Training graduate students is one of the most important duties of the Institute. We seek to define expectations on graduate student advising for each advisor and advisee at MIT, and for setting a high standard of conduct at other universities.
Faculty and students are strongly encouraged to attempt to resolve conflicts through direct discussion and other informal procedures. 

Faculty are expected to be supportive of their students’ participation in extra-academic activities and to recognize the value of such activities for their intellectual and professional development. Depending on the discipline, these activities might include training in job interviews, information on academic and non-academic career options, and internships.

A number of resources are available for graduate students who wish to terminate their relationship with their advisor and search for a new research laboratory. These include their departmental or program graduate administrator, program head or departmental graduate officer, a dean in the OOGC, or an Institute ombudsperson.

Graduate students share the responsibility for securing, maintaining, and protecting the integrity of grades, scholarship, and research.

Faculty members have the responsibility to inform graduate students of the source and amount of their financial support and of all expectations associated with any funded position. Faculty members should inform graduate students promptly of matters that affect their funding status.

Graduate students and faculty have a responsibility to inform each other as soon as they have knowledge of a possible change of their status. Graduate students should provide reasonable notice to their advisor if they intend to leave or change advisors; have a medical or personal issue that interferes with study and research; or are experiencing other academic or life issues that an advisor might reasonably need to know about. When circumstances require leaving a research project, graduate students should provide a summary of their work so that any delay associated with continuation of the project is minimized.

Beyond the responsibility to provide an evaluation once per term via a thesis grade, advisors should consider providing additional periodic feedback of academic progress, performance and professional potential, preferably in the form of a written evaluation.

Graduate students are protected from personal exploitation. In the case of full-time research assistants, supervised activities should be confined to thesis research and professional development.

Graduate students have the right to conduct research in an environment free from academic misconduct and dishonesty and a responsibility to maintain standards of academic integrity and responsible conduct of research.

Graduate students have the right to conduct research in an environment free from conflicts of interest and the responsibility to maintain their research free of conflicts of interest.

Graduate students have a right to and responsibility to maintain a safe and clean working environment.

Graduate students are protected from harassment, including sexual misconduct and retaliation.

Graduate students must be notified of the work requirements for each subject, including grading criteria and procedures, at the beginning of each term.

Each academic unit should ensure that students have ready access to the following information:

A. Degree requirements
B. Academic deadlines
C. Time limits for seeking advanced degrees
D. Departmental procedures for general and/or qualifying exams
E. Guidelines for resolving concerns or conflicts within the department
F. Individuals available for consultation regarding student issues and problems
G. Criteria for termination or withdrawal of a graduate student
H. Rules governing teaching assistant and research assistant appointments and fellowships

If a department or program is considering terminating a graduate student, that student should be made aware at an early stage of the reasons for such consideration, and should be notified in writing when formal consideration of termination is initiated.

For more information about Graduate Policies & Procedures please visit: odge.mit.edu/gpp/roles