

# EAS 9000 – Doctoral Thesis

## Course Information

**Instructor:** Prof. Jennifer Bowen (jenniferbowen@gatech.edu)

**Course Prefix and Number:** EAS 9000

**CRN:** 93415

**Term:** Fall 2026

## Course Description

This course provides academic credit for independent thesis 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 collectively by the student and thesis advisor, and must be approved by the thesis advisor, consistent with the requirements of the degree program.

## Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Carry out independent research under faculty supervision
2. Demonstrate ability to properly identify and/or generate reliable data
3. Read and apply information obtained from professional journals and other sources
4. Gain experience in formulating research questions and applying methods appropriate to their discipline
5. Use a reflective and iterative approach to problem solving
6. Demonstrate an ability to work independently and identify when guidance is needed
7. Accept constructive criticism and use feedback effectively
8. Use information in ways that demonstrate intellectual resourcefulness
9. Demonstrate an ability to interpret, evaluate, and create visual representations of ideas
10. Express ideas orally in an organized, clear, and concise manner
11. Show understanding of the importance of principles of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
12. Communicate research activity through regular interactions with their thesis advisor and, as applicable, their Thesis Advisory Committee

## Required Course Materials

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

## Expectations of Advisors and Advisees

Students will discuss with Prof. Bowen and agree on expectations before beginning the course. Expectations should include the student's weekly time commitment for thesis

research relative to other responsibilities; methods and frequency of communication between the student and mentor(s); how research will be recorded, stored, and shared; how support will be provided; how research progress will be documented and communicated; and when and how students will reflect on their successes and challenges.

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 me and that I have of you. Disruptive behavior, harassment, or conduct that interferes with the learning of others is not acceptable. 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.

### 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 progress in their research toward degree completion, consistent with the number of thesis credit hours for which the student is enrolled for the semester.
- A grade of **Unsatisfactory (U)** indicates that the student did not meet the expectations for satisfactory performance 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 contact are determined by mutual agreement.

### 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 for this thesis course.

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](#).

### 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.