Senior Survey Trend File (2002-2012)

Highlights

Every two years, MIT invites all undergraduate seniors to participate in a Senior Survey. This survey asks students about their satisfaction with various academic and non-academic experiences at college, their perception of how their abilities changed while at MIT, how they financed their education, and their post-graduation plans. The latest administration of the Senior Survey took place in March 2012 and closed with a 73% response rate. This Senior Survey Trend analysis joins together the results from the six administrations of the survey from 2002 to 2012. Highlights from the trend analysis are presented below and a full report of overall frequencies follows.

Overall Satisfaction

- The percentage of respondents who said they were generally satisfied or very satisfied with their undergraduate education increased from 74% in 2002 to 88% in 2012.

How satisfied are you with your undergraduate education?

![Graph showing satisfaction levels from 2002 to 2012](image-url)
Evaluating MIT

- Over 80% of respondents have consistently indicated that they were generally satisfied or very satisfied with the following areas between 2002 and 2012:
  - Overall quality of instruction
  - Out-of-class availability of faculty
  - Opportunities to participate in research with a faculty member
  - Availability of academic support and assistance
  - Availability of courses you wanted to take outside your major.
- Respondents tended to be least satisfied with academic advising before declaring a major. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied ranged from 54% to 65% between 2002 and 2012.
- Satisfaction with the quality of instruction in humanities and arts courses as well as social science courses remained largely the same. During this period, the percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied ranged from 85% to 88% in humanities and arts courses; in social science courses, this percentage ranged from 86% to 88%.
- Satisfaction with the quality of instruction in natural science and math courses as well as in engineering courses increased. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied with natural science and math courses increased from 80% in 2002 to 87% in 2012; in engineering, this percentage increased from 85% in 2002 to 91% in 2012.

Satisfaction with Major

- Beginning in 2010, respondents were able to answer questions concerning more than one major.
- The percentage of respondents who were generally or very satisfied with their major increased from 74% in 2002 to 82% in 2012.
- The quality of advising within a major showed the greatest increase in satisfaction during this period. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied increased from 56% in 2002 to 69% in 2012.
- The availability of tutoring and other help within a major showed the smallest increase in satisfaction during this period. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied increased from 77% in 2002 to 78% in 2012.

Quality of Campus Services and Facilities

- On average, satisfaction with all of the campus services and facilities asked about on the survey increased between 2002 and 2012.
- Athletic and recreational facilities showed the greatest increase in satisfaction during this period. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied increased from 53% in 2002 to 96% in 2012. The year of the biggest increase was in 2004 when the percentage of respondents generally or very satisfied increased to 93% from 53% in the previous year.
• Satisfaction with library facilities and resources, while consistently very high, showed the least increase during this period. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied increased from 90% in 2002 to 96% in 2012.
• Food services consistently had the lowest percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied ranging between 16% and 36% during this period.

Quality of Campus Life
• The sense of community on campus showed the greatest increase in satisfaction between 2002 and 2012. The percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied increased from 45% in 2002 to 70% in 2012.
• Satisfaction with social life on campus also showed a notable increase from 62% in 2002 to 81% in 2012.
• Satisfaction with student government had the lowest percentage of respondents who were generally satisfied or very satisfied between 2004 and 2012, ranging between 42% and 67%.

**Satisfaction with Aspects of Campus Life**
*(in descending order by percentage of generally or very satisfied in 2012)*

- Feeling of security on campus
- Opportunities to participate in intramural and other recreational athletics
- Degree of ethnic/racial diversity on campus
- Climate for ethnic/racial minority students on campus
- Sense of community where you live
- Social life on campus
- Sense of community on campus
- Student government

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<th>% Generally Satisfied or Very Satisfied</th>
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• The percentage of respondents who said that they would probably or definitely encourage a high school senior resembling them to attend MIT increased from 68% in 2002 to 81% in 2012.

**Extracurricular Activities and Working for Pay**
• Most respondents between 2002 and 2012 indicated spending fewer than 5 hours per week working for pay during the fall term of their senior year.

**Paying for College**
• The percentage of respondents who said they received any financial aid from MIT during their undergraduate career increased from 63% in 2002 to 71% in 2012.
• 58% of respondents indicated having to personally borrow no money for their undergraduate education in 2012, as compared to 36% in 2002.
• Between 2002 and 2012, no more than 20 percent of respondents indicated that the impact on their families of paying for their education was considerable or severe increased.
• The percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that they will be seriously burdened by loan repayments when they graduate decreased from 53% in 2002 to 17% in 2012.
• When asked if they had to forego any activities due to a lack of money, respondents tended to select non-paying research/internships more than any other activity.

Plans for the Coming Year
• The percentage of respondents who expected to be working for pay full-time in the fall increased from 41% in 2002 to 47% in 2012.
• Attending graduate or professional school full-time or part-time in the fall declined from 51% of respondents in 2002 to 39% of respondents in 2012.

Long Term Plans
• The percentage of respondents who planned to pursue a Ph.D. at any time in the future decreased from 43% in 2002 to 32% in 2012.
• Between 2002 and 2012, the percentage of respondents who planned to pursue a master’s degree in engineering at any time in the future increased slightly from 22% in 2006 to 24% in 2012.