

ECON-9000

Doctoral Thesis*

Prof. Casey Wichman
Georgia Institute of Technology

Summer 2026

Section: CW

Course meeting time: N/A

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 by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor, consistent with the requirements of the degree program.

1 Course Information

1.1 Course learning outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Engage in independent research under faculty supervision.
2. Gain experience in formulating research questions and applying methods appropriate to their discipline.
3. Communicate research activity through interactions with their thesis advisor and, as applicable, their Thesis Advisory Committee.

1.2 Required course materials

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

*Prof. Casey Wichman: wichman@gatech.edu, Associate Professor, School of Economics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 221 Bobby Dodd Way, Atlanta, GA 30332. **Last update:** April 12, 2026.

1.3 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.

1.4 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.

1.5 Additional criteria for successful completion

Students must maintain satisfactory research progress as determined by their thesis advisor. All doctoral thesis students are required to complete the Responsible Conduct of Research training and are expected to abide by its principles throughout the course.

1.6 Academic integrity

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. 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.

1.7 Student-Faculty expectations agreement

At Georgia Tech, it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. 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 course.

1.8 Accommodations for students with disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, 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 to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.