GT 1000 – First Year Seminar
Section ES1 (CRN 86147)
Fall 2026

WELCOME TO GT 1000! This seminar course is designed to help you make a successful transition to college by becoming better acquainted with the academic and social environments here at Georgia Tech. Through the course, you will acquire strategies that promote academic, social, and professional success! This is a highly interactive course that requires active student participation and working collaboratively in small groups.

For Clark Scholars:
This seminar course is designed for first-year COE Scholars in the Clark Scholars Programs to support a successful transition to college by becoming better acquainted with the academic and social environments here at Georgia Tech and the engineering profession. Through intentional reflection, collaborative engagement, career readiness development, and community building, scholars will explore their identities as scholars, engineers, leaders, and members of the Georgia Tech community.

Course Learning Outcomes & Objectives

1. Develop self-awareness & self-knowledge, particularly as it relates to academic interests and professional goals.
2. Describe their path to graduation and identify opportunities for academic and professional enrichment with the assistance of a faculty member or advisor.
3. Demonstrate the ability to lead and productively participate in collaborative projects.

Additional Objectives for Clark Scholars:
1. Demonstrate collaboration, communication, and leadership skills in team-based environments.
2. Reflect on engineering identity and societal impact.
3. Apply Career Readiness @ Tech competencies through exploration and learning.

Instructors, Team Leaders, and Office Hours

Instructor: Chirag Patel, Ed.M, MAT
Email: chirag.patel@coe.gatech.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only

Team Leader (TL): Alvaro Arcila Saldarriaga
Email: aarcila6@gatech.edu
Major: COE

Class Schedule and Location

Meeting Day & Time: Fridays from 12:30 – 1:20 PM (other days and times as noted on schedule)
Location: Swann 106

Grading

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

• Participation & Attendance	25%
• Team Project	25%
• Design Your Academic Plan	25%
• Career Exploration Project	25%
• **Total**	**100%**

Grade Scale

A 100%-90%

B 89%-80%

C 79%-70%

D 69%-60%

F <60%

Required Materials

None

Attendance Policy

This class is designed for students to become active participants, so it's vital that all students attend each class session and are fully engaged in all class activities. This means that you'll need to do more than just show up at the appointed time and place—you'll also need to come to class prepared to participate. Please attend every scheduled meeting on time. That said, if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness (fever over 100.4 F, coughing, nausea, etc.), please stay home to rest, seek medical attention if appropriate, and contact me as soon as possible. Excessive lateness and absences (3 or more per semester) can negatively impact your final grade outcome. If you have extenuating circumstances, I will try and work with you to address those challenges. Please communicate early and often if you are struggling with issues that may call for accommodations.

Criteria for Successful Completion and Acceptable Student Conduct

Creating an engaging and productive class experience is the responsibility of both the instructor and the students involved. To ensure you are getting the most out of our class and contributing positively to our learning environment, please be mindful of the following:

1. Please create a habit of checking your GT e-mail and Canvas daily. Important class announcements and information will be posted to Canvas, and you want to make sure you're fully equipped for success.

2. Grades will be posted to Canvas throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of your submitted assignments and grade progress throughout the semester. If something seems missing or off to you, please reach out to me to discuss

3. GT 1000 is designed to be informative, helpful, and fun! However, the class is graded and does carry one credit towards your degree. For that reason, it is important that all assignments you submit be high quality. Please double check your work for spelling, capitalization, and grammatical errors. This practice is also good for creating a habit of professionalism.

4. You can expect that as your GT 1000 instructor, I will come to class each day ready to engage you in learning about Georgia Tech and learning how to be successful academically and professionally. Each session will be structured to encourage your active participation, so please come prepared to participate and contribute to the class.

5. To ensure everyone feels safe, heard, and able to learn in our class, please demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior at all times. This means that you should speak and act in a respectful manner towards your classmates, your Team Leader, and your instructor. To review the Student Code of Conduct, please visit https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-code-conductLinks to an external site.

Academic Integrity Statement

GT 1000 is a class based in your own discovery, exploration, and reflection of what you want your time at Tech and professional life to be. Unpacking your thought processes based on information you acquire through campus resources is a major component of the assignments. Therefore, the use of AI is strongly discouraged. If you wish to use AI as part of your brainstorming process, that is fine; however, per the Georgia Tech Honor Code, no work produced via AI should be submitted as your own. If you have questions about what constitutes acceptable use, please see the instructor. The Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code applies to all work submitted in this course. To review the Honor Code, please visit https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academichonor-code.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify me as soon as possible so we can resolve the issue. Students with disabilities should also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), whose purpose is to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff to create a campus environment that ensures all students have an equal opportunity to access the Georgia Tech community. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, dsinfo@gatech.edu, or disabilityservices.gatech.edu Please contact me ahead of time to discuss any issues related to disabilities. I am happy to work with you.

Technology

Technology will be used to deliver content, provide resources, assess learning, and facilitate interaction. Primarily we will be using our course management system, **Canvas**, for offering class-related content and submitting class assignments**. You can access Canvas at** http://gatech.instructure.com and you will need to log in with your GT Account information. If you do not have regular access to a computer, GT computer areas are available on campus, and the library has equipment resources available for check-out (see https://library.gatech.edu/computingLinks to an external site.).

Course Assignments

Attendance and Participation (25 points) This class is designed for students to become active, engaged participants, so it's vital that all students attend each class session and are fully engaged in all class activities. The success of our class depends on student participation, so you'll earn points for your class participation. This means that you'll need to do more than just show up at the appointed time and place—you'll also need to come to class prepared to participate and ready to engage with your peers. To earn full credit for your attendance and participation, you will need to attend all classes and be actively engaged in class discussions and activities.

Team Design Project (25 points): One of the most important skills any person can learn is the ability to collaborate productively with a team and to demonstrate the ability to lead. This project is designed to help you develop the skills you'll need to effectively work with your peers in a collaborative environment—whether that's in a class group project, your senior design or capstone experience, or in the professional world. **The members of your team will present the project to the class and be asked to answer questions.** ***See presentation, handout, and rubric for more details.***

Your Path in COE: Design Your Academic Plan (25 points): This assignment will help you to map out your path to graduation and to think about how your current major aligns with your interests, strengths, and goals. For this assignment, you will delve deeper into your academic plan. This assignment will include multiple elements, all designed to help you on your path to graduation. **This assignment has two parts: a degree map and a reflection essay.** ***See presentation, handout, and rubric for more details.***

Career Exploration Project (25 points): This project is designed to help you think critically about your goals, values, and sense of purpose as you continue—or perhaps begin—to consider your plans after Tech. This assignment will ask you to reflect on your goals, ideate your future, prototype your plans, and take an active step forward in your career development plan. **This assignment has two parts: a resume and a reflection essay.** ***See presentation, handout, and rubric for more details.***

Georgia Tech Values Statement

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success, and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our strategic plan (https://strategicplan.gatech.edu/valuesLinks to an external site.), we want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

Student Use of Artificial Intelligence

GT 1000 is a class based in your own discovery, exploration, and reflection of what you want your time at Tech and professional life to be. Unpacking your thought processes based on information you acquire through campus resources is a major component of the assignments. Therefore, the use of AI is strongly discouraged. If you wish to use AI as part of your brainstorming process, that is fine; however, per the Georgia Tech Honor Code, no work produced via AI should be submitted as your own. If you have questions about what constitutes acceptable use, please see me.

Communication

As your professor, I welcome having conversations with you whenever possible. The best ways to reach me are before or after class, during office hours (appointment only), or by email. When emailing, you usually can expect a response within 24 hours. Communications received Monday through Thursday after 5:00 p.m. generally will be returned the next day. On the weekend or when I'm away from campus, my response may be longer in coming.

When corresponding by email, I will communicate with you using only your GT email account. This is to protect your sensitive personal information, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Please check your email account every day, so that you do not miss important information regarding the class or other key announcements.

Collaboration and Group Work

Our class will often engage in collaborative discussion and activities. You also will participate in a group project. In general, collaborating with your classmates is an encouraged practice. However, other than the Team Project contract and presentation materials, the work you submit under your name should be your own--not that of others or of AI. If you have any questions about what constitutes allowable collaboration, please see me to discuss.

Career Readiness @ Tech Integration

This course integrates three Career Readiness @ Tech sessions during the semester, along with customized, out-of-class sessions with the Career Readiness team in the Career Center to discuss your own personal needs and trajectory. The framework supports scholars in developing competencies necessary for success in engineering, leadership, and lifelong career development. The in-class sessions are based on Georgia Tech's Three Es as defined below:

1. **EXPAND** Your Skills
    a. How to obtain the skills that will ensure scholar success both at Georgia Tech and in the real world
        i. Communication
        ii. Teamwork
        iii. Networking & Connection
        iv. Problem-solving & Critical Thinking
        v. Gaining Global Perspectives
        vi. Leadership & Influence
        vii. Professionalism

2. Deepen Your **EXPERTISE**
    a. How to obtain discipline-specific technical skill development and industry-specific knowledge, along with other high-impact practices for success

3. **ENGAGE** & Evolve on Your Career Journey
    a. How to implement action and reflection on your journey to continuously grow and improve

Through these sessions and integrated GT 1000 benchmark assignments, scholars will work toward satisfying the ABET Student Outcomes that align with COE accreditation initiatives:

- *Develop professional communication, teamwork, and collaboration skills*
- *Explore engineering industries and career pathways*
- *Build professional confidence and leadership capacity*
- *Connect academic experiences to future career goals*
- *Learn how to intentionally pursue internships, co-ops, undergraduate research, and other experiential learning opportunities*
- *Engage in reflection and action planning related to their intended career pathway*

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1 **8/28**	**Introduction to GT 1000 & COE Scholars Community** *Course Introduction & Community Building* *Overview of COE Scholars Program*	**Last day to Add/Drop for Phase II**
Week 2 **9/4**	**Navigating Transition to College - TBD**	
Week 3 **9/11**	**Introduction to Team Design Project** *CliftonStrengths Assessment* *Team Contract and Expectations*	*Deliverables: CliftonStrengths Assessment and Team Contracts*
Week 4 **9/17 (Thurs)**	**Career Readiness @ Tech Workshop 1 (9/17)** *EXPAND Your Skills*	**CliftonStrengths Assessment Due**
Week 4 **9/18**	**Navigating GT & Academic Success** *Academic Policies & Support Services*	
Week 5 **9/25**	**NO CLASS**	**Team Contracts Due**
Week 6 **10/2**	**Degree Mapping** *Owning Your Academic Path to Graduation*	*Deliverables: 4-Year Degree Map/Academic Plan*
Week 7 **10/8 (Thurs)**	**Career Readiness @ Tech Workshop 2** *Deepen Your EXPERTISE*	
Week 7 **10/9**	**Clark Alumni Panel**	
Week 8 **10/16**	**Philanthropy** *Leaders in Progress & Service, Philanthropy Challenge, COE Scholars Program Involvement, and Alternative Spring Breaks (ASB)*	
Week 9 **10/23**	**NO CLASS**	
Week 10 **10/30**	**Experiential Learning - UROP** *Undergraduate Research in COE*	**10/31 – Withdrawal Deadline**
Week 11 **11/6**	**Career Exploration** *Thinking Ahead to Your Career*	*Deliverables: Resume First Draft, Final Resume, and Career Exploration Project*
Week 12 **11/12 (Thurs)**	**Career Readiness @ Tech Workshop 3** *ENGAGE & Evolve on Your Career Journey*	**Resume First Draft Due**
Week 12 **11/13**	**Study Abroad** *Programs Abroad through OIE*	
Week 13 **11/20**	**Team Design Project Presentations** *In-Class Presentations*	**Degree Map Due** **Academic Plan Reflection Due**
Week 14 **11/27**	**Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS**	
Week 15 **12/4**	**Final Semester Reflection Discussion**	**Team Design Project Due**
Week 16 **12/11**	**Final Exams – NO CLASS**	**Resume Final Draft Due** **Career Exploration Project Due**