Participating MIT Departments
• Mechanical Engineering (Course II)
• Materials Science & Engineering (Course III)
• Chemistry (Course V)
• Chemical Engineering (Course X)
• Biological Engineering (Course XX)

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:

- 3.941/10.668 Statistical Mechanics of Polymers
- 3.963/20.463 Biomaterials Science Engineering
- 3.063 Polymer Physics
- 10.43 Introduction to Interfacial Phenomena
- 10.566 Structure of Soft Matter
- 10.568 Polymer Physical Chemistry
- 10.569 Synthesis of Polymers
- 3.903J/10.960J Student Seminar in Polymer Science & Technology

Departmental Minor
Beyond the required core, students are required to complete the Minor Program put forth by their home department. Consult with home department for current minor 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 and fosters a spirit of community and collaboration among the large group of students, faculty, and visitors involved in polymer-related research at MIT. 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: Darrel J. Irvine
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For more information, visit:
http://polymerscience.mit.edu/
Or contact a current student via email at:
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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, as well as the wide variety of mathematical concepts and experimental techniques which support the development of these areas of intellectual activity. The Program in Polymers and Soft Matter represents a complementary interdepartmental program whose educational and research missions 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 broad-based academic program and develop a strong command of the full range of concepts which make the broad, interdisciplinary field of polymers rich in intellectual challenges and technological opportunities. It is open to students admitted to the graduate program of any of the four 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.

Polymer Seminar Series
The Polymer Seminar Series run by PPSM brings invited speakers from industry and academia into contact with the MIT community, as well as offering 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/

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:
• On departmental application form, under "Program of Study" indicate PPSM
• Return the application to chosen department
• Once you have been 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, PPSM recommends that you send a one-page letter of notification directly to the PPSM office (76-253) to let us know that your application has been submitted. Your letter should include your name, postal address, email address, undergraduate school, undergraduate program of study, and the name of the MIT department to which your application was submitted.