

Adding a co-advisor

Many students find it helpful to be co-advised by two or sometimes even three faculty members. Sometimes co-advisors are designated at the time of admission, and sometimes a student may wish to add a co-advisor during their time in the program. Students wishing to add a co-advisor, should discuss the idea with their Education Coordinator before moving forward with any formal arrangement.

Agreeing to advise or co-advise a student involves assuming a number of responsibilities (<https://mit.whoie.edu/academics/responsibilities/>) these include providing professional guidance and advice, but also providing resources to support student research and working to provide financial support for stipend and tuition. WHOI-based faculty also receive financial compensation (advising hours) in association with advising students. In most cases co-advisors share financial responsibility and advising hours. In some cases, one advisor is designated as the primary advisor, who assumes financial responsibility and/or receives any advising hours.

Adding a co-advisor involves (1) an agreement among the student and involved faculty members that the proposed co-advising arrangement is agreeable to all parties, (2) agreement among the involved faculty members as to who will assume financial responsibility, how any advising hours should be allocated, and who will be responsible for submitting grades for student research, and (3) approval of the proposed co-advising arrangement by the relevant Joint Committee.

Documentation of the co-advising agreement and JC approval should be submitted to the Academic Programs Office (Associate Dean, Registrar, Student Affairs Officer) and MIT JP Office.