Professional Communication Seminar

Course Information

Instructor: Daniela Staiculescu (daniela@ece.gatech.edu)
Course Prefix and Number: ECE 8022 A
Term: Fall 2026

Course Description

Required course for ECE PhD students. The course introduces oral and written technical communication skills and other professional skills needed by electrical and computer engineering professionals at the Ph.D. level. Seminar topics are variable, but typically include the Ph.D. proposal examination, research papers and proposals, classroom instruction, resumes, obtaining research funding, patents, intellectual property, academic job search, and funding startup companies.

Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Improve communication skills
2. Become more familiar with industry and academic jobs
3. Learn more about the PhD proposal and dissertation
4. Learn about various aspects of intellectual property
5. Learn about funding research labs and startups

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required.

Grading Policy

This is a pass/fail course. The grading system is as follows:

- Each student begins with 100 points.
- Points are deducted for the various events listed below.
- A passing grade is 55 points.

Absent from a class -10 points/class missed. If 4 classes are missed, it is an automatic fail.

Failure to complete the proofreading exercise, online rules quiz after the first class, the final course-specific (not CIOS) survey, or any similar assignments -5 points/each.

Test: Actual test deductions. For example, a grade of 80 out of 100 points on the test counts as -20 points.

The purpose of this system is to allow students to miss a couple of classes to meet other obligations (conferences, for instance) or due to illnesses, make an average score on the quiz, and still easily pass the class. Using a point system allows some flexibility in meeting the pass/fail requirement.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required and an important part of the grade.

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.