

Preparation for Doctoral Dissertation

Course Information

Instructor: Daniela Staiculescu (daniela@ece.gatech.edu)

Course Prefix and Number: ECE 8999 ATL

Term: Fall 2026

Course Description

This permit-required course is reserved for students who are actively seeking MS thesis or Ph.D. advisors and /or dissertation topics.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Have the opportunity to work with various professors to secure a MS Thesis or a PhD Advisor

Required Course Materials

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

Grading Policy

This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

The grade will be assigned based on the student participation in doing research in one or more research groups with the goal of securing a thesis/dissertation advisor. The grading is based on participation and not on securing an advisor. More precisely, the student will receive a pass grade if they made efforts to secure an advisor, even if they were not successful at the end of the term. In that case, the class can be taken again the following term.

Attendance Policy

This course does not include scheduled class meetings. The frequency and format of student-faculty contact are determined by mutual agreement and are consistent with the number of credit hours for which the student is enrolled.

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.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing 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.

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.

Student-Faculty Expectations

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](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Additional information for research-related work is given in [The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees](#). 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.