Friedman awarded PhD in mathematics at age 18—only three years at MIT

Harvey M. Friedman from Highland Park, Ill., has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics by MIT for work he did since he entered the university in 1964.

Friedman entered the first-year class when he was 18 years old. Because of a Department of Philosophy recommendation, the baccalaureate requirement for admission to the Graduate School was waived. After a year of graduate courses and work on his thesis, entitled "Subsystems of Set Theory and Analysis," he passed the General Examinations of the Graduate School in early June and defended his thesis before a three-member examining committee August 31.

Friedman was admitted to MIT in the fall of 1964, after only three years of high school. Almost immediately after admission to the institute, he had accumulated a total of 41 credits in a combined total of eight courses in mathematics and humanities as well as mathematics. He spent Sept. 1964 through June 1965 in the undergraduate school.

Dr. Aaron A. Altschul of the US Department of Agriculture has announced the award of a consultant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

18-year-old PhD Announcement of the award was made Wednesday by the university when they released the names of 41 students who had been granted degrees. Since Dr. Friedman's birthday was the following Saturday, it was 18 when he received the degree, and it is believed to be the youngest person ever to be awarded a degree by MIT. He may receive his diploma by mail, or return for the Institute Commencement exercises in June to receive it along with the traditional doctor of philosophy hood.

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