

ID 6400 Master Project Syllabus

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: ID 6400 - KDS

Credit Hours: 1-12 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kevin Shankwiler

Email: kshankwiler@gatech.edu

Course Description

All MID students will develop an independent masters-level thesis or project. The thesis/project will engage problems in design which may be theoretical, applied, or innovative in nature. All master students demonstrate through the thesis/project the ability to define a design challenge or research question which is framed within an existing body of knowledge, conduct design research to objectively investigate the challenge/question, develop and implement methods to objectively investigate the question, demonstrate the ability to apply results of investigations to design practice, and communicate the results in written and verbal form.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students are expected to demonstrate knowledge, skill and abilities in the following areas:

- Define a design problem or challenge related to a chosen topic of interest that can be investigated
- Demonstrate understanding of previous work and the current state of the art in the chosen area
- Demonstrate ability to develop and implement valid methods to investigate the problem/challenge
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret data from the investigation and draw valid conclusions
- Persuasively present conclusions and impacts from the results orally and in writing

Required Course Materials

MID Handbook: [MID Handbook 2023 - 2024 r1.pdf](#)

Theses & Dissertations Resources: <https://grad.gatech.edu/theses-dissertations>[Links to an external site.](#)

Grading Policy and Weighting

To be determine with student.

Attendance Policy

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

Additional Criteria for Successful Completion of the Course

Each student has a \$500 budget to use on their Master Thesis/Project. Please see the MID Handbook for spending and reimbursement guidelines.

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](#).

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.

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.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.