

MSE 6754 Syllabus

Engineering Communication MSE 6754, Section A, 3 credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

This course focuses on advanced skills in writing and editing, designing visuals, and creating and delivering presentations. Students will learn the fundamentals of writing clear and concise engineering prose and will produce professional documents based on their current research.

Applying principles of effective editing, students will analyze research articles and other documents and edit them for clarity and coherence. Students will gain experience creating and delivering a three-minute thesis (3MT) presentation for non-technical audiences and a conference-style technical presentation, both in electronic media and other forms, and will evaluate the presentations of their peers. Each presentation will have a specific purpose defined and the presentations will be recorded so that students can evaluate their own presentations and assess their progress.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Write clear and well-structured scientific and engineering texts (e.g., articles, dissertation chapters, proposals).
- Apply principles of organization, paragraph structure, and sentence-level clarity to revise drafts for coherence and readability.
- Critically evaluate and edit peers' scientific and technical texts using established editing criteria and provide constructive, actionable feedback.
- Know how to structure technical oral presentations to convey content effectively.

- Design slides that enhance (rather than undermine) the story told in a technical oral presentation.

Required Course Materials

None.

Grading Policy:

Though peer evaluations will be done on many assignments, the peer review score will not be considered when assigning the grade. I will be the final determiner of the grades for any in-class work, quizzes, tests, presentations, and papers. Active participation is part of your grade, which includes all in-class activities or out of class assignments, including peer reviews, self-evaluations, and all formal assignments.

There will be no final exam. Final grade will be based on the following assignment groups:

Attendance	15%
Preps for in-class exercises	20%
Writing assignments	25%
3MT	20%
Conference-style presentation	20%
Total	100%

A>90; B>80; C>70; D>60

Description of Graded Components

Preps work for in-class exercises will be assigned as homework and cannot be made up. I.e., if you do not submit them before the start of the class for which they are due, you will receive a score of zero that cannot be made up. This is because these assignments are indispensable for the in-class work. Presentation grades include three components: a draft presentation to be workshopped in class, a revised presentation and its delivery, and a reflection on your performance.

Course Policies

Electronic Devices in Class

This is a small interactive class during which you will be expected to be fully engaged in discussion. Only use your devices to take notes (and this will rarely be necessary), to take pictures of the white board, or to do some other class activity that is requested. Please **do not**

email, text, or otherwise do non-class activity on your devices. I expect that the majority of the time your devices will be stowed during class.

Attendance

Attendance is required for all classes. Missing class means you miss assignments that it may or may not be possible to make up. Students who know that they will miss a class to attend a conference or out of town professional interview must inform me well before the date. Each unexcused absence will lower a student's final grade by ½ a letter grade. Excused absences require documentation, and a student may only have 2 excused absences during a semester.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Collaborative work is not just allowed but encouraged in this course. Indeed, it lies at its very core. The use of large language models (LLMs) to do your homework is not allowed, unless you are instructed to do so. There are some instances in which LLMs can be used productively in writing (and I will alert you to those instances and explicitly direct you to use LLMs in those

cases). However, for the most part, learning happens through an active engagement of your brain, i.e., through what your brain does when you perform an analysis, not through (simply reading) its results. If you're curious why, check out [this study \(called "Your Brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of Cognitive Debt When Using an AI Assistant for Essay Writing Task"\)](#)

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Some assignments, such as post-presentation reflections, can be made up/submitted late, although a late penalty will apply. However, assignments that form the basis for in-class work cannot be made up; if you fail to submit them before the start of class, you will receive a zero that cannot be replaced.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In case of inclement weather, the class will, as a rule, meet online (Zoom or Teams).