

# Doctoral Thesis – PSYC 9000 (Fall 2026)

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## Course Information

Course Number: 80268

Instructor: Rick Thomas

## Course Description

This course provides academic credit for independent research conducted under the supervision of a Georgia Tech faculty advisor. The course does not involve regular class meetings, assignments, or examinations. The scope and direction of research are determined by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor, consistent with the requirements of the degree program. Students are expected to demonstrate sustained progress, intellectual independence, and increasing scholarly sophistication appropriate to their level of training.

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Engage in independent research under faculty supervision.
2. Formulate research questions grounded in theory and prior literature.
3. Apply appropriate methodological, analytical, and/or computational approaches.
4. Communicate research progress effectively with advisors and, where applicable, committees.
5. Demonstrate ethical and responsible research practices.

## Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Resources for research are determined in consultation with the thesis advisor.

## Grading Policy

This course is graded on a Satisfactory (S) / Unsatisfactory (U) basis.

A grade of Satisfactory (S) indicates that the student has made acceptable and meaningful progress in their research toward degree completion, consistent with the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled.

A grade of Unsatisfactory (U) indicates that the student did not meet expectations for progress, engagement, or research activity during the term.

## **Attendance Policy**

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. Students conduct independent research under the supervision of a thesis advisor. The frequency and format of student–advisor interaction are determined by mutual agreement.

## **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.

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All thesis students are required to complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training and adhere to institutional and federal guidelines.

Allegations of misconduct are handled according to Georgia Tech policy.

## **Core Impacts**

Not applicable.

## **Disability**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible and provide documentation.

## **Expectations**

Mutual respect, responsibility, and professionalism are expected. Students are responsible for maintaining communication with advisors and demonstrating consistent research progress.