

BMED-7004 Syllabus

Teaching and Research Practicum I, Fall 2026 Academic Term

Time: Friday, 11:00 am - 12:55pm

Note: The course will meet roughly every other week for a total of 8 class sessions. Five of these sessions focus on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and research ethics. An additional ninth meeting will be offered as a make-up opportunity for students who miss one ethics session. Students must attend at least four of the five ethics sessions to satisfy the RCR training requirement for this course.

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email
Rachael Pitts Hall	rachael.pittshall@bme.gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

This course provides practical frameworks to help students navigate challenges encountered as teaching assistants and researchers. It includes training on key teaching topics as well as discussions on ethical issues in biomedical research. The course fulfills Georgia Tech's requirement of eight hours of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training for doctoral students and partially satisfies Emory's Laney Graduate School requirements for program-specific content in Scholarly Integrity.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

- Completion of TATTO 600 at Emory
- Concurrent with first semester of teaching assistantship

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

1. Design and deliver student-centered learning experiences that promote engagement and understanding.
2. Effectively manage group and classroom dynamics, including addressing incivility when it arises.
3. Collaborate professionally with faculty and peers, coordinating responsibilities with clarity and respect.
4. Recognize teaching as a transferable skill applicable to a wide range of career paths.
5. Reflect critically on teaching practices to support continuous improvement.
6. Explain foundational principles of research ethics.
7. Identify and apply strategies for addressing ethical challenges in research settings.
8. Demonstrate professional conduct and integrity in academic and research environments.

Grading

Assignment	Points
Attendance and active participation online and in person	40
Learning portfolio	40
Check-in meetings	10
Instructor rating of TA*	10
total	100

*For full credit in the "instructor rating" portion of the grade, the TA must receive a rating of at least 3/5 in "overall assessment" from their instructor of record in the TA evaluation at the end of the semester.

Grading Scale

This is a pass/fail class, and grades are assigned as follows:

S = 80% and above

U = 79% or below

Additional Criteria for Successful Completion

In addition to meeting the grading threshold, students must meet the following criteria to earn a satisfactory (S) grade:

- No more than two absences (excused or unexcused)
- Completion of required make-up work for any missed sessions
- A rating of at least 3/5 on the TA evaluation from the instructor of record
- Completion of at least 8 hours of synchronous RCR training, i.e. attendance in at least 4 of the 5 ethics sessions

Failure to satisfy any of the above criteria will result in a grade of U for the course, regardless of the total points earned.

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks for this course. All required and supplemental materials will be provided via Canvas.

Additional course details, including assignment descriptions, policies, and schedules, are available on Canvas.

Course Policies & Guidelines

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and active participation are required for all course sessions. Because this course is discussion-based and meets a limited number of times, each session is essential to your learning and to the learning of others. Students are expected to arrive on time, remain for the full session, and engage respectfully in course activities. More than two absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a grade of U for the course. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for notifying the instructor and completing an approved alternative assignment to engage with the missed material.

Because this course fulfills Georgia Tech's requirement for 8 hours of synchronous RCR training, attendance at ethics sessions is subject to additional requirements. Students must attend at least four of the five scheduled ethics sessions. Students who anticipate missing an ethics session are expected to attend the designated make-up session. Students who do not complete at least four ethics sessions (including the make-up option, if applicable) will not fulfill the RCR requirement and will receive a grade of U for the course.

Excused absences are granted in accordance with Georgia Tech policies. See [GT handbook](#) for more information: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/>. Additional details regarding attendance expectations, documentation, and make-up work are available on Canvas.

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 Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment or, in the case of a teaching assistant, providing answers to a graded assignment before it is graded will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

The Honor Code can also be applied to your role as a TA, so do your best to act with integrity in the position. If you have any questions about the ethics of an action, please reach out to your instructor of record, Dr. Pitts Hall, or another faculty member whom you trust for guidance.

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.

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](#) articulate 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 class.

Students are expected to maintain respectful and professional behavior in accordance with Georgia Tech's Student Code of Conduct and the Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement. Disruptive behavior that interferes with the learning environment will not be tolerated.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Campus Resources for Students

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Resources

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;
- [Student Resources](#) such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and
- [Professional Development](#) such as the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))

More resources on supporting student well-being on the syllabus and beyond are available through the [Learning Well Initiative](#).