

# FACT SHEET ON MIT'S UNDERGRADUATE LIVING OPTIONS

## Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups

Today MIT offers its undergraduates a greater choice of living options than any other elite university in the country. The dormitories house most of the students and offer a variety of environments from traditional dorm living to a host of special communal situations like the cultural houses (Spanish House, Russian House, Chocolate City, et al.). In addition, there are almost 40 fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups; collectively these are referred to as the FSILG community. Most own and operate their own houses in Boston, Brookline, or Cambridge.

Since the fall of 2002, all freshmen have been required to live in one of the on-campus dormitories. Dormitory assignments are made by student preference lottery during the summer preceding freshman year. All dormitories except McCormick Hall are co-ed and none are "freshman only". During an early September "rush" and throughout their first year, freshmen may join one of the FSILGs but may not move in until sophomore year. Some upperclassmen also elect to affiliate with an FSILG in the new spring recruitment period and then move in the following fall term.

The fraternities have a long and rich history at MIT. For over a century these chapters have offered outstanding leadership and development opportunities. With the steady increase in female undergraduates, the sororities are now flourishing, bringing with them a new cooperative governance model to the campus. A new sorority will be colonizing at MIT in the fall of 2008. Each of the five Independent Living Groups offers its own special style of living. As you can see from the items at the end of this page, MIT is committed to the health of the FSILG community and to preserving the diversity of living-and-learning options.

### BASIC UNDERGRADUATE STATISTICS

Number of Dormitories: 11, Number of students in dorms: 2,925; Number of Fraternities: 27 (1 is coed), Sororities: 5, Independent Living Groups: 5 (4 are coed). Number of students in FSILGs: 1,600 (~40% of the undergraduate population). 35 of the 37 FSILGs have chapter houses.

### 2008 RECRUITMENT AND ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

#### August 17–23

Work week period for FSILGs. Some athletic teams begin practicing  
International students arrive for some special orientation activities

#### August 24–30

Freshmen Orientation, on campus activities

#### Aug. 30–Sept. 6

Formal recruitment (rush) period for fraternities and ILGs

#### Aug. 30–Sept. 3

Formal recruitment period for sororities

#### September 4

First day of classes

### MIT SUPPORT FOR LIVING GROUPS

MIT is committed to preserving and strengthening the wide variety of living options. Here are just some of the ways that is accomplished.

**Advisors** Every dormitory floor has a Graduate Resident Tutor and every FSILG has a live-in Resident Advisor. Each dormitory has a resident MIT faculty or staff Housemaster, while an increasing number of FSILGs have Faculty Advisors.

**Leadership Development** All MIT residential options provide an array of training and leadership development opportunities. The independently operated FSILGs provide additional opportunities for students to manage large organizations and budgets. To support these additional responsibilities, MIT and FSILG alums offer seminars for chapter officers.

**Residential Life Focus** Recently MIT reorganized so that all residential life aspect—dining, residential programs, housing, FSILGs—were combined in a single organization, which focuses on providing the best possible learning and living environments for MIT's students.

**Association of Independent Living Groups** This alumni group represents all FSILG alumni house corporations and advisory boards. The AILG also established a very successful purchasing group, the FSILG Cooperative Inc., now the third largest such group in the country.

For more information, please see <http://web.mit.edu/life/category/lg.html> or contact Bob Ferrara of the Division of Student Life at [bferrara@mit.edu](mailto:bferrara@mit.edu) or 617-253-7495.

