SMACT Program Curriculum Overview

MIT program in art, culture and technology
School of Architecture + Planning

General requirements

• Two academic years of residency (four terms)
• 156 units of coursework, not including thesis
• Written thesis

Coursework

• 4.390 ACT Studio – each semester
• 4.388 SMACT Thesis Preparation – second term, final project thesis proposal
• 4.389 SMACT Thesis Tutorial – fourth term, meets with 4.388, taught by tenured ACT faculty member
• 4.THG Thesis – fourth term, meetings with thesis advisor and committee
• Four ACT graduate subjects
• Four electives
  • Art or architecture history class
  • Three advanced courses that support the student’s research.
    (This requirement is often fulfilled with subjects from the Science, Technology, and Society, Media Arts and Sciences, and Comparative Media Studies areas)

Administrative requirements

• Submit thesis committee form by deadline
• Submit thesis title with form (Registrar $85 late fee)
• Submit degree application by February deadline (Registrar $50 late fee)
• A list of MIT graduation requirements and deadlines is available at: http://web.mit.edu/registrar/graduation/checklist.html

Restrictions

• Only one independent study is permitted
• Subjects which cannot be used for degree credit:
  • Undergraduate courses
  • English proficiency requirement courses
  • Courses graded pass/fail or taken as a listener

Useful things to know

• Most ACT graduate courses are 3-3-6 (12 units)
• Cross-registering for some Harvard and Wellesley courses is possible
Preparing for your Thesis

The MIT graduate graduation requirement checklist, which includes links to important deadlines, is available at:
http://web.mit.edu/registrar/graduation/checklist.html

Start looking for a thesis supervisor and readers early; this may even help you develop your topic.
• Familiarize yourself with active work of ACT tenured faculty—
  a place to start is http://act.mit.edu/people/faculty/
• Investigate researchers around MIT—
  two places to start: http://architecture.mit.edu/program/research, media.mit.edu/research/groups-projects
• If you are not sure which departments would be the best fit, see this list:
  web.mit.edu/education
• Have a backup plan; your first choice supervisor or readers may not be available

Thesis supervisor
• Must be a tenured or tenure track ACT faculty member
  Azra Akšamija, Renée Green, or Gediminas Urbonas
• You can only have one

Readers
• Tenured or non-tenured
• You should have two
• At least one should be a faculty member at MIT

Once you have confirmed your topic, you may wish to schedule a meeting with Patsy Baudoin, ACT’s library liaison, in order to discuss research resources which may be particularly useful.

A checklist of the library specifications for your thesis is available on the ACT website.