By Thomas Mayer

Dropping out of MIT is not only more common but apparently more permanent than many people realize. Statistics from the Registrar’s Office indicate that 14-18 percent of students admitted to MIT do not receive a degree from the Institute. The figures show that a substantial number of students withdraw from MIT, and, contrary to the popular belief that withdrawals are temporary, the percentage of students withdrawn is stable or increases with time.

MIT officials can’t explain what effect these figures have on the common assumption that those who are admitted are smart enough to get through MIT. However, this explanation won’t indicate a change in the number of students withdrawn after the college draft deferment was cancelled in 1969. No such change is apparent.

Part of the problem with withdrawal statistics is that students withdraw in many ways outside of the formal process, and some do not show up on the statistics. In addition, withdrawals formally, students withdrawing from all of their classes, by not showing up for the registration process, or by not completing the registration process. In the last case, some students “withdraw” after failing to pay tuition, and are then readmitted through the Dean’s Office immediately after payment is made.

Statistics compiled by Kay Hudock of Student Affairs give a grand total of 866 readmissions through both Student Affairs and the CAP between January, 1973, and October, 1975, but nobody knows how many of these readmissions are in response to last-term withdrawals such as the tuition case, withdrawals that don’t show up on the Registrar’s figures.

In general, no one has a firm explanation for why 14-18 percent of all students don’t come back for a degree. Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Cleveonne Turner is in charge of Student Counseling’s first attempt to gather information on withdrawals and readmissions, but the study was slowed over the summer by questions of the amount of data required and the degree of computerization. The study may not be finished until next fall.

Most officials agree, however, that students leave the Institute of their own free will. The number of students requested to leave by the CAP has not exceeded 50 since a peak of 57 Negotiated Withdrawals and 26 Disqualifications in academic year 1972-1973. In fact, the Committee has not issued a Disqualification – signifying permanent separation from the Institute and appearing on permanent records – since Spring of 1974. The CAP officially dropped Disqualifications as a possible action last year, relying completely on Negotiated Withdrawals, which, while requesting the student to withdraw appear on external records as voluntary withdrawals. The CAP issued 72 Negotiated Withdrawals last year.

The CAP makes its decisions on Negotiated Withdrawals in two stages at the end of each term. The committee first reviews the academic record of every student in Institute Grades Meetings, taking minor actions such as Warnings at that meeting. Records of students who may be eligible for Negotiated Withdrawals are taken at the Deferred Action Meeting. Any student under consideration for a negotiated withdrawal is asked to fill out the CAP form of any circumstances affecting his situation.

These students who are likely prospects for Negotiated Withdrawals receive a “hard” letter, stating that “on the basis of the information presently available to the faculty, it may be inadvisable for you to continue at MIT next term.”

### Summary of CAP actions

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<th>Fall, 1972</th>
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<tr>
<td>Freshmen 1</td>
<td>D NW TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st year</td>
<td>39 1043</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>11 47 1057</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>2 71 956</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>11 16 1062</td>
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<td>TOTAL 3 25</td>
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<td>2nd year</td>
<td>9 50 1113</td>
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<td>3rd year</td>
<td>10 99 993</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>6 35 1087</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL 3 25</td>
<td>3 142 4076</td>
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<td>3rd year</td>
<td>12 49</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>8 43</td>
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<td>TOTAL 3 28</td>
<td>3 169</td>
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- NW - Disqualified
- W - Warning
- TR - Total number of students reviewed
- Students voted a Negotiated Withdrawal who must apply for readmission through the CAP

For INTERACTIVE LECTURES:

- Perceptive, imaginative students needed to contribute questions. Call Karen Houston at 864-6000, x2800.

- Phillips Chair: "The night we'll talk about is the night we'll talk about anything we want to."

- Callus Chair: "The night we'll talk about is the night we'll talk about anything we want to."

- Wild Chair: "The night we'll talk about is the night we'll talk about anything we want to."