

Research Assistantship

Course Information

Instructor: Nathan McDonald (nathan.mcdonald@gatech.edu)

Course Prefix and Number: BIOL 8998 MCD

Term: Fall 2026

Course Description

This course is for students holding graduate research assistantships (GRAs) as recognition of the academic contributions of GRA positions to a student's overall educational experience.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Gain experience in conducting research

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required.

Grading Policy

This course is taken on an Audit basis and is not graded.

Attendance Policy

This course does not include scheduled class meetings.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

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 the student

[Code of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Honor Code](#), especially [Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code](#).

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All Doctoral and Master's Thesis students are required to take the [Responsible Conduct of Research training](#), and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research.

Allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined by the [Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific or Other Scholarly Misconduct](#).

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) 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.

Expectations of Graduate Research Assistants

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 [Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of your advisor and that they can have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. In addition, a GRA must meet the employment performance expectations and conduct outlined in the [Graduate Student Employment Manual](#).