1881 (Oct.) – First record of football; MIT defeats Exeter College, 2 goals to 0.

1887-88 – Football wins Northeastern Intercollegiate Football Association championships.

1894 - Men's track and field becomes a varsity sport.

1896 - Thomas Pelham Curtis is the first MIT alum to compete in the Olympics, winning the gold medal in the 110m hurdles.
• 1901 – Football discontinued by a controversial student vote of 119-117.
• 1901 – First year of men’s basketball.
• 1905 – First year of men’s cross country.
• 1907 – First year of men’s golf, ice hockey and tennis.
• 1912 – First year of men’s crew and swimming.
• 1913 – First year of wrestling.
• 1914 – The beaver is adopted as the school mascot.
• 1917 - Men's cross country wins the New England Intercollegiate Championship for first time.
• 1920 – First year of men’s fencing.
• 1923 – First year of rifle.
• 1925 – The men's fencing team wins the NCAA Championships, helped by a second-place finish in foil by Joe Levis. The next year, Levis wins the overall foil competition at the NCAA Championships.
• 1926 – Henry Steinbrenner becomes the first All-American in MIT athletics history, winning the NCAA Track and Field Championship in 220 hurdles. He would go on to represent the United States in the 1928 Olympics.
• 1928 – First year of men’s lacrosse.
• 1930 – First year of squash.
• 1932 – Competing for the United States in foil at the 1932 Olympics, Joe Levis wins the Silver medal.
• 1936 – First year of sailing.
• 1938 – First year of pistol.
• 1939 – The sailing team wins its third straight ICSA National Dinghy Championship.
DAPER History

1940-1950

• 1940 – Alumni Pool opens and serves as the home for the water polo and swimming and diving teams for over 60 years.
• Swimming test started as an Institute requirement after World War II.
• 1945-46 – Sailing captures back-to-back ICSA Coed Dinghy National Championship in 1945 and 1946.
• 1947 – Ivan J. Geiger begins his service as the department's first athletic director.
• 1948 – First year of baseball.
• 1950 – Men's heavyweight crew defeats Harvard by 0.2 seconds to become EARC Eastern Sprints Champions.
DAPER History

1950-1960

• 1952 – Ed Melaike '53 competes in Finn Dinghies for the United States at the 1952 Olympics. First year of skiing.
• 1954 – Coach Jack Frailey '44 guides men's lightweight crew to the first of back-to-back victories in the prestigious Thames Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in England.
• 1955 – Richard L. Balch begins his six-year stint as athletic director.
• 1956 – Herb Voelcker '48 (Rifle), Eric Olsen '41 (Sailing) and John Marvin '49 (Sailing) represent the United States at the 1956 Olympics. First year of men’s soccer.
• 1958 – Head coach Ben Martin leads the men's lacrosse program to the first of three consecutive College Division National Championships. Antonia (Toni) Schuman, a member of the sailing team, graduates as MIT's first female letterwinner.

Richard Balch
• 1961 – Jack Barry, who was named men’s basketball coach in 1959, adds head baseball coach to his duties.
• 1961 – Ross H. "Jim" Smith begins the department's longest tenure as athletic director. During his 19-year career, MIT adds 13 sports, 11 of which are women's programs, as well as the Harold W. Pierce Boathouse, the J.B. Carr Indoor Tennis Center and the Howard W. Johnson Athletic Center.
• 1962 – David Koch sets the men's basketball single-game scoring record with 41 points, a record that would stand for over 40 years.
• 1967 – The men's basketball team is named the ECAC Division III Team of the Year after winning a program-best 19 games.
• 1968 – First year of men’s gymnastics.
1970-1980

• 1970 – First year of water polo. Men's fencing wins the first of 14 consecutive New England Championships. The pistol team captures its first NRA Intercollegiate Championship and repeats in 1972 and 1974
• 1972 – Alan Dopfel is the first MIT graduate to be drafted by the Major League Baseball when he is picked by the California Angels.
• 1973-74 – Women's basketball, women's crew, women's fencing, women's sailing, and women's volleyball become varsity sports.
• 1975 – The men's heavyweight junior varsity boat captures the Intercollegiate Rowing Association crown while the varsity squad places second. First year of women's tennis.

Alan Dopfel

1973 Women’s Volleyball Team
DAPER History

1976 – John Everett '76 represents the United States in men's rowing (eights) at the 1976 Olympics. First year of women’s gymnastics, skiing and swimming.

1977 – Frank Richardson captures the 10,000 meter title at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship.

1978 – Diane Ozelius sets the still-standing women's basketball record for points in a game with 33 against Wheaton on February 17. First year of field hockey and softball.

1979 – Competing in the 200 breaststroke, Preston Vorlicek becomes MIT's first three-time All-America swimmer. The men’s ice hockey team plays its final season in Briggs Arena, MIT’s outdoor rink.

Diane Ozelius

Briggs Arena
1980-1990

• 1981 – The women's varsity lightweight 8+ finishes in first place at the EAWRC Sprints. First year of women’s cross country. Johnson Athletics Center opens

• 1982 – Larry Deschaine and Joseph Mayo finish first and second, respectively, in air pistol at the NRA Intercollegiate Championship.

• 1983 – The women's volleyball team wins 41 consecutive matches en route to the championship match of the NCAA Tournament. MIT also reached the championship match in 1984.

• 1984 – Louise Jandura is the first MIT athlete to graduate with four Academic All-America honors (in three sports). First year of women’s soccer.

• 1985 – MIT becomes a charter member of the New England Women's 6 Conference (NEW 6), which evolves into the NEW 8 and then the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) in 1998.

• 1986 – First year of men’s volleyball.

• 1988 – Football regains varsity status.
DAPER History

1990-2000

- 1991 – Mark Dunzo captures the 400m title at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship.
- 1992 – First year of women’s lacrosse and outdoor track.
- 1994 – Ethan Crain captures the 1500m title at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship.
- 1996 – Myong-Sin Yi guides the women’s pistol team to air and sport pistol crowns while also taking the individual title in air pistol at the NRA Intercollegiate Championship. First year of women’s indoor track.
- 1997 – John Wallberg captures the weight throw title at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship.
- 1998 – Jessica Kleiss finishes first at the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association National Championship, marking the nordic skiing program’s’ first national title. The following year at the same event, Samuel Coradetti captures first place in the freestyle race.
- 1999 – The women’s basketball team recorded the first 20-win season in the history of MIT basketball (men or women). First year of women’s ice hockey.

1995-96 Pistol Team

1998-99 Women’s Basketball Team
DAPER History

2000 – Caroline Purcell finishes first at the NCAA Championship in sabre, resulting in Fencer of the Year honors. Steve Tucker ’91 represents the United States in men's rowing at the 2000 (lightweight) and 2004 (double sculls) Olympics.

2001 – Candace Royer begins her five-year tenure as athletic director.

2002 – Zesiger Center opens. Physical Education developed new relevant courses, including outdoor experiential education as well as health and wellness courses.

2004 – Evan Tindell captures the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division III Men's Singles Championship.

2005 – MIT captures the NRA Intercollegiate Pistol Championship as David Schannon is the Men’s Grand Aggregate Champion and Diana Nee claims the women’s air pistol title. The next season, Nee would help the Engineers secure the women’s sport team crown.

2007 – Julie Soriero named Athletics Director and Department Head. Doria Holbrook wins her second national championship in 3-meter diving.

2009 - Alpine Skiing, Golf, Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey, Men’s and Women’s Gymnastics, Pistol, and Wrestling cut as varsity sports.

2010 – Stephen Morton and Jacqui Wentz capture national titles at NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championship. Wentz becomes the first national champion in program history, winning the 3000m steeplechase while Morton captures the long jump crown.

2012 – Men's Basketball reaches the NCAA Final Four. Pirates

Caroline Purcell

Zesiger Center

2011-12 Men’s Basketball Team

Excellence | Community | Education | Leadership | Wellness
DAPER History

• DAPER Services a wide ranging slice of the MIT and local communities.

In 2011:
• 20,878 total DAPER community members.
• 904 Club Sports participants.
• 3,036 Intramural participants.
• 3,500 Physical Education participants.
• 12,659 Recreation participants.
• 779 Varsity athlete participants.
• 409,000 sq. ft. of building space
• 26 acres of fields
• 88 full-time staff members and 709 part-time staff members