Participating MIT Departments
- Mechanical Engineering (Course 2)
- Materials Science & Engineering (Course 3)
- Chemistry (Course 5)
- Chemical Engineering (Course 10)
- Biological Engineering (Course 20)

PPSM Core Curriculum
The core curriculum, taken by all PPSM students, provides a common foundation in the field of polymers. It is broad and rigorous and covers both elementary and advanced subjects, on topics ranging from the molecular level to the continuum. The current selection of PPSM core courses consists of:

- 2.79 Biomaterials: Tissue Interactions
- 2.5997 Mechanics of Polymers
- 3.65 Soft Matter Characterization
- 10.568 Physical Chemistry of Polymers
- 10.569 Synthesis of Polymers

Departmental Minor
Beyond the required core, students are required to complete the Minor Program put forth by their home department. Please consult with your home department for current requirements.

In addition, students are encouraged to enroll in Elective Courses depending on their individual backgrounds and interests. A selection of elective subjects that may be of interest to PPSM students can be found at

http://polymerscience.mit.edu/

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An Interdepartmental Graduate Program
PPSM provides educational opportunities for students seeking advanced interdisciplinary training, fostering a spirit of community and collaboration among MIT students, faculty, and visitors involved in polymer-related research. Students in PPSM benefit from an interdisciplinary core curriculum in polymer science and engineering, exposure to the broader polymer community through seminars, contact with visitors from industry and academia, and interdepartmental collaboration while working towards a PhD or ScD degree.

Research opportunities include: functional polymers, biomaterials, controlled drug delivery, nanostructured polymers, polymers at interfaces, self-assembly, polymer synthesis, molecular modeling, polymer physics, polymer mechanics and rheology, biomimetic materials, polymers in energy and more.

Program Director: Alfredo Alexander-Katz
(aalexand@mit.edu) Room NE46-605c

For more information, visit:
http://polymerscience.mit.edu/
Or contact a current student via email at:
PPSM-info@mit.edu
About the Program
The MIT Program in Polymers and Soft Matter (PPSM) was founded in 1986, in recognition of the belief that future leaders in the polymer community require a thorough appreciation of the chemistry and physics of macromolecules and biopolymers; the emerging engineering structure, property, and processing relations; and the wide variety of mathematical concepts and experimental techniques which support the development of these areas of intellectual activity. PPSM represents a complementary interdepartmental program with educational and research missions that cut across departmental boundaries.

PPSM is intended for students who have made a clear commitment to a PhD or ScD degree in the field of polymers, and who wish to engage in a academic program that develops a strong command of all the concepts which make this broad, interdisciplinary field rich in intellectual challenges and technological opportunities. It is open to graduate students who are admitted to one of the five participating departments that accept the written and oral PPSM doctoral qualifying examinations in lieu of departmental exams. It consists of an initial academic phase, in which all students participate regardless of previous background and research interests, followed by research in a selected area of specialization. The PPSM qualifying exams are given at the end of each spring term, and they are based on the content of the PPSM core curriculum. The program leads to the Doctoral degree; if desired, a Masters degree can be obtained through the admitting department.

Admission
Students applying to PPSM should have a Bachelor's degree in a field of Science or Engineering. PPSM is an interdepartmental program and does not admit graduate students to the Institute. Applications should be directed to one of the five participating departments, usually but not always that of the student's undergraduate degree.

In your online departmental application, indicate PPSM under “Joint Programs,” and submit the application to your chosen department. Once accepted to a department’s graduate program, your application will be forwarded to the PPSM office for consideration.

In addition to sending your application to the department of your choice, please send a one-page letter of notification directly to the PPSM office (Room 76-253) or via email (ppsm-www@mit.edu). Your letter should include your full name, both your postal and email addresses, your undergraduate school, your undergraduate program of study, and the MIT department to which your application was submitted.

Polymer Seminar Series
The Polymer Seminar Series run by PPSM brings invited speakers from industry and academia into contact with the MIT community, and offers research updates by MIT faculty and students. PPSM provides a focal point for all polymer related activities at the Institute. For a schedule of polymer seminar speakers, visit:

http://polymerscience.mit.edu/