Leading the revolution in engineering education.
The Library is a physical embodiment of our innovative approach to education. Like traditional libraries, students can check out books and textbooks and work in large, open lounge spaces or in more private team rooms. Unlike traditional libraries, there are movies, materials samples, power tools, circuit-testing equipment, (and more) on loan! The library is also a MakerSpace, with a 3D printing lab, vinyl cutter, and sewing machine available for students to rapidly prototype academic and personal projects. Olin students also have access to interlibrary loans through the minuteman network, including schools like Babson College, Wellesley College, Brandeis University, and MIT.

Post Graduate Planning has offices in the lower level of the library, alongside a two-story student-built K’Nex calculator. Here, students can learn about internships, work opportunities, fellowships, scholarships, and the transition to graduate school.
The Auditorium can seat almost all of Olin’s student body and is used for lectures and admissions events, as well as movie nights, comedy roasts, and other events. The PowerChords, Olin’s oldest a capella group, perform here, as do Olin’s improv and theatre troupes. The Student Government and Honor Board also hold town hall meetings here.

Walk down the steps on your right and exit through the double doors to the hallway and you will arrive at IT.

IT is where students go if they need help with their laptop or any of Olin’s computing resources, like printers all around campus, a supercomputing cluster, and our computer lab down the hall. Every student purchases a top-of-the-line Dell laptop that comes with an extensive collection of software packages, including MatLab, SolidWorks, Microsoft Office, and Adobe Creative Suite. In addition, every laptop comes with a comprehensive four year warranty. Students have had their computers replaced after dropping them in lakes, running them over with trucks, or dropping them out of bed. The computer lab is an evolving workspace for team and solo work complemented by video and music editing stations as well as large poster printers.
The Great Lawn

Step outside through the double doors, and stand with your back to the exterior staircases. You are looking at the **Great Lawn**.

**The Great Lawn** is often filled with students playing games, napping, sunbathing, or working in the fresh air. If you look down the Great Lawn, past the road, you will see athletics fields where Olin’s two official club teams (Ultimate Frisbee and soccer) practice. Olin students can also join intramural and club sports at Babson and Wellesley.

**Student Groups** are ubiquitous throughout campus. The first semester of Olin is evaluated “Pass/No Record,” which helps students transition to a new environment and discover as many of Olin’s clubs as possible. Whether they are interested in spinning fire or building an electric go cart, Olin supports and funds a massive range of passions and interests. It’s easy to start a club or plan an event: all you need to do to start a club is to fill out a club charter and get the support of three other students. Tada! New club!
Dorms

From the Great Lawn, walk to the two almost identical buildings and you will be at West Hall and East Hall, which are locked for security.

Dorms at Olin are ranked third in the Princeton Review (2014) for “Best College Dorms” because they are “like palaces.” Built less than 15 years ago, the dorms come equipped with kitchens, music practice rooms, gyms, team meeting rooms, bicycle storage, club storage, summer storage, large communal lounge areas, and laundry rooms.

Students live in either doubles or suites which are extremely spacious and come with extra-long twin beds, a microwave, and room-specific thermostat and air conditioning controls. Each double room also has a mini-fridge, a private bathroom with shower, and sink area. Suites contain 6 single bedrooms, 2 large shower rooms, 2 large restrooms, and a private lounge space with comfy seats, tables, a couch, and a full-size fridge.

Resident Resources (R2s) are Olin’s version of the RA. Unlike RAs, the R2s do not act like police patrolling the halls. Instead, they support students in need, offer a sympathetic ear, and help them plan ahead to prevent situations from getting out of hand. One R2 is always “on call” to handle emergencies, and all R2’s are familiar with available resources. R2s are also really fun to hang out with!
The Pool Room has been a gathering place for Olin students since the early days of the college. However, it didn’t always look this way. After a few years of sharing a single pool table and playing in a bare, uninspiring room, students decided they should do something proactive to improve the space. They put together a proposal for the decorative elements you see today, and received support and funding from Facilities, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Students Activities Fund. Thanks to their innovative spirit and Olin’s openness to change, we all get to enjoy this atmospheric pool room experience!

The Dining Hall offers unlimited access to all Olin students during hours of operation. This means they can grab a buffet meal or a snack whenever they want. Our meal plan extends to Trim Dining Hall on Babson’s campus and Wellesley’s Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center. Meals at Olin are prepared fresh and there is always ready-to-eat food available to snack on. Due to Olin’s small size, we have a special relationship with the dining staff – most of them know students by name and vice versa. Our small size also gives our staff the time to create higher quality meals and handle special requests. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are always available.

Go back through the glass doors and follow the stairs up to the next floor. Step through the doors into the hallway by the Dining Hall.

Campus Center

From the Residence Halls, walk back towards the exterior stairs. Enter the building to the right at the lower level, then go through the doors into the Pool Room.
Continue past the **dining hall**, and the upper kitchen, through the glass doors, to the atrium. Look out over the **Wooden Waterfall** to the right.

**The Wooden Waterfall** is an occasional gathering place for students, but its primary function these days is as the setting for the class photo. This is also where student-signed copies of the Honor Code are hung. The Honor Code consists of 5 core values: **Integrity, Respect for Others, Passion for the Welfare of Olin College, Openness to Change, and Do Something**, which students abide by in all aspects their lives. This culture respects students and holds them accountable for their own behavior, which means faculty can give take-home exams and leave lab facilities unlocked for after hour use. Students often leave their belongings in public spaces, knowing that their possessions will remain untouched.

**The Campus Center** second and third floors contain the offices for Student Affairs and Resources, Facilities, and the Foundry, which is Olin’s student-run entrepreneurship group and startup incubator.
Academic Center

Continue out of the Campus Center, and walk a short way around the O. Enter the Academic Center through the nearby doors, and then explore.

Machine shops, Labs, and Classes. Oh my! The Academic Center is where most of Olin’s classes are held. Feel free to explore the space using the elevators, the stairs that cross along the front of the building, and the stairwells located at either end of the hallway. In addition to many classrooms, you’ll find the main machine shop, the mini-metal shop, and mechanical stockroom on the first floor, the wood shop, design studios, robotics lab, and SCOPE spaces on the second floor, the Principals of Engineering lab and the electrical stockroom on the third floor, and the Biology, Chemistry, Materials Science, and Electrical labs on the fourth floor. The stockrooms are kept filled with components that are free for academic and personal projects.

Machine Shops (Rooms 103-106) are where students learn and apply many fabrication processes. Every student undergoes basic machine shop training, which includes band saws, drill presses, and belt sanders. Machine Shop supervisors also train students to use any of the machines you see listed on the posters on the walls. Once trained, students can walk into the shop with a ‘buddy’ to weld, turn, mill, CNC mill, laser cut and water-jet cut on the machines. Untrained students can “work order” their piece by applying their own, and having their design approved by the staff. Use of machines and work orders is free and available for both academic and personal projects.
**Project Teams** are one of the most influential pieces of many students’ Olin education. Outside of the classroom, team members gain experience working on long term industrial design projects centered around their field of interest. The Human Powered Vehicle team (1) designs a hyper-efficient recumbent cycle for an annual competition. The Mini-Baja team (2) builds an off-road vehicle each year to compete in SAE MiniBaja competitions. The Research of Electric Vehicles at Olin team (3) constructs electric vehicles for Formula SAE Electric competitions. The Olin Robotic Sailing team (4) is working to engineer an autonomous sailboat that will complete a transatlantic voyage.
Design Studios (Rooms 204-209) are Post-It filled wonderlands where teams can put their ideas and frameworks on the walls for the entire semester. Most design classes are held in the studios and the running joke is that Olin is single-handedly keeping 3M in business.

Design Nature is a class taken by first-semester, First Year students where most get their first taste of a formal design process. In the first half of the semester, students work on nature-inspired “hoppers,” setting their own goals while learning about and implementing the design timeline. Afterwards, they form teams of 4-5 to create an animal toy for 4th graders who come at the end of the semester to evaluate their projects! You’ll find some of the toys students created displayed in a cabinet next to the elevators on the second floor.

User-Oriented Collaborative Design is where students learn how to design for real people. You’ll see displays of student work from UOCD on the walls outside of the design studio. Students select a user group (e.g. bike messengers) and design a product for them. They learn as much as they can about the user group, identify key Areas of Opportunity, and then brainstorm about 100s of ideas before selecting one or two to bring forward. These ideas are refined and formalized to become a product or service that addresses the user’s needs and respects their values, all while creating a significant impact in their lives. By keeping users in mind from start to finish, design at Olin begins and ends with people.

Principles of Engineering (Room 306) is a class where teams of 4-5 students are each given a budget and are given free reign to create any project so long as it includes significant mechanical, electrical, and software components. The extraordinarily creative output of this class, along with successes that Olin students find at hackathons, often feature on tech websites and other media.
In SCOPE, the Senior Capstone Program in Engineering, companies donate $50,000 to Olin in order to sponsor teams of seniors to work on a real-world project for them. The list of companies includes Microsoft, Facebook, Intuit, Boeing, Raytheon, and AGCO as well as local groups like Boston Scientific and Locus Robotics. We have many more proposals from interested sponsors than teams. As a result, we can select projects that our students are interested in while also providing a desirable learning experience: the project should not be too big (a company’s lifeblood) or too small. The SCOPE office creates teams based on student interests, skills, and social factors.

ADE, Affordable Design and Entrepreneurship, is an alternate Capstone Engineering program. Students work with non-profits in places such as India, Ghana, and rural Mississippi, developing a keen awareness of the social, economic, and technologic ecosystem, and designing sustainable solutions for their target group of people.

Research is just one more avenue for Oliners to pursue their passions. Starting their first semester, students have the opportunity to conduct research with faculty during the academic year and over the summer. The Robotics lab (room 226) has produced many exciting results. A great deal of education research takes place at Olin, due in large part to the dedication that Olin’s faculty members have for their educational practice. The Materials Science labs (room 413), Biology labs (room 404 and 406), and Chemistry labs (room 409) all provide further avenues for research or independent study. Numerous students have published their work in scholarly journals as authors.
This is the end of the self-guided tour. If you have any further questions or comments, please email us at info@olin.edu, or call 781-292-2222 during office hours. We also encourage you to explore our website, www.olin.edu.

You may keep this guide or return it to the Admission Office in Milas Hall.