




OFFICIAL MIT GRADUATE RING

THE BEZEL

The bezel of the Grad Rat features our endearing mascot holding a well-earned scroll, simultaneously a slice of the free food so central to the graduate existence. Before him, the stump charts the ups and downs of progress toward the degree. The handless clock reflects both the lack of a fixed time course to graduation and the lack of time to get it all done. There is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel, but only once past the roadblock of quals and self-imposed obstacles. In the bottom right is a pile of refuse, coincidentally bearing an uncanny resemblance to a certain prominent new building. Further back, the tents reflect the state of affordable graduate housing. In the background: construction has defined the campus during our time here; the pillow reminds us of the regular sleep so often absent from our lives, and the afternoon naps we lapse into despite ourselves. Finally, the whole scene takes place at night, as too often necessity makes us, like the beaver itself, nocturnal creatures.



THE SEAL SHANK

 ur Institute seal is ornately carved beneath a bold "MIT". The seal motto *Mens et Manus* ("Mind and Hand") is juxtaposed with a multi-faceted symbol of the balancing act we must constantly perform in our lives at the Institute. It is at once an ankh, the ancient Egyptian symbol of life; a robed graduate student; a careful layering of the letters M-I-T; and a balance scale whose pans hold sweat and inspiration, tears and spirit, the weight of work and the flame of life.





MIT Graduate Student Council
77 Massachusetts Ave., 50-220
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

COURSE 1

Civil & Environmental
Engineering

COURSE 2

Mechanical
Engineering

COURSE 3

Materials Science &
Engineering

COURSE 4

Architecture &
Planning

COURSE 5

Chemistry



COURSE 6

Electrical Engineering
& Computer Science

COURSE 7

Biology



COURSE 8

Physics



THE DEGREE SHANK

The degree shank is adorned with the Great Dome; its year inscription has been replaced by the year of graduation. Oak and laurel leaves flank it as symbols of strength and achievement. The "G", that follows all our names until we graduate, has the position of prominence; on its upright is etched a symbol of the student's department or degree program, the primary seat of identification for graduate students (options shown in the sidebar at left). Below is the degree so deservedly earned. Supporting the shank is a column, both a familiar icon of MIT and a wider symbol of graduate school.



**COURSE 9**

Brain & Cognitive Sciences

**COURSE 10**

Chemical Engineering

**COURSE 11**

Urban Studies & Planning

**COURSE 12**

Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences

**COURSE 13**

Ocean Engineering

**COURSE 14**

Economics

**COURSE 15**

Management

SKYLINES AND INSIDE OF RING



The sides of the Grad Rat depict the skylines on both sides of the Charles River. The MIT side shows buildings familiar to the graduate eye, encompassing Ashdown, the Small and Great Domes, the Pyramids atop buildings 1 and 2, the Green Building, and the Media Lab's Wiesner Building, its silhouette forming the letters MIT. On the reverse side, the Longfellow and Harvard bridges lead to the Boston skyline, where familiar buildings and landmarks again greet us, including the old and new John Hancock buildings, the Prudential, and the CITGO sign. Don't miss the sailboat on the Charles River—don't miss the real thing while you're here.

Inside the ring is engraved a map that encompasses the main graduate academic and research area of campus, perfect for those times when you've been in lab so long you can't remember the way home. The next time you get asked for directions or want to show someone where you work, look no further than your finger for a visual aid. Your initials will be engraved inside the ring next to the map.





COURSE 16
Aeronautics &
Astronautics



COURSE 17
Political Science



COURSE 18
Mathematics



COURSE 21
Humanities



COURSE 22
Nuclear
Engineering



COURSE 24
Linguistics &
Philosophy



BED
Biological
Engineering Division



RE
Center For Real Estate



HISTORY OF THE MIT GRADUATE RING

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Brass Rat tradition was born in the spring of 1929. The President of the Class of 1929, C. Brigham Allen, formed a committee to design a band to be used as the first Standard Technology ring. The committee agreed upon a three-part construction, with a primary image on the bezel of the ring and two other images on the two shanks. After the recommendation of the committee, the Class of 1930 was the first to proudly wear a Brass Rat (depicted below).

So started the Institute tradition of the Brass Rat, the affectionate nickname for the ring that has become a recognizable symbol of MIT worldwide. As the graduate population at MIT grew, the Brass Rat tradition was adopted by the graduate body. The MIT graduate population has become the majority among both current students and alumni, and the MIT Graduate Ring was redesigned in 2003 to reflect the unique graduate culture. The new ring, the Grad Rat, will feature the classic beaver, the MIT seal, and the Great Dome, along with myriad symbols unique to graduate life at MIT. Now is your chance to take part in the long and unbroken tradition that embodies our collective, life-changing experiences at MIT.



CMS

Comparative
Media Studies



ESD

Engineering
Systems Division



HST

Health Sciences
& Technology



LFM

Leaders for
Manufacturing



MAS

Media Arts
& Sciences



STS

Science, Technology,
& Society



WHOI

Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institute



**RINGS ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE MIT GSC OFFICE: WALKER MEMORIAL, ROOM 50-220,
OR CALL 1-800-BALFOUR (1-800-225-3687) FOR ORDERING AND INFORMATION.**

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