

CSE 8999: Doctoral Thesis Preparation

Georgia Institute of Technology

Summer 2026 / Fall 2026

Instructor: Prof. Spencer Bryngelson

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Course Description

Preparation for the doctoral dissertation under the direction of the thesis advisor. Students conduct preliminary research, develop their thesis proposal, and prepare for the qualifying or proposal examination.

Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Formulate a well-defined research problem and thesis proposal.
- Conduct a thorough literature review in their area of specialization.
- Develop a research methodology and preliminary results.
- Prepare for and present a thesis proposal to the doctoral committee.

Required Course Materials

None. Materials specific to the student's research will be identified by the thesis advisor.

Grading Policy

- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading.
- Evaluation is based on research progress and preparation milestones as determined by the thesis advisor.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to meet regularly with the thesis advisor on a schedule determined at the start of the semester. Absences should be communicated to the advisor in advance.

Additional Criteria for Successful Completion

Students must make satisfactory progress toward doctoral thesis preparation as determined by the thesis advisor.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. All work submitted must be the student's own. Any violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

Student–Faculty Expectations Agreement

Students and faculty are expected to abide by the Student–Faculty Expectations Agreement. This agreement outlines mutual responsibilities for maintaining a productive and respectful learning environment.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities who require accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to establish eligibility and to coordinate accommodations. Students are encouraged to register with ODS at the beginning of each semester.