lives now. These numbers do not vary much by cohort.

Evaluating Your School

• Overall, 92% of respondents are “Very Satisfied” or “Generally satisfied” with their undergraduate education at MIT. The alumni who are 20 or more years out were slightly more likely to report being very satisfied than the other two cohorts.
• Between 85% and 90% of respondents from all three cohorts “Probably Would” or “Definitely Would” encourage a current high school senior who resembles them when they were a high school senior to attend MIT.
• When asked how well MIT prepared them for various tasks, alumni felt that, overall, MIT best prepared them to think analytically, logically and critically. Of the tasks also asked about on the 2009 survey, most received similar responses.
Figure 1. Alumni responses regarding how well MIT prepared them to perform various tasks

Based on what you know now, how well do you think your undergraduate experience at MIT prepared you to:

- Think analytically and logically
- Think critically
- Acquire new skills and knowledge on your own
- Use quantitative tools
- Understand the process of science and experimentation
- Function independently, without supervision
- Synthesize and integrate ideas and information
- Judge the merits of arguments based on their sources...
- Plan and execute complex projects
- Gain in-depth knowledge of a field
- Formulate creative/original ideas and solution
- Use the techniques, skills, and modern tools necessary...
- Conduct scholarly research
- Understand your own abilities, interests, limitations...
- Relate well to people of different races, nations, and...
- Understand the role of science and technology in...
- Evaluate and choose between alternative courses of...
- Develop career- or work-related knowledge and and...
- Work effectively as a member of a team
- Develop self-esteem/confidence
- Develop global awareness
- Acquire broad knowledge in the arts and sciences
- Be an effective leader
- Be an active member of your community
- Develop or clarify a personal code of values or ethics
- Communicate well orally
- Write clearly and effectively
- Resolve interpersonal conflicts positively
- Identify moral and ethical issues
- Understand the significance of art, music, literature, &...
- Understand social problems
- Place current problems in historical/ cultural/...
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Read or speak a foreign language

-100%-80% -60% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Very Poorly Less than Adequately Adequately More than Adequately Very Well
Keeping In Touch

- The proportion of respondents who feel “Very connected” or “Moderately connected” to MIT was 52% in the 5 to 9 years out cohort, and 42% in the other two cohorts. The percentage who feel “Not very connected” increased from 14% in the 5 to 9 years out cohort to 17% and finally to 22% in the 20 or more years out cohort.

- A majority of respondents from each cohort felt that “MIT as a whole” and “Friendships from college” were either “Essential” or “Very Important” to their connection to MIT now. No other surveyed aspect of their connection to MIT gathered such a strong consensus.

- In the past five years, more than 80% of each cohort has visited campus. In this same period, 36% of the 5 to 9 years out cohort has recruited MIT students for a job at their company. This percentage was slightly lower in the 20 or more years out cohort at 26%.

- Overall, 74% of respondents reported that they had made financial contributions to MIT in the past, and at least 79% indicated a willingness to contribute in the future. See Figure 2 for a detailed breakdown.

**Figure 2. Alumni responses related to financial contributions to MIT**

- In all three cohorts, the two most-preferred methods for finding out more about MIT were E-mails from MIT and MIT alumni magazines. Percentages were relatively
consistent across the cohorts, with slightly more students from the 5 to 9 years out cohort preferring emails than alumni magazines and the reverse in the 20 or more years out cohort.

**Your Undergraduate Experience**

- A slightly larger percentage of respondents from the 5 to 9 years out cohort (66%) reported receiving financial aid than from either of the other two cohorts (62% each).
- When asked if they thought the benefits of their MIT education outweighed the financial cost, more recent cohorts had a slightly higher percentage of respondents saying they were unsure. Certainty increased among respondents from the 20 or more years out cohort, who were more likely to report that the benefits did outweigh the cost.

**A Little More About You**

- Significantly more respondents in the two more recent cohorts, 5 to 9 years out and 10 to 19 years out, reported having mothers with graduate or professional degrees (45% and 41%) than in the 20 or more years out cohort (30%). The percentage reporting fathers with a graduate or professional degree follows a similar trend.
- Roughly 45% of the two most recent cohorts were female, compared to 27% of the 20 or more years out cohort.
- The percentage of students reporting a race or ethnic group other than white was largest in the two more recent cohorts. Within these cohorts, there is a notable increase in the “Asian” and “Hispanic or Latino” groups over the 20 or more years out cohort.
- A smaller percentage of the more recent cohorts reported having families who, at the time they started college, had an “Average” or “Below Average” standard of living.
- A larger percentage of the 20 or more years out cohort reported that they currently had a “Far above average” standard of living than either of the other cohorts, while more respondents in the 5 to 9 years out reported an “Average” standard of living. See Figure 3 for an in-depth breakdown of this data.
Overall, more than half of respondents currently reside in California, Massachusetts, or New York. The percentage living in Massachusetts and New York was greater for more recent cohorts, while the percentage living in California was consistent across the three groups.

Last Section

The percentage of respondents who reported that, as an undergraduate, they interacted with MIT students of a different race or ethnicity “Very Often” was nearly 20 percentage points higher in the two more recent cohorts than in the 20 or more years out cohort.