

MIT

	Course titles and descriptions	Requirements for Bach degree in math	Type of term (semesters, quarters, etc.)	Number of units (credits, or hours, or whatever) needed for graduation (all courses, not just math)
1905	Have descriptions, which includes titles	No Bach deg in math available till 1923	Semester system can be deduced	Not needed. No bach deg.
1915	Have descriptions, which includes titles	No Bach deg in math available till 1923	Semester system can be deduced	Not needed. No bach deg.
1925	Have descriptions, which includes titles	First yr you can earn a bachelors of science in mathematics. Specified math crses: 615 in class hrs + 995 prep hours in 4 years. 41 - 66.33 after div. by 15 weeks per term. 41+66.33 = 107.33 units. No rules about math electives. Thesis needed but its units not given.	Semesters acc. to Ri Romano	Ri Romano says: "in 1925 the unit system was not in use as we know it. The requirements were phrased in terms of total hours of class time and preparation. However, I have taken those numbers and divided by the number of weeks in the term to give an estimate of what the unit requirement would have been. 392 units, including physical training and military training." WM Note: catalog says there are 15 weeks in a term.
1935	Yes	Specified math: 143 units (class + prep). Elective + Thesis: 36.	Semester system can be deduced	Ri Romano makes same comment as in 1935 except "381 units".
1945	Yes	Pure&Applied Math option: 162 specified units (class + prep)in math. No rules on math electives.11 units of thesis. Industril Stat option: 135 specified + 11 units for thesis.	Semester system can be deduced	Ri Romano makes same comment as in 1935 except "381 units".

Some of this information comes from emails from MIT Registrar Ri Romano. Some from email and phone calls with Prof. Gil Strang of MIT

	Course titles	Requirements for Bach degree in math (just math courses)	Type of term (semesters, quarters, etc.)	
1955	Yes	114 units (class + prep) specified crses. 11 Thesis	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	360
1965	yes	Program 1: 72 units if calculus has been mastered, 96 if not. Program 2: 84 units if calculus has been matered, 108 if not.	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	360
1975	yes	108 assuming calc has been mastered. 132 otherwise.	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	360
1985	Yes	3 options: general math, applied math, theoretical math. All 108 units ssuming calculus has been mastered, 132 if not.	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	360
1995	yes	108 units if calculus has been mastered for each of 3 options: general math, applied math, theoretical math. If calc needs to be taken, 132. Mathematics with computer science option: 162 or 165 if calc has been mastered, 186 or 189 if calc. needs to be taken.	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	This was 180 dep't. units + GIR. Ri Romano says GIR could be between 174 and 210 units. Altogether betwenn 354 and 390 units average 372.

2007-2008	yes	4 options: General Math, Applied Math, Theoretical math, Math and CS. If calculus has been mastered: Gen Math and Theoretical 96 un; App math 108 un.; Math & CS 108 un in math, 48 in CS. If calculus must be taken, add 24 units to all these numbers.	Semester system according to Prof. Strang	In 2007-08 this was 180 beyond GIR units + GIR. The only way I (WM) could find to fulfill GIR was 180 units, so $180+180 = 360$ is a reasonable estimate.
	Course titles	Mathematics with computer science option: 162 or 165 if calc has been mastered, 186 or 189 with calc.	Type of term (semesters, quarters, etc.)	Number of units (credits, or hours, or whatever) needed for graduation (all courses, not just math)

Notes for interpreting MIT catalog.

In 2005-6

Key to Subject Descriptions

"U" indicates an undergraduate subject.

"G" indicates a subject primarily for graduate students.

"H-LEVEL Grad Credit" indicates an approved subject for higher graduate-level degree credit. In some cases, a message follows the designation indicating that the subject is H-level in certain departments.

The numbers in parenthesis following the name of the subject, for example, (4-0-8), represent the time distribution of the subject, showing in sequence the units allotted to recitation and lecture; laboratory, design, or fieldwork; and preparation. The total credit for a subject is obtained by adding together all the units shown.

"Units arranged" indicates that credit units are specially arranged by the instructor. Tuition is charged on a per unit basis for those not registered full time.

Hi Walter Let me respond quickly to your first 2 questions

U= undergrad and G=grad is correct

4-0-8 == 4 hrs class 0 hrs lab 8 hrs homework per week

this is 12 unit course (advanced math is almost all 3 0 9)

REST means that the course counts in some specific requirement (I should know!)

Similarly HUM HASSD ... are requirements in humanities

Now we also have CI requirements (communication intensive -- 2

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courses must
have this indication, to show experience with writing/speaking)

One expert here is Joanne Jonsson jonsson@math.mit.edu

Then the Registrar's office would be an official source you could
ask

Hope this is helpful

Gil

Prof. Gilbert Strang

From: rromano@MIT.EDU
Subject: RE: MIT History
Date: November 29, 2007 3:44:40 PM EST
To: meyer@panther.adelphi.edu

Hello Professor Meyer,

1. Was MIT on the semester system (as opposed to quarters say) in 1925? (I have verified that it was in other years of interest in our survey, but I am not sure of 1925.)

MIT was on a trimester system in 1924-25 but went to semesters in 1925-26.

2. How many total units (in all courses of all types) were required for a mathematics major to earn a Bachelor's Degree in 1925, 1935, 1945?

in 1925 the unit system was not in use as we know it. The requirements were phrased in terms of total hours of class time and preparation. However, I have taken those numbers and divided by the number of weeks in the term to give an estimate of what the unit requirement would have been.

1925 -- 392 units

1935 -- 381 units

1945 -- 381 units

these figures include physical training and military service requirements.

3. How many total units did the General Institute Requirements comprise in 1995?

the GIRs are phrased in terms of subjects, with the exception of the LAB requirement which is defined at 12 units. In 1995, the science core - 2 physics, 2 calculus, 1 chemistry, 1 biology - was satisfied with all 12 unit subjects. The 8-subject Humanities requirement may have been satisfied with 9 or 12 unit subjects

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(usually some of each). The 2-subject REST (restricted electives in science and technology) requirement may have been satisfied with subjects ranging between 9 and 15 units. Thus, the total GIRs may have been worth between 174 and 210 units. I would estimate the average to be 204.

I hope that helps. Please let me know if you need any more information.

ri

Ri Romano
Associate Registrar, MIT

-----Original Message-----

From: Walter Meyer [mailto:meyer@panther.adelphi.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 4:09 PM
To: Ri Romano
Subject: MIT History

Hi Associate Registrar Romano,

Recently you dug up a missing fact for the Cajori Two Project (carried out for the Mathematical Association of America and attempting to outline a century of math curricula at leading institutions.)

There are a few more stray bits of data we need. Can you help us again? (By the way, I am pretty sure this is the last request we will need to direct to you.)

The questions are:

1. Was MIT on the semester system (as opposed to quarters say) in 1925? (I have verified that it was in other years of interest in our survey, but I am not sure of 1925.)

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2. How many total units (in all courses of all types) were required for a mathematics major to earn a Bachelor's Degree in 1925, 1935, 1945?

3. How many total units did the General Institute Requirements comprise in 1995?

Thank you for your help.

Professor Walter Meyer

On Nov 20, 2007, at 4:22 PM, Ri Romano wrote:

hello Professor Meyer,

Jen forwarded your question to me.

The first Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics were awarded by the Institute in 1923. Three were awarded that year. The first Master of Science in Mathematics was awarded in 1919. The first Doctoral degrees in Mathematics were awarded in 1927.

I hope that helps. Please let me know if I can supply any further information.

Ri

Ri Romano
Associate Registrar, MIT

-----Original Message-----

From: Walter Meyer [mailto:meyer@panther.adelphi.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 3:27 PM

~~Hopkins~~ Berkeley

Prof Meyer,

I am not sure in the early 1900's if the unit requirement was 120 for graduation. I am pretty sure in the late 40 and 50's it was 120 based on transcripts that I have reviewed for students who graduated. It may take me a while to research this but if you want to go with 120 as the general rule for the semester system, then I am happy.

Have a good weekend.
Karen Denton

Walter Meyer wrote:
Hi Ms. Denton,

Thank you so much for your reply and especially for being so prompt. There is one aspect of your reply I don't understand. It seems to me that before 1965, in the years I inquired about, it was always the semester system with 120 credits needed. So I am not sure what else you have to research. No doubt I am misunderstanding something.

Once, again, many thanks,

Prof. Walter Meyer

On Feb 29, 2008, at 4:11 PM, Karen wrote:

Your email was forwarded to me for response. My answers are under the question.

Karen Denton
Assistant Registrar

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Fwd: historical information]
Date: Fri, 29 Feb 2008 12:58:48 -0800
From: Karen <kjed@berkeley.edu>
To: orreg@berkeley.edu
References: <1667.169.229.148.170.1204310876.squirrel@calmail.berkeley.edu>
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