

Online Master of Science in Computer Science (OMSCS)

Fall 2026

Fall 2026 OMSCS Orientation Document

Welcome to the OMSCS program! The faculty and staff at the College of Computing are looking forward to working with you for the duration of your time at Georgia Tech.

We encourage you to register for the OMSCS Onboarding course, watch its lessons, and join the New Student online forum, in addition to reading this document carefully and in its entirety.

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SECTION A. ACADEMIC POLICIES

As a Georgia Tech student, you are responsible for knowing these academic policies and information:

- Academic Catalog
- Academic Honor Code
- Student/Faculty Expectations
- Expectations of Advisors and Advisees

SECTION B. FOUNDATIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENT

1. You have one calendar year from the time you matriculate to complete the foundational course requirement.
2. If this is your first term as a new admit, you have Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer 2027 to complete the foundational course requirement.
3. The foundational course requirement is a minimum grade of "B" in two foundational courses.
4. The foundational courses are those with an asterisk (*) listed on the "Current Courses" webpage.
5. If at any point during the first three consecutive terms after you matriculate you make less than a "B" in a foundational course, that term still counts as part of your one-year time frame to complete the requirement.
    - For example, if you earn a "C" or below during your first semester (Fall 2026), you still would have two semesters (Spring 2027 and Summer 2027) to fulfill the requirement, as long as you have not been academically dismissed (please see Section K. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) for information regarding academic standing).
    - To clarify further, you do not need to fulfill the foundational requirement with the first two courses you attempt/enroll in as part of the OMSCS program — you simply need to fulfill the requirement within the one-year time frame (again, as long as you abide by the Institute's guidelines for academic standing).
6. If at any point during the first three consecutive terms after you matriculate you withdraw from a foundational course, that term still counts as part of your one-year time frame to complete this requirement.
7. ***For new Fall 2026 students who matriculate this semester, you will be restricted to enrolling only in foundational courses (or OMSCS seminars) until you have satisfied the foundational course requirement.***

SECTION C. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Please take time to view the current MSCS degree requirements here. The OMSCS program has the same DEGREE REQUIREMENTS as the on-campus MSCS program but offers fewer areas of specialization and fewer courses.

1. Students must complete 30 credit hours (10 total courses) for the degree.
2. Students must declare one specialization. 15-18 hours comprise the "Area of Specialization".
3. The remaining 12-15 hours comprise "free" electives. The electives are any OMSCS course not used in the "Area of Specialization". Please note #8 below regarding the limit of 4000-level and/or non-CS/CSE courses.
4. OMSCS students should expect to complete the "Course" option.
5. Students must earn at least a "B" in all courses in their chosen "Area of Specialization".
6. Students must earn at least a "C" in all courses counting toward their "free" elective requirement.
7. Students must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to graduate.
8. A maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE.
9. Students must complete the degree in six years as per the Institute's policy. Therefore, if you matriculate during the Fall 2026 term, you must fulfill the degree requirements by the end of the Summer 2032 term.
10. If you previously completed courses at Georgia Tech, specifically undergraduate/graduate Computer Science (CS) or other CS-related undergraduate/graduate courses, you will be responsible for researching whether or not the course(s) are considered to be "equivalent" to OMSCS courses, as these credits cannot count toward your OMSCS degree program. Please visit our website, and please refer to SECTION K. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) for more information.
11. The following "Areas of Specialization" are available through the OMSCS program:
    - Artificial Intelligence (formerly known as Interactive Intelligence)
    - Computational Perception and Robotics
    - Computer Graphics
    - Computing Systems
    - Human-Computer Interaction
    - Machine Learning

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SECTION D. REGISTRATION TIME TICKETS

Your time ticket will tell you the specific date and time you are allowed to *begin* registering for classes.

- You will be able to view your time ticket on August 13 at or shortly after 6:00pm ET.

To check your time ticket assignment, please follow the directions on the Registrar's website: https://registrar.gatech.edu/registration/time-tickets.

Please note that time tickets are issued by the Registrar's Office and are assigned based on earned hours.

Also, please keep in mind that graduate students typically are the last student population to register, as undergraduate students and students who are part of a group that gets priority registration (Presidential Fellows, Office of Disability Services, members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), military veterans currently utilizing G.I. Bill benefits, etc.) register before graduate students. **Therefore, it is not uncommon for OMSCS students' time tickets to begin several days after the registration period opens.**

SECTION E. REGISTRATION HOLDS

1. Once your account is activated, you must check to see if you have any holds that might prevent registration. Instructions on how to view holds are available online.

2. If you have a hold on your account, you **MUST** clear it before you can register for classes. **You must contact the department who placed the hold, as the department who placed the hold is the only department who can remove the hold.**

    - **If you have a Graduate Admissions HOLD:** The Office of Graduate Education is missing documentation (probably your final official transcript). If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact the Office of Graduate Education by visiting their website or calling 404.894.1610.
        - ➢ Please have your documents mailed directly to the Office of Graduate Education (see Section K for the mailing address) or emailed to transcripts@grad.gatech.edu.
        - ➢ **Please note:** If you are a new student starting Fall 2026, you will NOT have a missing document hold placed on your account for transcripts until after registration has ended.
            - o **However, you will want to ensure that you submit all required official transcripts/documents to avoid future holds, especially since those holds could prevent your ability to withdraw from a course in the Fall 2026 semester.**

    - **If you have a Lawful Presence HOLD:** Only the documents listed here can be used to clear this hold. For questions, please send an email to grad.ask@grad.gatech.edu.

    - **If you have an Immunization HOLD:** Please send an email to immunizations@health.gatech.edu to request a hold removal. As a distance learner, you do not need to complete the immunization requirements.

    - **If you have a Financial Agreement HOLD:** A Financial Agreement hold will be placed on **all** students' accounts. This hold will prevent registration; however, you can clear the hold immediately in OSCAR and do not need to wait until your time ticket becomes active. On the Registration menu, select "Financial Responsibility Agreement", read the agreement, enter your initials, and then click "Submit". Successful completion of this task clears the hold from your account and will allow you to continue with registration. For questions, please contact the Bursar's Office at omsbursar.ask@gatech.edu.

    - **If you have a Registrar Location HOLD:** You should be able to clear this hold several days prior to your active time ticket in OSCAR. On the Registration menu, select "Term Study Location Identification", select your location from the pull-down menu, and then click "Submit". Successful completion of this task clears the hold from your account and will allow you to continue with registration.

    - **If you have an OFAC HOLD:** Please contact export@registrar.gatech.edu from your GT email account and include your full name and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

    - **If you have a Civil Discourse Training HOLD:** Note that this only applies to newly-matriculated students who entered Fall 2025 or later. An email is sent each semester to newly-matriculated students with

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information on how and when they can complete Georgia Tech's mandatory online civil discourse training. Failure to complete the training by the stated deadline could result in a registration hold on the student's record. Please contact Student Engagement and Well-Being at vp_sewb@gatech.edu for assistance.

SECTION F. REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- Remember that **all** times and deadlines are based on the Eastern time zone.
- Registration dates can be found on the Academic Calendar on the Registrar's website.
- Registration begins on **August 17 and ends on August 28 at 11:59pm ET.**
- Please check your time ticket to see the exact day and time you can begin registering.
- You will **NOT** be able to add/drop classes **AFTER** 11:59pm ET on Friday, August 28.

To prepare for registration:

1. First, be sure your status is "Student" and NOT "Applicant". You may not activate your GT account until that changes, and **it will change about a week before registration begins**. ***Please do not contact our office prior to the week before registration regarding this, as advisors are unable to change statuses.***

   To check your status:
   - Log into OSCAR using your GT credentials via the Secured Access Login.
   - Select the "Registration" tab.
   - Select "Prepare for Registration".
   - Select the Fall 2026 term.
   - Click "Continue".

   This will take you to a page that shows your "Registration Status". **If you see the, "Your Student Status permits registration" message, you should be set.** If your status is still listed as an "Applicant", you either will receive a message stating that your "Applicant" status prevents you from registering, or you will not have access to the "Registration" tab at all. Please continue to check back for this status to update.

2. Activate your GT email account here.

3. The Institute, as well as the department, will use this email address as your official contact. **You are required to keep it active, and you are *expected* to read your email DAILY as per the Institute's policy. This is true even if you are sitting out a semester.**

   PLEASE NOTE: The Registrar's Office is responsible for updating all admitted students' access in our system, which will prompt OIT to create your GT email account closer to the start of the semester. Once this has been done, it is our understanding that you should receive a message from OIT to your personal email account about how to set up your GT email account. **If you are having issues with activating your GT email account, please contact OIT for assistance.** Unfortunately, TSO will not be able to assist with this.

4. Two-factor authentication is required for all GT students. Please follow the directions online to set up Duo. ***Failing to set up Duo will result in being locked out of your account.***

5. The courses that are available for Fall 2026 can be found by performing a search in OSCAR.

6. *Most* OMSCS courses will have a section of "O" (example: O01, O02, O03, etc.).

7. Registration is first come, first served, so you will want to register as soon as your time ticket opens.

8. You can narrow your search in the Schedule of Classes by designating the Campus to "Online". Please keep in mind that there are multiple course subjects offered in the OMSCS program; therefore, be sure to do a search on "CS" (Computer Science), "CSE" (Computational Science and Engineering), "ECE" (Electrical and Computer Engineering), "INTA" (International Affairs), "ISYE" (Industrial and Systems Engineering), "MGT" (Management), and "PUBP" (Public Policy) for a full listing of the online courses offered.

   Some of these courses will be offered by the OMS Analytics or the OMS Cybersecurity programs, so be mindful when selecting courses that you are choosing the section designated for OMSCS students:

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- **Some sections are restricted to OMS Analytics students only and are designated with the "OAN" section.**
- **Other sections are restricted to OMS Cybersecurity students only and are designated with the "OCY" section.**
- **If an OMS Analytics or OMS Cybersecurity course has a section created for OMSCS students, it will have a section of "O" followed by a two-digit number (example: O01, O02, O03, etc.).**

****Please remember that per the program rules:*
*"A maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE."****

9. For detailed registration information and instructions, please visit the Registrar's website.

10. **We strongly recommend that new students start with only one class.**
    - During the Fall and Spring semesters, all students can, by default, enroll in a maximum of seven hours.
    - During the Summer semester, all students can, by default, enroll in a maximum of five hours.
    - *Please note that Financial Aid and other programs may have specific credit hour requirements, so be sure to follow up with their office directly for more information if you plan on applying.*

11. After completing your registration, we strongly recommend confirming your enrolled course(s), as well as confirming your wait list position(s) if you have added yourself to any wait lists. Please visit the Registrar's website for step-by-step instructions on how to register for courses, which includes how to confirm that your registration attempt was successful, as well as how to view your wait list position.

12. Course materials will be available through Canvas sometime during the first week of classes. **Canvas should be the first place you check once you have registered for a course.** Unfortunately, we do not have control over when course materials will be available, nor do we have any additional information as to exactly when course materials will be available.
    - If you register for a course during the first week that classes begin, please note that it can take up to **24 hours** before you can access your course materials. If after this period of time you still cannot access your course materials, please contact canvas@gatech.edu for Canvas access.

13. If you try to register for a course and receive an error message, please refer to the Registrar's website for an explanation of what the message means.
    - If you receive the *"OPEN - # WAITLISTED"* error message, this means that you are trying to register for a course(s) that does not have any open seats. It may appear as though the course has seats available; however, the open seats are reserved for students on the wait list.
    - If you receive the "COHORT RESTRICTION" error message, this is because you are attempting to enroll in a non-foundational course but have not yet satisfied the foundational requirement. *No exceptions will be made as far as overriding this error message unless you actually have satisfied the requirement.*
    - If you receive the "CAMPUS RESTRICTION" or "MAJOR RESTRICTION" error message, this is because you are attempting to enroll in a course that is not part of the OMSCS program. As a reminder, *most* OMSCS courses will have a section of "O" (example: O01, O02, O03, etc.). **Courses with the "OAN" section are for OMS Analytics students only, and courses with the "OCY" section are for OMS Cybersecurity students only – OMSCS students are NOT permitted to enroll in these sections.**

If A Course is CLOSED…

- Once the registration cap has been reached for a course, the course is full. In order to request a seat in a closed course, you must follow the instructions in SECTION G. WAITLISTING FOR A CLOSED COURSE. **We DO NOT accept requests for overrides.**
- Please note that OMSCS Advising **cannot** register students for courses and/or add students to wait lists. Students must follow the procedures that have been outlined in this orientation document.
- Please **DO NOT** email professors to seek permission to enroll in and/or wait list for their course(s), as professors have no control over this. Again, students must follow the procedures that have been outlined in this orientation document.

SECTION G. WAITLISTING FOR A CLOSED COURSE

Being waitlisted for a course is **not** the same as being registered for/enrolled in a course. Waitlisting allows students to add to a wait list for a course that is closed. Once students have waitlisted for a course section, they will receive a notification email if they are the next student on the wait list and a seat becomes available in that section. Waitlisted

students are notified on a "first come, first served" basis.

Things to know about waitlisting:

- Please follow all the instructions from the Registrar's webpage on Instructions for Waitlisting.
- ***Check your wait list number (see the instructions below) to confirm that you are actually on the wait list.***
- Waitlist notifications begin going out at a time predetermined by the Registrar's Office during each registration period.
    - *Please be sure you are checking your GT email account on a daily basis so that you do not miss a wait list notification, if you receive one.*
- **Students only have 12 hours to register for the course once the notification has been sent.**
    - This time frame is implemented by the Institute, and OMSCS Advising cannot extend the time frame or make accommodations if you miss the 12-hour window.
- **For the Fall and Spring semesters: your total number of enrolled + waitlisted hours should never be more than seven hours.**
- If the wait list is full/closed when you are attempting to add yourself, please check back later. Students remove themselves from wait lists, and seats may be added to courses (which removes students from the wait list), so there is a strong chance that a spot will become available at a later time.
- Once you have added yourself to a wait list, there are two different reasons why you might be issued a wait list notification: (1) we have added seats to a course or (2) someone else drops the course and releases the seat. We can control when we add seats, but we **cannot** control when someone else drops. If you receive a wait list notification at midnight, it is because someone dropped the course at that time, and we **cannot** control that.
- Once you receive the wait list notification, you must add by CRN. Add by look up does **NOT** work for waitlisted courses. Please follow the step-by-step instructions included in the wait list notification email, and be sure to check that you successfully registered for the course after following the instructions.
- If you miss your wait list window, you will be dropped from the wait list, and the next person on the list will receive permission to enroll. Again, we have **no** control over this. *If you miss your wait list notification window, your only option is to add yourself back to the wait list (if possible) and hope for the best.* Your new position will be at the end of the list, so be sure to keep an eye on your email in case you receive another wait list notification. As a reminder, OMSCS Advising **cannot** add students to wait lists or enroll students in classes.
- If you are trying to wait list and receive an error message, please visit the Registrar's website for an explanation of what the message means.
    - If you receive the error message *"OPEN - # WAITLISTED"*, this message means that you are trying to register for a course(s) that does not have any open seats. It may appear as though the course has seats available; however, the open seats are reserved for students on the wait list.

Checking your wait list number:

Please visit the Registrar's website for step-by-step instructions on how to view your wait list position. Note the following:

- OMSCS Advising **cannot** register students for courses and/or add students to wait lists. Students must follow the procedures that have been outlined in this orientation document.
- Please **DO NOT** email professors to seek permission to enroll in and/or wait list for their course(s), as professors have no control over this. Again, students must follow the procedures that have been outlined in this orientation document.

"Free for all" registration period:

On the last two days of registration, all of the wait lists will be cleared, and students will be able to enroll in any open course without needing to go through the wait list first. This is referred to as the "free for all" registration period. Information will be sent to students regarding this once we approach that timeframe.

SECTION H. DROPPING/WITHDRAWING FROM A COURSE(S)

When a student **drops** a course, this action can only be done during periods of registration. *For Fall 2026 registration, the last day to drop a course is Friday, August 28 by 11:59pm ET*. If a student drops a course, the course will **not** be reflected on the student's transcript. It will appear as if the student never registered for the course, according to the transcript, so it will NOT count as a record of enrollment.

If a student **withdraws** from a course (this is done **after** Fall 2026 registration has ended and **before** the semester's withdrawal deadline), this action will result in a "W" on the student's transcript. If a student withdraws from a course (or courses) and receives a "W" on the transcript, this counts as a record of enrollment for that specific term.

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For step-by-step instructions on how to drop/withdraw from a course(s), please visit the Registrar's website. **We strongly recommend that students check that they dropped/withdrew from the course.** *Please do **NOT** email our office asking for confirmation of your drop/withdrawal, as you will be directed to this document and/or the Registrar's website.*

The Fall 2026 withdrawal deadline is Saturday, October 31 at 11:59pm ET.

- If you withdraw from the only course you are enrolled in for a semester (or ALL the courses you are enrolled in that semester), this is called a "withdrawal from school". You should be eligible for a partial refund. Please refer to this schedule.
- If you are enrolled in more than one course, and you want to withdraw from only one of them, you will **NOT** be eligible to receive any refund.

***A "withdrawal from school" does NOT mean you are dropped from the OMSCS program.* It simply means that you are withdrawing from all of your courses for the term.**

Please note the following:

- For questions regarding tuition, payments, fees, refunds, etc., please contact the Bursar's Office directly at 404.894.4618 or by email at omsbursar.ask@gatech.edu. You may also visit their website.
- If you withdraw from the Fall 2026 term completely **before** 11:59pm ET on October 31, you may be eligible to receive a refund based on the Institute's refund schedule, available online. Click on the "Refunds" tab, and you will see links for "Refunds" and "Refund Calendars", both of which contain important information.
- **You will receive NO refund if you are enrolled for more than one class and withdraw from only one course.** You only are eligible for a partial refund if you completely withdraw from school (withdraw from ALL of your courses for the current semester).
- If you withdraw from school in the Fall 2026 semester, you still can register for a Spring 2027 course. However, if you sit out three or more consecutive semesters, you will have to apply for readmission. Please note that the summer semester counts toward the three consecutive semesters.
- As per Georgia Tech policy: "With the exception of part-time graduate students, any student who withdraws during a term and wishes to return the following term must complete a *Petition to the Faculty Form* only." Therefore, since OMSCS students are part-time graduate students, you do **NOT** need to submit a "Petition to the Faculty" form if you withdraw.
- If you withdraw from a course, you will receive a "W". A "W" is visible on your transcript, but it has no impact on your GPA. If you retake a course from which you previously have withdrawn, the "W" from your first attempt and the new grade will appear on your transcript.
- Students must make "satisfactory academic progress" in order to continue to enroll in the OMSCS program. If you are withdrawing semester after semester and/or are only enrolling in hours that do not result in a letter grade (such as OMSCS seminars), you may be at risk for being academically dismissed (though you should be warned of this ahead of time).
    - Please refer to the "Degree Requirements" section of SECTION K. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) below for important and detailed information regarding the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.
- If you received financial aid, please contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid with any questions on how withdrawing may affect your loan. *Note that Financial Aid and other programs may have specific credit hour requirements, so be sure to follow up with their office directly for more information.*
- **OMSCS Advising cannot drop or withdraw students from their course(s).**
- Once Fall 2026 registration has ended, there may be a small window of time in which you will **NOT** be able to withdraw. If during this time frame you decide that you wish to withdraw, you can do so in OSCAR once the "withdraw" option is available.
- If you do not pay your tuition/fees in full by the fee payment deadline, you will be subject to class cancellation and holds. If your schedule is canceled, you will be notified by email. Appeals can be submitted by visiting the Bursar's website. If you are reinstated into classes, a reinstatement fee of $200.00 will apply, and the account balance must be paid immediately to avoid re-cancellation.
    - *Please note: Reinstatement does not guarantee that faculty will allow students to make up any work missed. It is the student's responsibility to confirm ahead of being reinstated what accommodations, if any, will be permitted during the time frame in which the student was not enrolled due to non-payment.*

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SECTION I. SYSTEMS YOU WILL BE USING AND WHY

System	Website	Reason
OSCAR	https://oscar.gatech.edu/	Use this to register for classes, pay tuition, check for holds, view final grades, etc.
Canvas	https://canvas.gatech.edu/	Canvas is where you will go for all of your assignments and to turn in homework. You can also access Piazza, which is your virtual classroom for interacting with classmates, professors, TAs, and course developers.
Outlook	https://mail.gatech.edu	Use this to access your GT email account
Passport	https://passport.gatech.edu/	Passport offers tools for GT account password changes, email aliasing, and GT Directory options.
DegreeWorks	https://degreeaudit.gatech.edu	Use this to track your degree progress based on your declared specialization

SECTION J. IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE FALL 2026 SEMESTER

Date (All times refer to Eastern Time)	Event
August 13 at 6:00pm ET	Time tickets for Fall 2026 registration are available
August 17 – 28 by 11:59pm ET	Registration for Fall 2026
August 24	First day of class
Week of August 24	Course materials available online
August 28 by 11:59pm ET	Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop courses without a "W" grade
August 31 by 4:00pm ET	Tuition/fee payment deadline
September 7	Official Institute Holiday – Labor Day
October 5 – 6	Fall Break
October 31 by 11:59pm ET	Last day to withdraw for the Fall 2026 term with a "W"
November 2 by 11:59pm ET	Grade substitution deadline
November 25	Student Recess Day
November 26 – 27	Official Institute Holiday – Thanksgiving Break
December 10 – 17	Final exams
December 17	End of term
December 22 after 6:00pm ET	Grades available
****Please note that this list does not reflect all of the academic-related dates. In order to view the Institute's full academic calendar, please visit the Registrar's website and refer to your syllabus for course-specific deadlines and dates.****	

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SECTION K. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

New Student Onboarding/GT Email Account

1. **Where do I send my official transcript(s) and other official documents?**
   Send your final official transcript(s) and other official documents to the Office of Graduate Education at:
   Office of Graduate Education
   Georgia Institute of Technology
   631 Cherry Street, Room 301
   Atlanta, GA 30332-0321
   Phone: 404.894.1610
   Email: transcripts@grad.gatech.edu

2. **What happens if I do not submit my official transcript(s) and any other required official documents?**
   If you are a new student starting Fall 2026, you will NOT have a missing document hold placed on your account for transcripts until after registration has ended.

   However, you will want to ensure that you submit all required official transcripts/documents as soon as possible to avoid future holds, especially since those holds could prevent your ability to withdraw from a course in your first semester, as well as your ability to register/withdraw from future semesters.

3. **Is there an orientation for the OMSCS program?**
   Since this is an online program, we do not have a formal or in-person orientation for OMSCS students through the OMSCS Advising office. However, we encourage you to register for the OMSCS Onboarding course, watch its lessons, and join the New Student online forum, in addition to reading this document carefully and in its entirety. Additionally, a wiki was created for new and existing students in the OMSCS program, but please note that since OMSCS Advising did not contribute to this document, we cannot guarantee that all of the information is up-to-date and fully accurate.

4. **What are the expectations regarding my GT email account?**
   The Institute, as well as the department, will use your Georgia Tech email address as your official contact.

   You are required to keep it active, and you are *expected* to read your email DAILY as per the Institute's policy. This is true even if you are not enrolled that particular semester. *No* exceptions will be made simply because you missed an email that was sent by our department and/or the Institute.

   Please pay special attention to any messages sent from omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu, as important announcements typically are sent from this account. Since this account is the official mailing list for all OMSCS students, please do NOT reply or send messages to this account, as this could result in all OMSCS students receiving your message. All OMSCS students are required to be subscribed to this email list, and only Georgia Tech email accounts can be added.

   While it is not required, we also encourage students to subscribe to the omscs-announce@cc.gatech.edu account for non-academic events and announcements. You may do this by visiting this webpage.

   Finally, students will be added automatically to the OMSCS Student Center in Canvas, and they will receive the OMSCS Weekly Digest (omscs-digest@lists.gatech.edu).

5. **How can I access my GT email account?**
   Please visit this website for information on how to access your GT email account. We recommend bookmarking https://mail.gatech.edu so that you can access your GT email account quickly.

6. **For what purpose will I use my GT email account?**
   Please contact all Georgia Tech offices and employees (including OMSCS Advising and your instructors) from your Georgia Tech email account ending in @gatech.edu. Please do **not** communicate using your personal email account. If you do, you will be asked to resubmit your request from your GT email account. This is necessary as

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a security step, as we cannot verify the legitimacy of personal email accounts. In that same regard, OMSCS Advising will only communicate with you through your GT email account.

Registration information, including wait list notifications, will be sent to your GT email account. As stated previously, students are required to check their GT email account daily. **No** exceptions will be made simply because you missed an email that was sent by our department and/or the Institute, including wait list notifications.

7. **Can I forward my GT email account to my personal account?**
   Due to FERPA restrictions and institutional cybersecurity policies, GT students are not permitted to forward their GT email account to a personal account. More information about this can be found online.

8. **When will newly-admitted students be added to the official OMSCS mailing list?**
   For newly-admitted OMSCS students, OMSCS Advising will send important information to the email account you listed on your application until you are added to the official OMSCS mailing list (omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu). This typically will not take place until after Phase II registration has ended. Please note that you may receive messages twice as we are updating the omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu mailing list. Your patience with this process is greatly appreciated.

9. **How do I communicate with my course's instructional staff?**
   Course faculty and TAs should only be contacted via communication methods prescribed in the course's syllabus or officially presented in Georgia Tech systems**.**

10. **How do I communicate with my designated OMSCS academic advisor?**
    As noted in Section N of this document, please send an email from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu to get in contact with your designated OMSCS academic advisor. Please be sure to include your full name and nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

    Please note that OMSCS advisors only correspond via email, so please do not attempt to contact them via Slack, Microsoft Teams, or any other communication methods.

11. **Who do I contact if I have questions about or issues with my GT email account and/or OSCAR, including my account being deactivated or if I get locked out of my account?**
    Please contact the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for assistance with accessing your GT accounts.

12. **Do I need to set up Two-Factor Authentication/Duo?**
    Two-factor authentication is required for all GT students. Please follow the directions online to set up Duo. ***Failing to set up Duo will result in being locked out of your account.*** For assistance, please contact OIT.

13. **I received a suspicious email. How do I report it?**
    If you receive a suspicious email, do **not** click on any links or provide any requested information. Instead, visit https://security.gatech.edu/report_phishing/ for step-by-step instructions on how to report the phishing attempt.

    Additional information can be found on the College of Computing's website.

Institute Services & Course-Related Resources

1. **I have a documented disability. How do I find out what resources are available to me?**
   Please contact the Office of Disability Services, which is a division of the Dean of Students office. The website is: http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu.

2. **Am I eligible to obtain a BuzzCard (student ID) if I am an OMSCS student?**
   Yes, this may be possible for online students. Please visit this webpage for more information regarding this process. Students also can obtain their BuzzCard in person when visiting Georgia Tech's campus. For more information, including the location of the Georgia Tech BuzzCard office, please visit their website.

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3. **What is my nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX) used for, and where can I find it?**
   This nine-digit number was included in your admission letter. You also can visit this webpage for assistance. You will need to include this nine-digit number every time you contact our office so that we can access your student record, but please be sure to replace the first two digits with "xx" for security purposes. Your GTID number should generally only be shared with your advisors and instructors, as well as other relevant Georgia Tech offices (such as the Registrar's Office, the Office of Graduate Education, etc.). Otherwise, it is meant to be private.

4. **What if I have a personal or family emergency and need an extension on an assignment or exam, or I need to withdraw from a class or from school after the deadline due to an extenuating circumstance?**
   The worst thing you can do is not tell anyone! Your first point of contact should be your TA and/or professor if something has come up with work, family, etc. If your TA and/or professor would like you to go through the Dean of Students office, their website is: https://studentlife.gatech.edu/. Specifically, we encourage you to visit https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance.

5. **What mental health resources are available to me as an online graduate student at Georgia Tech?**
   Your mental health is important, and we want all OMSCS students to access local resources wherever they live, as well as utilize the online information available to the full GT community. The Georgia Tech Dean of Students Office can assist with academic and other concerns. A source for excellent online mental health and well-being information can be found at https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/.

   Additionally, please note the following resources:

   - JED Foundation
   - Trevor Lifeline (supports LGBTQIA youth): 866-488-7386
   - Crisis Chat Line (a 24/7 text-based crisis service)
   - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988
   - GT students can access self-help resources, including apps and podcasts, online. Please note that students must have a valid @gatech.edu email address.

   Finally, please visit https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/node/200 for information regarding Uwill resources that are available to GT students.

6. **What is Georgia Tech's Student Engagement and Well-Being (SEWB), and are services provided by that organization available to OMSCS students?**
   Student Engagement and Well-Being (SEWB) supports Georgia Tech's academic mission by empowering students throughout their journey as Yellow Jackets, as well as developing durable skills such as communication, leadership, resilience, and intercultural collaboration that are in high demand by employers. SEWB supports all graduate and undergraduate students by helping to facilitate connection and promote belonging; cultivate well-being across all eight dimensions of wellness; and develop and deliver services offered in various modalities that are responsive to student needs. Please refer to their Fully Online Student Resources for more details on how they specifically can support OMSCS students.

7. **I am interested in becoming a TA. Is this possible?**
   Each semester, information is sent via the omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu mailing list notifying students of how and when to apply to become a TA for a future term. Be sure to monitor your GT account for this information.

8. **What if I have an issue with/complaint about an assignment/exam or my instructor/TA?**
   Unfortunately, OMSCS Advising cannot get involved in the classroom management of OMSCS courses. If you need to request an extension due to health, family, or other unforeseen issues, please consult your class' syllabus for directions and/or contact the Dean of Students office using the Request Assistance form, available on their website.

   If you have a dispute with your grade, you should first contact your instructor. As per the academic catalog, any final grade dispute must be resolved by the end of your next enrolled term. Any student with a grade dispute that cannot be resolved after contacting the instructor should open a ticket at oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu with the subject line "Grade Dispute – Your Name". Please send this message from your GT email account and attach any correspondence with the instructor that you have had regarding the issue when you open that ticket.

   Additional information regarding grade grievances can be found in the academic catalog.

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If you would like to share feedback about a class that is not specifically related to your grade, please contact the Senior Director of OMSCS, Alex Duncan (alex.duncan@gatech.edu).

9. **What if I have an issue with/complaint against a fellow student in the program?**
   Student behavior while enrolled in the OMSCS program is governed by the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct. This policy applies to all official interaction on program platforms and also to a certain extent where students interact with each other in program-oriented communities that are not officially administered by the Institute. If you believe a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred, you may seek assistance from the Dean of Students office by clicking "Request Assistance" on their website.

10. **What are the technical requirements for the OMSCS program?**
    Please visit this webpage to learn more about the minimum technical requirements for the OMSCS program. Please note that individual courses may have additional requirements, but the ones listed on the webpage are common across all OMSCS courses. Also, please note that courses with proctored exams may require you to use Google Chrome to take the exam.

11. **Will my accounts be disabled if I travel to a different country while enrolled in OMSCS courses?**
    We are not sure if there is a way to prevent this from happening, but we strongly recommend that you contact the Technology Services Organization (TSO) for assistance if you encounter this. You also may need to contact the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

12. **How can I determine if there is a system outage, as well as stay informed of scheduled downtime for network maintenance?**
    Please visit https://support.cc.gatech.edu/alerts to stay up-to-date about system outages and scheduled maintenance that occurs within the College of Computing. This webpage also links to other helpful resources available on OIT's website, including https://status.gatech.edu/.

13. **Are OMSCS students eligible to earn credit for internships?**
    The Graduate Internship Program is often used by graduate students as a means to maintain full-time student status while interning throughout the year. Since OMSCS students can only be enrolled as part-time students, there is no added benefit to enrolling in the Graduate Internship Program. OMSCS students are welcome to pursue internship experiences should their schedules allow for it.

14. **What career resources are available to me as an OMSCS student?**
    OMSCS students have access to career services specifically for assistance with job searching, interviewing, networking, career planning, and professional development. Please visit https://www.cc.gatech.edu/computing-career-services to learn more. If you sign up for the "omscs-announce" mailing list, you will receive communications from the Office of Outreach, Enrollment, and Community (OEC) for the College of Computing, including opportunities to participate in professional development workshops and webinars.

    Megan Elrath, Online Career Services Manager for the GT Career Center, specializes in providing career services for OMS students. You can schedule an appointment with Megan Elrath via CareerBuzz.

    We also recommend that you contact your undergraduate and/or former graduate school for alumni services.

    OMSCS students have access to services for graduate students offered by the Career Center at Georgia Tech. The Career Center offers workshops on many of the topics listed above, a job board that lists internships and full-time jobs, and career fairs. The platform that is used within the Career Center is CareerBuzz, where you can explore all of the services and events that are offered by the Career Center. All OMSCS students are granted access to the platform once they formally enroll in classes.

15. **Can OMSCS students participate in the on-campus and virtual Georgia Tech career fairs?**
    OMSCS students are eligible to participate in the on-campus and virtual College of Computing career fairs and

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the Georgia Tech Career Center. Please note that BuzzCards are required for the on-campus career fairs.

16. **How do I find out more information about the Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) program?**
OMSCS students who are interested in participating in the Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) program should contact that department directly. Their contact information can be found on their website.

    If you receive approval from their program to participate, please keep the following in mind:
    - The courses can only be counted toward your MSCS degree as "free" elective credit. You may not count these courses to fulfill any specialization requirements.
    - Since the course in which you would enroll has the "VIP" prefix, this will count toward the six-hour maximum of non-CS/CSE and/or 4000-level courses that MSCS students can apply toward their degree.
    - The credit you earn for the VIP program does not count as a foundational course for the OMSCS program. Therefore, you are still required to fulfill your foundational requirement by your designated deadline, if you have not done so already.
    - If you have any additional questions regarding the VIP program, please contact their office directly, as the OMSCS advisors are unable to provide specific information regarding that program or its requirements.

17. **Is the OMSCS program accredited?**
Georgia Tech's undergraduate programs are ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accredited. Georgia Tech's graduate programs are regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

18. **How can I obtain an enrollment verification?**
Please visit this webpage for more information on how to request an enrollment verification, and please contact the Registrar's Office directly with any questions.

19. **What is Navigate360?**
Georgia Tech is launching a mobile application called Navigate360 for graduate students. This will allow students to access their course schedule, as well as explore additional support from their academic program/advisors. The OMSCS Advising office will share relevant information that might impact OMSCS students once the application has been launched.

    To access Navigate360 via the mobile app:

    1. To get started, download the Navigate360 Student app:
        - Apple iPhone: Search for Navigate360 Student in the App Store
        - Android: Search for Navigate360 Student in Google Play
    2. Open the app and search for Georgia Institute of Technology – Graduate Education
    3. Log in using your Georgia Tech credentials (same as BuzzPort)
    4. If prompted, complete the intake survey so Navigate360 can customize support based on your research and professional development goals.

    To access Navigate360 via the web-based version:

    Visit Navigate360 and log in with your GT credentials.

    Note: The best way to reach your academic advisor is still via oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu.

20. **How do I get support for the various systems I will use as an OMSCS student?**
During your coursework in the OMSCS program, you will interact with a number of different third-party vendors who supply specific functions. You may encounter issues that only the third-party support staff can resolve. In the event that you encounter technological issues with a third-party vendor, please pursue support using the channel

lists below.

Please note that any interaction you have with the support staff of a third-party vendor is considered part of your conduct as a Georgia Tech student and is thus subject to rules regarding Student Conduct. *Any abusive language, misrepresentation of your identity, or other instances of misconduct may be referred to the Office of Student Integrity for investigation and possible sanctions.*

- Canvas
  - For student support with Canvas, log into Canvas, then click the question mark icon at the bottom left. Then, either call the Canvas Support Hotline or Chat with Canvas Support for students.
  - **If you are unable to log into Canvas, contact canvas@gatech.edu.**
- Honorlock
  - If you have difficulty with Honorlock, open Honorlock in Canvas, then click the "Need help?" button in the top right or the chat icon in the bottom right to chat with Honorlock support.
- Piazza
  - If you have difficulty with Piazza, visit support.piazza.com.
- Gradescope
  - If you have difficulty with Gradescope, log in, click "Account" in the bottom left, and click "Help".

Deferring Admission

1. **If I am not able to attend during the term I was admitted, can I defer my admission?**
   Yes – it may be possible to defer your admission if you do not matriculate into the OMSCS program. Applications are good for one year from the term for which you applied originally. For example, if you originally applied for the Fall 2026 term, and you do not enroll in any classes/matriculate, it may be possible to request a deferral to the Spring 2027 ***OR*** Fall 2027 term, as long as your request is submitted by the deadline (noted below).

   If you want to matriculate *after* Fall 2027, you will need to reapply to the OMSCS program.

   Note that deferral requests can be processed only for the fall and spring semesters. Students may not request to defer to a summer semester.

   Also, per the Office of Graduate Education policy, an admitted applicant may only defer their admission ONE time during the one-year timeframe that an application is valid.

   For students who are required to complete an English proficiency exam, please note that those scores are only valid for two years from the date taken. For more information regarding English proficiency scores, please visit the Office of Graduate Education's website.

2. **How and when can I submit my deferral request?**
   In order to request a deferral of your admission, please send an email to omscsdeferral@cc.gatech.edu from the personal email address listed on your application. In the subject line, please include the phrase "Deferral Request", your full name, and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx". In your email, please include your original application term and the term to which you would like to defer your admission.

   NOTE: As an admitted Fall 2026 applicant, your request to defer to either Spring 2027 or Fall 2027 must be received **before** August 31, 2026. Deferral requests for students who originally applied for the Fall 2026 semester will **not** be accepted after this date.

   ****It is best to submit your deferral request earlier rather than later during the designated time frame to allow enough time for processing both within the College of Computing and the Office of Graduate Education.****

3. **What does it mean to matriculate into the OMSCS program?**
   When students register for a course(s) during their first semester in the program and remain enrolled *after* the Phase II registration period has ended, they will have a record of enrollment for the semester and will be considered a matriculated (current) student. This is true even if a student later decides to withdraw from a course

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by the semester's deadline, as the "W" on the transcript will still count as a record of enrollment for the semester.

Students are not considered matriculated (current) students if they register for a course(s) during their first semester in the program but then drop their schedule *before* the Phase II registration period has ended.

4. **How do I know if I need to submit a deferral request?**
   Please note the following when determining whether a deferral request needs to be submitted:

   - If a student registers and remains enrolled after Phase II registration has ended, they are considered a matriculated (current) OMSCS student and do *not* need to request to defer their admission, even if they withdraw from a course in their first semester.
   - If a student registers but drops their schedule before Phase II registration has ended, they are *not* considered a matriculated (current) OMSCS student and must submit a request to defer their admission within the designated time frame, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Please review the previous FAQs for more details.
     - Note: If your schedule is cancelled for nonpayment, you will **NOT** have a record of enrollment for the semester. Therefore, if this is your first semester in the OMSCS program, you will need to defer your admission, if you are eligible to do so.

5. **How many times am I permitted to defer my admission?**
   As per the Office of Graduate Education policy, an admitted applicant may only defer their admission **one** time during the one-year timeframe that an application is valid.

   To clarify further, if your original application term is Fall 2026, you can defer to Spring 2027 or to Fall 2027 – you may not defer to Spring 2027 and then later request to defer to Fall 2027.

   If you defer to Spring 2027 or Fall 2027 and do not matriculate, you will be required to submit a new application and be offered admission again to enroll as an OMSCS student in a future semester.

6. **Is it problematic if I submit my deferral request after Phase II registration has ended?**
   It is not problematic to submit your deferral request after Phase II registration has ended, as long as you did not remain enrolled in a course, and your deferral request is submitted before the designated deadline.

7. **I am scheduled to matriculate this semester, but I cannot enroll for the course I want because the course is full. Can I defer my admission to a future term so that I can enroll in the specific course I want?**
   If you are considering deferring your admission only because you cannot enroll in the specific course(s) you wish to take, we strongly do not recommend pursuing the deferral, as you will be in the same situation the next term since new students do not register until Phase II.

8. **If I defer my admission, when does my one-year time frame start for my foundational requirement?**
   If you do not matriculate, and you defer your admission to a future term, then your foundational requirement time frame would start with your new matriculation term. For example, if you were admitted for Fall 2026 but did not matriculate until Spring 2027, you would have the Spring 2027, Summer 2027, and Fall 2027 terms to fulfill the foundational requirement.

   However, please remember that if you matriculate into the program, your foundational requirement time frame would begin, even if you withdraw from a course that term (since a "W" counts as a record of enrollment). For example, if you matriculated into the program as of Fall 2026 and later withdrew, that term (Fall 2026) still would count toward your foundational requirement time frame.

9. **I deferred my admission (or I am planning to defer my admission) and received a message indicating that my accounts are being inactivated. Can they remain active even though I am not a currently-enrolled student since I plan to enroll in a future term?**
   If you are not enrolled and are not classified as a student who is eligible to enroll, your student-related services will be discontinued. It is our understanding that OIT will not extend these student-related services until you are eligible to enroll. For example, if you were admitted for Fall 2026 but deferred your admission to Spring 2027, you would not have access to your accounts during the Fall 2026 semester but would regain access as the Spring 2027 semester approached.

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10. **I submitted a deferral request, but now I am being informed that I will be losing access to my GT accounts, including email. How will you communicate with me?**
    As noted previously, if you are not enrolled and are not classified as a student who is eligible to enroll, your student-related services will be discontinued. Therefore, we will communicate with you using the personal email account you listed on your application. Additionally, you may submit your deferral request from this personal email account – your request does not need to be submitted from your GT email account.

11. **Why am I still receiving registration-related emails if I am deferring my admission?**
    Since deferral requests are accepted throughout the registration period, you will continue to receive registration-related emails as an admitted student for the term. If you wish to be removed from that semester's new-student mailing list, please send a message to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu. Please include your full name and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

Degree Requirements

1. **What are the degree requirements for the OMSCS program?**
   The OMSCS degree requires 30 hours (10 courses). Students must declare one specialization, which, depending on the specialization, is 15-18 hours (5-6 courses). The remaining 12-15 hours (4-5 courses) are "free" electives and can be any courses offered through the OMSCS program. You can review the degree requirements online. The requirements for each specialization can be found online as well. Please note that courses listed in bold have been produced for the OMSCS program.

   To be able to continue in the program after the first 12 months from your date of matriculation, you must complete the foundational requirement of two foundational courses with a grade of "B" or better. You may choose a foundational course that counts towards any area of your degree, whether a specialization requirement or a "free" elective. The courses that constitute "foundational courses" are designated with an asterisk (*) on the current courses page of our website.

2. **How can I declare my specialization?**
   To declare your specialization, please follow the step-by-step instructions listed online on the Registrar's website.

3. **By when do I need to declare my specialization?**
   We strongly recommend that you declare your specialization after your first two semesters in the program or as soon as you have an idea as to which specialization you plan to pursue.

   Ultimately, your specialization needs to be declared by the time you apply to graduate.

   ***Please note that if you are receiving GI Bill benefits, the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) regulates that only degree-applicable courses for your major are allowed to be certified for tuition and fee funding. This particular student population is permitted no more than **two** semesters to declare a specialization. By declaring your specialization, this will allow Georgia Tech's Veteran's Services office to certify your courses each semester. Please contact the Veteran's Services office directly with any questions you may have regarding this requirement.*

4. **Can I change my specialization once I declare it?**
   Yes – you are not "locked in" once you declare your specialization, and you may change your specialization any time that does not conflict with an active period of registration.

5. **Can I declare more than one specialization?**
   No – students may declare only one specialization. However, you may take courses beyond your specialization as "free" electives.

6. **Can I use extra specialization core courses as specialization electives (and vice versa)?**
   For the most part, if students take extra specialization core courses and/or extra specialization elective courses beyond what is required in their specialization, the extra course(s) can be used only towards the "free" electives.

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In other words, specialization core courses cannot be used towards the specialization elective requirements and vice versa (specialization elective courses cannot be used towards the specialization core requirements).

The only exception is for students pursuing either the Artificial Intelligence or the Computing Systems specialization. Please visit the specializations' webpages for more information regarding what can be accepted.

7. **Am I allowed to make substitutions within the OMSCS degree requirements?**
   The official College policy is that substitutions for specialization coursework are made only when necessary when specialization courses are not available. Therefore, since all specializations offered through the OMSCS program can be completed without substitutions, no substitutions will be approved.

8. **Am I allowed to audit a course or take it on the pass/fail grading basis?**
   Students are permitted to earn only a letter grade in all OMSCS courses. Students may not audit an OMSCS course or take it on the pass/fail grading basis.

   The only exception is the OMSCS one-hour seminars. As a reminder, these seminars are graded on the pass/fail grading basis and will NOT count toward your graduation requirements

9. **How long do I have to complete the program and earn my degree?**
   Students must complete the OMSCS degree in six years as per the Institute's policy.

10. **What happens if I need more than six years to complete the program?**
    Any coursework that is older than six years needs to be approved by the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) and the Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee (IGCC) in order to be applied to your degree. If you will be exceeding the six-year time frame, please be sure to contact oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu the semester **before** you plan to graduate so that you can work with your advisor on obtaining approval to use the older coursework. Please be sure to send your message from your GT email account and to include your full name and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

11. **Can I count non-CS/CSE courses and/or previously-completed undergraduate-level courses toward my MSCS degree?**
    As per the program rules, a maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE. If you have any questions, especially regarding previously-completed undergraduate-level courses, please contact your advisor by sending a message from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu. Please be sure to include your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

12. **What are the rules regarding the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy?**
    Please visit https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/6/ for information regarding the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

    Each semester after the withdrawal deadline, the OMSCS Advising office will send an email to students who have three or more consecutive semesters of withdrawals or no letter grades on their record. That email announcement will include pertinent information, such as potential effects and mandatory action items for students who are not making satisfactory progress toward their degree requirements.

Foundational Requirement

1. **My admission letter states: "All incoming students are admitted conditionally. To continue in the program after the first 12 months from your date of matriculation, you must complete the foundational coursework requirement of 2 courses in the program with a grade of B or better." Will I be notified when I am fully admitted into the OMSCS program?**
   As stated previously, to be able to continue in the program after the first 12 months from your date of matriculation, you must complete a foundational coursework requirement of two foundational courses with a grade of "B" or better. The courses that constitute "foundational courses" are designated with an asterisk (*) on this webpage.

   We do not send notifications for students who have completed their foundational requirement. If you would like to verify that you have completed your foundational requirement, please refer to the link above to determine if the

courses you have completed successfully are considered to be foundational courses.

2. **Am I permitted to enroll in OMSCS seminars before fulfilling my foundational requirement?**
   Yes, students are permitted to enroll in OMSCS seminars even if they have not yet fulfilled their foundational requirement. However, please keep in mind that OMSCS seminars will **NOT** count toward your graduation requirements or making satisfactory academic progress.

3. **Do my foundational courses have to be a part of my intended/declared specialization?**
   No — you may choose a foundational course that counts towards any area of your degree, whether a specialization requirement or a "free" elective.

4. **What is the difference between a foundational course and a specialization core course?**
   Foundational courses are those with an asterisk (*) listed on the "Current Courses" webpage. Students have one calendar year from the time they matriculate to complete the foundational course requirement (which is a minimum grade of "B" in two foundational courses).

   Specialization core courses are required courses for the six specializations offered in the OMSCS program.

   While all foundational courses count toward at least one OMSCS specialization, students are not required to complete the core courses of their desired/declared specialization as part of their foundational requirement.

5. **Can I register for non-foundational courses for a future term if I am *on track* to finish the foundational requirement by the end of this term (either I am enrolled in two foundational courses, or I am enrolled in my second foundational course)?**
   If you are enrolled in two foundational courses or your second foundational course, you would not be eligible to enroll in any non-foundational courses until you successfully completed the two foundational course(s) with a "B" or better.

   To clarify, during Phase I registration, you would be restricted to enrolling only in foundational courses. If you successfully completed the requirement by the end of the current term, the restriction would be lifted shortly after grades had been posted, and you would have an opportunity to make adjustments to your future schedule during Phase II.

6. **What happens if I do not meet my foundational requirement by my designated deadline?**
   As of now, students have not been dismissed from the OMSCS program simply for not fulfilling the foundational requirement. Students will need to continue enrolling in foundational courses until they have satisfied this requirement. Our office sends an email each semester for students whose foundational requirement deadline has passed, so please refer to these messages for any updated information regarding this policy.

Course/Program Planning

1. **Which semesters are OMSCS courses offered?**
   OMSCS courses are offered during the spring, summer, and fall semesters. However, the summer offerings are much more limited due to the condensed time frame of the semester. Students are not required to enroll in each term consecutively, but please make note of the readmission policy if you plan not to enroll during a specific semester(s) (please see the "Taking Time Off" section in the FAQs for more information).

2. **For the summer semester, are OMSCS courses offered as part of the "Early Short Summer" or "Late Short Summer" schedule?**
   All OMSCS summer courses are "Full Summer" courses. Our program does not offer any "Early Short Summer" or "Late Short Summer" courses.

3. **Are there plans to add more courses and/or specializations to the OMSCS program?**
   At this time, all of the courses/specializations that will be offered with the OMSCS program are listed on our website. The advisors unfortunately do not have any additional information other than the information that is available online.

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4. **Can I take on-campus and/or Distance Learning (DL) courses as an OMSCS student?**
   OMSCS students are not eligible to enroll in on-campus or DL courses, as they are considered to be a different campus and have different tuition rates/fees. Likewise, on-campus or DL students are not eligible to enroll in OMSCS courses.

5. **Can I enroll in courses offered through the OMS Analytics and/or OMS Cybersecurity programs as an OMSCS student?**
   Sections for OMSCS students have been created for a select number of OMS Analytics and OMS Cybersecurity courses. If a section of an OMS Analytics or OMS Cybersecurity course has been created for OMSCS students, it will have a section of "O" followed by a two-digit number (example: O01, O02, O03, etc.). As a reminder, courses designated with the "OAN" section are reserved for OMS Analytics students, and courses designated with the "OCY" section are reserved for OMS Cybersecurity students. Therefore, please be sure you are selecting the correct section if you wish to enroll in the course.

   ****Please remember that per the program rules:*
   *"A maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE."****

   If you have questions about the OMS Analytics program or courses offered through that program, please visit their website. For the OMS Cybersecurity program and courses offered through that program, please visit their website for more information.

6. **Are there prerequisites for the OMSCS program and/or courses?**
   There are no official/enforced prerequisites for the OMSCS courses beyond those required for admission into the program, so students can take these courses in essentially any order. There are certain recommendations as to what material/information you should be familiar with prior to taking a course (available in the course descriptions online), but there are no official prerequisites for the OMSCS courses.

   In general we expect students who enter the program to be very comfortable working with multiple programming languages such as C, Java, and Python (there is no provision within the program to make up any deficiencies) and to have taken several more advanced topics, such as Advanced OS, Networking, Theory, and/or Algorithms. More information about this can be found on our website.

   If a student needs to take refresher courses before enrolling in OMSCS courses, it is up to the student to find out how and where to take these kinds of courses, as OMSCS Advising cannot provide advisement for that. Again, please refer to our website for more information.

7. **After reading the course descriptions, it appears I am only prepared to take "X" course(s). What happens if I am not able to enroll in that specific course(s)?**
   Since there are no official prerequisites for our courses (beyond those required for admission into the program), there is an expectation that students should be prepared for essentially most, if not all, of the OMSCS courses. Therefore, please do not contact OMSCS Advising requesting to be enrolled in a specific course based on your qualifications, especially since the advisors are unable to add students to courses and/or wait lists.

8. **Can my advisor help me select the best course to start with during my first semester in the program?**
   OMSCS advisors are not subject area experts, and since OMSCS student backgrounds and prior experiences are so varied, they cannot give general guidance on what courses are best to take, even during your first semester of the program. Instead, the OMSCS program strives to make available to students the information necessary to make informed course decisions – this can be done by reviewing the syllabi, watching example lectures/videos, and gauging your preparedness from suggested background knowledge for each course, all of which can be accessed via the Current Courses webpage.

9. **Can my advisor help me plan out all of my courses in advance?**
   Unfortunately, advisors cannot register students for courses, nor can we add students to wait lists. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that students will be able to take specific courses during specific semesters, so planning out the exact ten courses you wish to take (and the semester you wish to take them) most likely is not possible, as

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students should plan to be flexible in taking courses whenever they are available.

As a reminder, there are no official/enforced prerequisites for the OMSCS courses (beyond those required for admission into the program), so students can take these classes in essentially any order. There are certain recommendations as to what material/information you should be familiar with prior to taking a course, but there are no official prerequisites for the OMSCS courses. For course-specific prerequisite information, please read the course descriptions online. Please refer to the FAQ below for more information on how to plan for future courses using DegreeWorks.

10. **Do I need to take courses in the order they are listed on the specialization webpages (the specialization core courses before the specialization elective courses)?**
    No, as mentioned previously, students can take OMSCS courses in essentially any order. Students are not required to take their specialization courses (or any courses) in a specific order. This means that students can take a specialization elective course before taking a specialization core course.

11. **How can I check my degree progress and/or plan for future courses?**
    To check your degree progress and/or plan for future courses, we encourage you to use DegreeWorks. If you have declared your specialization, DegreeWorks should tell you what requirements, if any, you are missing. It also should allow you to plan for future courses using the "what if" feature.

    If you have not yet declared your specialization, all of your courses should be listed in the "Fallthrough Section", as they will not be allocated until you declare your specialization. However, note that DegreeWorks may erroneously display the "Major Requirements" and "Other Requirements" sections as "Complete" (with a green checkmark) even though the requirements are not yet fulfilled.

    Please note that specializations cannot be declared during active periods of registration.

    As a reminder, please be sure to review the degree requirements and the specialization requirements. Alternatively, you can print a degree worksheet for your specialization and fill it in so that you can see what requirements, if any, are remaining. You may access the degree worksheets online.

12. **There have been some curriculum changes (new course numbers, recently-approved specialization courses, etc.), and my DegreeWorks is not listing these courses in the correct areas of my degree audit. When will this be adjusted?**
    If changes are made to the curriculum or a new course number is assigned after you have matriculated, DegreeWorks will not make the necessary adjustments automatically – the OMSCS advisors have to make exceptions in DegreeWorks manually. This typically is not done until students have petitioned to graduate, though you are welcome to contact our office at oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu, and we would be happy to make the change ahead of time, as long as you already successfully completed the course(s). Please note that we will not be able to make changes to courses that are still in progress, as we need to ensure that the minimum grade is earned before making the change in DegreeWorks.

13. **Why are my non-CS/CSE courses not being applied to my degree requirements in DegreeWorks?**
    Since these courses are outside of the CS/CSE curriculum, your OMSCS advisor will need to manually apply any non-CS/CSE coursework to your record in DegreeWorks. This typically is not done until students have petitioned to graduate, though you are welcome to contact our office at oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu, and we would be happy to make the change ahead of time, as long as you already successfully completed the course(s). Please note that we will not be able to make changes to courses that are still in progress, as we need to ensure that the minimum grade is earned before making the change in DegreeWorks.

14. **When will the course schedules for each term be available?**
    The course schedules for each term are released shortly before the Phase I registration period for each term. Please refer to the academic calendar for term-specific dates.

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15. **I completed my bachelor's degree in Computer Science at Georgia Tech. Can I double-count any of my courses toward my OMSCS degree?**
Students completing both a bachelor's and master's in the same discipline (Computer Science) at Georgia Tech might be able to use up to six credit hours of **graduate-level** coursework in the major discipline for both degrees. To qualify for this option, students must complete the undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete the master's degree within a two-year period from the award date of the bachelor's degree. Please visit this website for more information. If you feel you qualify for this option, please send a message from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu and include your full name and nine-digit GTID number. Your advisor will be able to assist you and confirm your eligibility.

16. **I earned another master's degree at Georgia Tech prior to matriculating in the OMSCS program. Can I double-count any of my courses toward my OMSCS degree?**
Students who have earned another master's degree at Georgia Tech might be eligible to double-count up to six hours of previously-earned credit toward their OMSCS degree. Please visit this website for more information regarding this policy. If you feel you qualify for this, please send a message from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu and include your full name and nine-digit GTID number. Your advisor will be able to assist you and confirm your eligibility.

17. **I took courses and/or earned another degree (undergraduate and/or graduate) from Georgia Tech – are there restrictions as to which OMSCS courses I can enroll in and count toward my OMSCS degree?**
If you previously completed courses at Georgia Tech, specifically undergraduate and/or graduate Computer Science (CS) or other CS-related undergraduate and/or graduate courses, you will be responsible for researching whether the course(s) are considered to be "equivalent" to OMSCS courses, as these credits typically cannot count toward your OMSCS degree if they were used toward another earned degree. Please refer to this website for more information. Additionally, we have provided you with some of the equivalencies see the table below), but we **strongly** recommend that you contact OMSCS Advising, as things can change and/or be updated at any time. Also note that students may not repeat the same course(s) they previously completed in another GT program.

OMSCS Course	Georgia Tech Equivalent Course
CS 6035	CS 4235* *If you took CS 4235 prior to Spring 2011, you will be allowed to earn credit for both courses. If you took CS 4235 *after* Spring 2011, you will not be able to enroll in CS 6035.
CS 6150	N/A
CS 6200 **(formerly CS 8803-O02)**	N/A
CS 6210	CS 4210 and CS 6420
CS 6211 **(formerly CS 8803-O0A & O0B)**	N/A
CS 6238	CS 4238
CS 6250	CS 4251 (if taken Fall 2018 or later) and CS 6380
CS 6260	ECE 6280
CS 6261 **(formerly CS 8803-O22)**	PUBP 8803 *Security Incident Response*
CS 6262	CS 4262
CS 6263 **(formerly CS 8803-O07)**	ECE 8813 *Cyber-Physical Systems Security*

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CS 6264 (formerly CS 8803-O11)	N/A
CS 6265	N/A
CS 6271 (formerly CS 8803-O31)	ECE 8803 *Cybersecurity of Drones*
CS 6290	CS 4290, ECE 4100, and ECE 6100
CS 6291 (formerly CS 8803-O04)	N/A
CS 6300	CS 6144 and CS 8803 Advanced Software Engineering
CS 6310	N/A
CS 6340	N/A
CS 6400	CS 6450
CS 6422	CS 4420
CS 6435 (formerly CS 8803-O16)	CS 4803 *DHE*
CS 6440	N/A
CS 6457	CS 4455
CS 6460	CS 4660 and CS 6397
CS 6475	CS 4475
CS 6476	CS 4476 and CS 4495
CS 6491	N/A
CS 6505 (replaced by CS 6515)	CS/CX 4140, CS 4540, CS 6500, CS 6550, CSE 6140, and CS 6515
CS 6515 (formerly CS 8803 GA)	CS/CX 4140, CS 4540, CS 6505, and CSE 6140
CS 6601	N/A
CS 6603 (formerly CS 8803-O10)	CS 4803 *Big Data and Society – Misuse, Abuse, and Algorithms* & CS 8803 *AIS*
CS 6675	CS 4675
CS 6747	ECE 4147 and ECE 6747
CS 6750	PSYC 6750
CS 6795	ISYE 6795 and PSYC 6795
CS 7210	CS 7431
CS 7240 (formerly CS 8803-O23)	N/A

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CS 7280	CS 8803 Network Science
CS 7295 **(formerly CS 8803-O21)**	N/A
CS 7400 **(formerly CS 8803-O13)**	CS 4803 *IQC*
CS 7470	CS 4605
CS 7496	CS 4496
CS 7632	CS 4731, LCC 4731, and LMC 4731
CS 7637	CS 4635
CS 7638 **(formerly CS 8803-O01)**	N/A
CS 7639 **(formerly CS 8803-O09)**	ECE 8823 *Cyber-Physical Design*
CS 7641	CS 4640, CS 4641, CSE 6740, CSE 7641, and ISYE 6740
CS 7642 **(formerly CS 8803-O03)**	N/A
CS 7643	CS 4644, CS 4803 *Deep Learning*, and CS 8803 *Deep Learning*
CS 7646	CS 4646 and CS 4803 *Machine Learning for Trading*
CS 7650	CS 4650
CS 7711 **(formerly CS 8803-O29)**	CS 4711
CS 8803-O08 **(Compilers – Theory & Practice)**	N/A
CS 8803-O15 **(Introduction to Computer Law)**	CS 4010
CS 8803-O17 **(Global Entrepreneurship)**	CS 4803 *GEI*
CS 8803-O20 **(Quantum Hardware)**	N/A
CS 8803-O24 **(Intro to Research)**	N/A
CS 8803-O27 **(Computer Graphics in the AI Era)**	N/A
CSE 6220	CS 4225 and CX 4220
CSE 6242	CX 4242
CSE 6250 **(formerly CSE 8803-O01)**	CX 4803 *BDS* and CSE 8803 *BDS*
CSE 6742	CS 4343, CX 4232, INTA 4742, INTA 4803 *Modeling, Sim, & Mil Gaming*, and INTA 6742

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ECE 8843 (Side-Channels & Their Role in Cybersecurity)	N/A
INTA 6450	N/A
ISYE 6402	N/A
ISYE 6414	N/A
ISYE 6420	N/A
ISYE 6501	N/A
ISYE 6525 (formerly ISYE 8803)	N/A
ISYE 6644	N/A
ISYE 6669	N/A
MGT 6311	N/A
MGT 8813 (Financial Modeling)	N/A
PUBP 6725	CS 4725, CS 6725, MGT 4725, MGT 6725, and PUBP 4725
PUBP 8823 (Geopolitics of Cybersecurity)	N/A

18. **What is the difference between when two courses are cross-listed and when they are considered to be equivalent?**
    Equivalent courses are courses that are listed as equivalent in Banner. They may not necessarily be taught together (such as the Atlanta campus courses CS 4460 and CS 6730). Cross-listed courses are courses that are taught together and are usually equivalents as well (such as CS 4641 and CS 7641).

19. **Are there any courses that students cannot count toward their MSCS degree?**
    MSCS students are not permitted to count credit for 1) CSE 6010 *Computational Problem Solving for Scientists and Engineers*; 2) CSE 6040 *Computing for Data Analysis: Methods and Tools*; 3) CS 4001 *Computing, Society and Professionalism*; or 4) CS 4002 *Robots and Society* toward their MSCS degree.

    Additionally, OMSCS seminars will **NOT** count toward your graduation requirements.

    If you have concerns about other courses, please be sure to contact your OMSCS advisor from your GT email account at oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu. Please include your full name and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx".

Grades/GPA Requirement

1. **Is it possible to repeat a course, and what are the consequences of doing so?**
   According to the academic catalog, "Students may not repeat courses on a letter-grade basis in which the grade of 'B' or higher has been earned previously."

   In other cases of a repeated course, we will consider the newest grade for purposes of completing a requirement (specialization and/or foundational course); however, you can never have the initial grade replaced or removed from your GPA, unless you are eligible to pursue the grade substitution policy as noted below.

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Please also note that if you retake a course, it can be used to satisfy only one requirement, as one course cannot be used to satisfy more than one requirement.

If you withdraw from a course, "W"s are visible on your transcript, but they have no impact on your GPA. If you retake a course from which you previously have withdrawn, the "W" from your first attempt and the new grade from that class both will appear on your transcript.

2. **What are the grade/GPA requirements to remain active in the program?**
   Please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/6/ and https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/academic-standing and review this information carefully. Please note that your academic standing is based on your cumulative GPA and/or your term GPA. For MS students, the minimum GPA to remain in good academic standing is 2.7. *Note: you must earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to meet the graduation requirements.*

3. **How can I calculate my GPA?**
   For instructions and information on how to calculate your GPA, please refer to the Registrar's website.

4. **How can I determine my academic standing?**
   Please visit https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/academic-standing for information regarding academic standing.

   Note that OMSCS advisors will contact any student who is not in good academic standing at the end of each semester with specific information regarding their academic standing. This includes students who are on academic probation or academic warning.

5. **Does the grade substitution policy apply to graduate students?**
   A grade substitution policy was approved for graduate students. Please visit https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/5/ and https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/applying-for-graduate-grade-substitution for information regarding eligibility.

6. **How do OMSCS students apply for a graduate grade substitution?**
   The grade substitution form is available on the Registrar's Office's website and must be completed via DocuSign by the established deadline. ***Please be sure to use your advisor's direct email address (NOT oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu) when submitting this form.***

7. **When did the graduate grade substitution policy take effect?**
   The graduate grade substitution policy went into effect starting with the Summer 2022 semester (under the 2022-2023 academic catalog).

8. **Is the graduate grade substitution policy retroactive?**
   No, the policy is not retroactive. The "C", "D", or "F" grade to be substituted must have been earned in a course taken during or after the Summer 2022 semester. The new policy does NOT apply to courses taken prior to Summer 2022.

9. **Is academic standing impacted/recalculated retroactively once the graduate grade substitution has been applied to a student's record?**
   Yes, a student's academic standing would update once the grade substitution had been applied. For example, if a student's first attempt was during the Summer 2022 semester, and an unsatisfactory grade was earned, and then the course was repeated successfully in Fall 2022, then the academic standing for Summer 2022 would be updated (since the original grade would be excluded from the cumulative GPA) and would be built upon once the grade substitution had been applied.

10. **Will the grade substitution be visible on a transcript?**
    Yes, the student's transcript would show the original grade with a comment of "Excluded grade substitution".

11. **Is there a minimum grade that a student must earn to be approved for a grade substitution?**
    Students do not have to earn a minimum grade to request a grade substitution. For example, a student could

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earn a “D”, repeat the course and earn a “C”, and apply for a grade substitution.

12. **If students with undergraduate degrees from Georgia Tech have previously been approved for undergraduate grade substitutions, would they be permitted to apply for one at the graduate level?**
    Yes, the grade substitution policy “resets” at the graduate level.

13. **Does the graduate grade substitution policy impact BSMS students in any specific way?**
    No, both the undergraduate and graduate grade substitution policies can be applied to BSMS students. When they are BS students, they will follow the undergraduate grade substitution policy. When they matriculate into the graduate level, they will then follow the graduate grade substitution policy.

14. **If undergraduate Georgia Tech students enroll in graduate-level GT courses, which grade substitution policy would be in effect (undergraduate or graduate)?**
    The grade substitution policies are based on a student’s level (undergraduate or graduate), not the course level. For example, if undergraduate students complete graduate-level courses, they will follow the undergraduate grade substitution policy.

15. **Are exceptions to the graduate grade substitution policy possible?**
    The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, number of courses, time limits, and deadlines) is not subject to exceptions.

16. **Can the graduate grade substitution policy be petitioned to the Graduate Institute Curriculum Committee?**
    The graduate grade substitution policy may NOT be petitioned to the Graduate Institute Curriculum Committee.

17. **Are OMSCS students required to opt into the graduate grade substitution policy in order to graduate?**
    No, OMSCS students are NOT required to opt into the graduate grade substitution policy if they do not wish to do so. OMSCS students are eligible for graduation if they are meeting all MSCS degree requirements, even without opting into the graduate grade substitution policy.

18. **If I earn a “D” in a course, can it count toward my OMSCS degree?**
    Courses in which a student earns less than a “C” cannot be counted toward the OMSCS degree. Please note that these grades still will be factored into your overall cumulative GPA and cannot be removed from your record, unless you opt into the graduate grade substitution policy.

19. **If I do not earn the required grade in a course, or if I withdraw from a course, am I required to repeat the course in a later semester?**
    If the course is required for your specialization, and there are no other course options within that specific area of your specialization that you can take instead (since substitutions are not permitted), then you must retake the course and earn the required "B" or better for specialization/foundational courses. However, if there are other course options available within that specific area for your specialization, then you may choose to enroll in a different course to satisfy the requirement.

    If the course would count as a “free” elective, you have the option of retaking it to earn the required “C” or better for “free” electives, or you may choose to enroll in a different course to satisfy your “free” elective requirement.

20. **Is there a limit to how many times I can withdraw from and/or repeat a course?**
    There is no specific limit to how many times a student may take and later withdraw from and/or repeat a specific course. However, please keep in mind the degree requirements outlined in this document and the academic catalog, including the satisfactory academic progress requirements, the six-year requirement, and the graduate grade substitution policy.

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21. **How is my academic standing impacted if I withdraw from or do not enroll in a semester?**
    It is our understanding that if you withdraw from or do not enroll in a semester, and you do not have any new grades that would change your status, then your academic standing from the previous semester would carry over. Therefore, if you were on academic warning or academic probation after your last enrolled term, then this status would carry over to the next term as long as you did not have any new grades to change your academic standing.

    There is an exception to this, as it relates to making satisfactory academic progress in the program. As noted above, if you are withdrawing semester after semester without successfully completing a course or only enrolling in courses that do not result in a letter grade (such as OMSCS seminars), your academic standing in the program could be impacted.

22. **If I am on academic warning or academic probation, am I allowed to withdraw from a course/semester?**
    As long as you do not have a hold on your account, you should be able to withdraw from a course/semester, even if you are on academic warning or academic probation. As stated previously, if you were to withdraw from the semester, and you did not have any new grades that would change your status, then your academic standing from the previous semester would carry over. Therefore, if you were on academic warning or academic probation after your last enrolled term, and you did not have any new grades that would change your status, then your academic standing would carry over to the next term.

    There is an exception to this, as it relates to making satisfactory academic progress in the program. As noted above, if you are withdrawing semester after semester without successfully completing a course or only enrolling in courses that do not result in a letter grade (such as OMSCS seminars), your academic standing in the program could be impacted.

23. **By when do I need to resolve an "I" grade?**
    Detailed information regarding an "I" grade can be found in the following sections of the academic catalog:

    - Section C, Point 7
    - Section A
    - Section B, Point 1

    To confirm: "*When a grade of 'I' ('Incomplete') is assigned in a course, the 'I' grade must be removed and the grade change reported by the end of the student's **next** academic term in residence or, if the student has not been enrolled, by the end of the academic term one calendar year from the date the incomplete was assigned. Failing to remove the 'I' in the allotted time will result in the grade of 'I' being changed to the grade of 'F'. To remove the 'I' grade, the student should consult with the instructor as soon as possible after the academic term is over and complete whatever remaining coursework is outlined by the instructor. Repeating the course for credit does not remove the grade of 'I'.*"

24. **Is it possible to "start over" or "erase" my previous academic history?**
    Unfortunately, this is not possible. Your previous academic history always will be a part of your student record, even if you take time off and seek readmission into the program at a later time.

25. **If I take extra OMSCS courses, can I designate which courses will count toward my "degree" GPA rather than my cumulative GPA?**
    The OMSCS program does not have a separate "degree GPA" and simply uses your cumulative GPA. The only exception to this is for students who continue taking courses after they have graduated from the OMSCS program. For the purposes of your resume, whatever your GPA was when your degree was awarded would be your MS GPA.

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Registration-Related Information

1. **What is the difference between Phase I and Phase II registration?**
   Current/returning students will register during Phase I and will have another opportunity to make changes to their schedules during Phase II. Newly-admitted students will register during Phase II only. For the summer term, there is only one registration phase, with an "unofficial" Phase II period taking place shortly before the start of the semester. Visit the academic calendar for term-specific dates.

2. **Are the published times/deadlines updated based on my local time zone if I do not live in Atlanta?**
   No — all of the Institute times/deadlines you see are listed in the Eastern time zone. They will not update automatically to reflect your local time zone. Therefore, you will need to be mindful of time-sensitive activities/deadlines such as when time tickets open, the expiration of a wait list notification, the end of a registration period, the semester's withdrawal deadline, etc. For any class-specific deadline, please be sure to work with your instructor and/or TA(s).

3. **Can I enroll full time as an OMSCS student?**
   No – the OMSCS program is a part-time program only. No exceptions will be made to allow for full-time enrollment.

4. **What is the maximum number of courses I can register for each term?**
   OMSCS students can, by default, register for a maximum of seven hours during the fall and spring semesters, and students are limited to enrolling in five hours during the summer semester. *Please note that Financial Aid and other programs may have specific credit hour requirements, so be sure to follow up with their office(s) directly for more details.*

5. **What if a course I want to register for is CLOSED?**
   Once the registration cap has been reached for a course, the course is full. In order to request a seat in a closed course, you must follow the instructions in SECTION G. WAITLISTING FOR A CLOSED COURSE. The OMSCS program does **not** accept override requests. Please note that OMSCS Advising **cannot** register students for classes, nor can we add students to wait lists.

6. **What if the wait list for a course I want to register for is CLOSED?**
   If the wait list is full/closed when you are attempting to add yourself, please check back later. Students remove themselves from wait lists, and seats are added to courses (which removes students from the wait list), so there is a strong chance that a spot will become available at a later time.

7. **Why is there a limit on the number of seats for each course if this is an online program?**
   While we do not have physical space constraints, there are other factors that have to be taken into consideration for an online program this size. One example is that in order to maintain the integrity and academic rigor of the program, we have to hire an adequate number of TAs per a specific number of enrolled students. This is why we limit the number of waitlisted courses for each student so that we have a realistic idea of the demand for each course and can hire TAs accordingly (whenever possible). Additionally, some courses are unable to scale above a certain maximum while still providing an effective learning experience for students.

8. **How can I check which courses are open currently?**
   Students can access up-to-date enrollment and wait list totals by performing a class search in OSCAR. You can perform a course look-up in OSCAR once you have logged in using your GT credentials — the full courses have a "C" in the first column, and the open courses have a checkbox that can be selected in order to enroll.

9. **What are the chances of enrolling in a class if I am waitlisted or if the class is closed?**
   We strive to give students an opportunity to register for a variety of courses. The number of available seats is determined primarily by the number of TAs available for each course. Unfortunately, advisors cannot predict if/when a course may have more seats added or if a wait list will be expanded. Also, we cannot guarantee students will be able to enroll in specific courses. Our best advice is to continue monitoring the courses you are interested in taking and/or the wait lists. Towards the end of Phase II, the wait lists will be removed, and you may have another opportunity to register for your desired course(s). ***More information regarding this will be forthcoming.*** Alternatively, you may review the degree requirements and try to find another course.

10. **Why am I receiving an error message if I can see available seats when attempting to register?**
    If there are seats available in the course, but the course has a wait list, you will receive an error message when

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attempting to register. This is because the seats that are available are reserved for the students on the wait list. Therefore, students cannot bypass the wait list and enroll in a course – they must add themselves to the wait list, if there are spaces available.

11. **How long should I expect to wait before I receive a wait list notification?**
    There is no specific amount of time as to when students will receive a wait list notification, as we unfortunately cannot guarantee that everyone on every wait list will get into the course. As stated previously, some courses are unable to scale above a certain maximum while still providing an effective learning experience for students. Please note that the advisors are unable to determine/predict which courses will have more seats added. Therefore, please be sure to monitor your email account carefully and frequently, including your spam folder, in case you receive a wait list notification.

12. **Can I use a computer program or script when trying to register for courses?**
    As explained on the Registrar's website, "Students are required to abide by the Institute's *Acceptable Use Policy* when using Georgia Tech's computer resources, including the registration system. As such, no student may use any unauthorized computer program or script to register for classes or attempt to circumvent the registration system in any way. No student should repeatedly attempt to register for a closed section of a course by hand in an attempt to "brute force" into the next available seat. To do so is a violation, as 'faculty, staff, and students are expected to behave in an ethical and professional manner when using IT resources.' This also violates the section 'Protection of IT Resources' by 'knowingly installing or running...disruptive software' which results in depriving other students an opportunity to register. Information regarding any student who violates this policy will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action."

13. **Why is my wait list position increasing instead of decreasing?**
    Each semester, we prioritize the degree candidates on wait lists if they need a specific specialization course (not "free" elective) to graduate by the end of the term. Therefore, your wait list position could change due to degree candidates receiving priority. We hope that students will understand this, as we will do the same for you once you are in your final term and are preparing to graduate.

14. **Why is my waitlisted course showing as "0" credits in OSCAR?**
    Since a waitlisted course does not count as enrolled hours, your waitlisted course will display as "0" units until you are registered officially (though please remember that being on a wait list does not guarantee that you will be permitted to enroll in that course for the term).

15. **If I am registered for the maximum number of hours permitted, and I receive a wait list notification, will I be able to drop one of my other courses in order to add the waitlisted course, or will the system skip me and notify the next person on the wait list?**
    The system will not skip you because you are enrolled in the maximum number of hours permitted. You will have the same 12-hour window to respond to the wait list notification and make any necessary changes to your schedule in order to enroll in the waitlisted course if desired.

16. **I missed my wait list notification. What should I do now?**
    Unfortunately, the only thing you can do is add yourself back to the wait list and hope for the best or select another course. The OMSCS program must abide by the Institute's policies and procedures, and this includes the fact that wait list notifications can be sent at any time (even overnight and/or on weekends) and that students have 12 hours to respond to the notification. The wait list process is not controlled by OMSCS Advising, so we are unable to make any changes or exceptions regarding this process.

17. **I received a "Campus Restriction" or "Major Restriction" error message when trying to add a course. What does this mean?**
    If you receive the "Campus Restriction" or "Major Restriction" error message, this is because you are attempting to enroll in a course that is not part of the OMSCS program. As a reminder, *most* OMSCS courses will have a section of "O" followed by a two-digit number (example: O01, O02, O03, etc.).

    Please note that courses with the "OAN" section are for OMS Analytics students only, and courses with the "OCY" section are for OMS Cybersecurity students only – OMSCS students are NOT permitted to enroll in these sections.

    If a section of an OMS Analytics or OMS Cybersecurity course has been created for OMSCS students, it will have a section of "O" followed by a two-digit number (as mentioned previously). Therefore, please be sure you are

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selecting the correct section if you wish to enroll in the course.

****Please remember that per the program rules:*
*"A maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE."****

18. **What is the difference between "L" and "ALP" in the "BAS" column in OSCAR?**
When searching for courses in OSCAR, the "BAS" column tells you the grade modes accepted for a particular course. OMSCS courses have the "L" grading basis, which stands for "Letter Grade", as students may not audit an OMSCS course or take it on the "Pass/Fail" grading basis.

    The one exception are the OMSCS seminars, as those are graded on the "Pass/Fail" grading basis. As a reminder, these will NOT count toward your graduation requirements.

    You might notice that other courses, such as those offered through the OMS Analytics and OMS Cybersecurity programs, have the "ALP" grading basis, which stands for "Audit", "Letter Grade", and "Pass/Fail". As a reminder, courses with the "OAN" section are for OMS Analytics students only, and courses with the "OCY" section are for OMS Cybersecurity students only – OMSCS students are **NOT** permitted to enroll in these sections. If a section of an OMS Analytics or OMS Cybersecurity course has been created for OMSCS students, it will have a section of "O" followed by a two-digit number as described above. Again, please be sure you are selecting the correct section if you wish to enroll in the course.

    ****Please remember that per the program rules:*
    *"A maximum of six hours may be taken at the 4000-level and/or with a subject code other than CS or CSE."****

19. **What happens if I am not able to register for my course until the first week of classes?**
Professors have access in Canvas to see when students were added to their course. It is our understanding that students will not be penalized for assignments that were due before the student was registered for the course. However, please be sure to confirm this with your professor(s) and/or TAs, and please contact them for any other specific questions you may have regarding their course and/or assignments.

20. **What happens if I am not registered by the time Phase II registration has ended?**
Unfortunately, students cannot be added to a course(s) once Phase II registration has ended. Therefore, if you plan to be enrolled in that specific term, you may need to enroll in a backup course prior to the end of the active registration period if your first-choice course is not available.

21. **If I am still on the wait list toward the end of the Phase II registration period, will my wait list position carry over to the next semester's registration period?**
On the last two days of Phase II registration, all of the wait lists are cleared, and students are able to enroll in any open course without needing to go through the wait list first. Therefore, wait lists will **not** carry over to the next semester's registration period.

22. **If there are seats available once Phase II registration has ended, can I be added to the course?**
Students cannot be added to a course(s) once Phase II registration has ended, even if there are seats available.

23. **I successfully registered for a course. What should I do next?**
Once you have successfully registered for a course, you should log into Canvas to see if you have access to the course materials. Please see the next FAQ in case you do not see your course materials once you are registered for the course.

24. **Classes have started, and I cannot access my course materials and/or Canvas has not been set up for my course. Is this normal?**
As stated previously, course materials will be available sometime during the first week of classes. Unfortunately, we do not have control over when course materials will be available, nor do we have any additional information as to exactly when course materials will be available. Please note that some professors do not start their classes

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until later in the week, so you may not be able to view any course materials even if the semester technically has started already.

If you register for a course during the first week that classes begin, please note that it can take up to **24 hours** before you can access your course materials. If after this period of time you still cannot access your course materials, please contact canvas@gatech.edu for Canvas access.

25. **I successfully registered for a course, but Canvas is showing a different course prefix than what is displayed in OSCAR. How do I know if I registered for the correct section?**
    Instructors have the ability to edit the "display title" for a course in Canvas. Therefore, when crosslisted sections of different courses are being taught together, students may encounter times where the course prefix in Canvas is different than the one listed in OSCAR. For registration/degree-completion purposes, we will rely on your course registration according to Banner, not Canvas.

26. **Can I be switched to another course once the registration period has ended?**
    No – unfortunately, even if there are seats available, you cannot be switched to another course once the registration period has ended. If you no longer wish to be enrolled in the course, you will need to withdraw before the semester's withdrawal deadline.

27. **What is the difference between dropping and withdrawing from a course?**
    When a student **drops** a course, this action can only be done during active periods of registration (either in Phase I and/or Phase II). If a student drops a course, the course will **not** be reflected on their transcript. It will appear as if the student never registered for the course, according to their transcript. This means that the student will **not** have a record of enrollment for the term.

    If a student **withdraws** from a course (this is done after Phase II registration has ended and before the semester's withdrawal deadline), this action will result in a "W" on the student's transcript. If a student withdraws from a course (or courses) and receives a "W" on the transcript, this counts as a record of enrollment for that specific term.

28. **If I withdraw from a course and change my mind, can I be re-added to the course?**
    No – unfortunately, students cannot be re-added to a course once they have withdrawn. Please keep this in mind as you are deciding whether or not you wish to withdraw from the course (before the withdrawal deadline).

29. **If I withdraw from a course/semester, do I need to submit a Petition to the Faculty form to enroll the next semester?**
    No – as per Georgia Tech's readmission policy, "With the exception of part-time graduate students, any student who withdraws during a term and wishes to return the following term must complete a *Petition to the Faculty Form* only." Therefore, since OMSCS students are part-time graduate students, you do **not** need to submit a "Petition to the Faculty" form if you withdraw.

    Please keep in mind the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy as noted above when considering withdrawing from the semester.

30. **If I have an open OSI investigation for a course, or if I was found "responsible" at the conclusion of an OSI investigation for a course, am I permitted to withdraw or submit a Petition to the Faculty for a late withdrawal?**
    No. Per the Registrar's website: "If there is an alleged academic integrity violation pending, the student may not drop or withdraw from the course. The status of the alleged violation is defined as 'pending' when an incident has been submitted to the Office of Student Integrity and has generated an electronic 'suspected academic misconduct"' notice that has been sent to the student. If the student is found responsible for any prohibited academic conduct, they will not be allowed to drop or withdraw from the course."

    Additionally: "If the student is found responsible for any prohibited academic conduct in a class, they will also not be allowed to withdraw from the term."

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Finally, a course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found responsible for any academic misconduct in that course, regardless of how many times it is repeated.

Please contact the Registrar's Office and the Office of Student Integrity if you have any questions regarding this.

31. **Will I retain access to my course materials in Canvas after completing a course?**
This is at the discretion of the course instructor. We recommend that students check with the course's teaching team during the semester in which you are enrolled so that you can plan accordingly.

32. **What happens to my access in Canvas and Piazza once I withdraw from a course(s)?**
If you withdraw from a course(s), please note that your access to Canvas and Piazza may not update immediately. It is our understanding that your access to Piazza should update on its own within the next couple of weeks after you withdraw from the course(s). If an extended amount of time passes, and you still have access to Canvas, please contact your TA(s) and/or your instructor(s) first. If they are unable to assist you, please contact the Technology Services Organization (TSO).

33. **I am interested in participating in research as an OMSCS student. What are my options?**
First, we recommend visiting OMSCS's Research Opportunities webpage. A summary of the information included is outlined below:

First, there are several courses and seminars that discuss research for OMSCS students – please visit the Current Courses webpage for more information, including course and/or seminar descriptions. We recommend that students consider those first as they are getting started on exploring research opportunities.

OMSCS students can also enroll in (and pay the tuition for) a three-credit course entitled CS 8903 Special Problems. There is no compensation for research — students only can earn academic credit. **Note that students only can apply three credits of CS 8903 to their OMSCS degree toward the "free" elective requirement.** Students are eligible to take the course more than once, but any additional CS 8903 credits cannot be counted toward the degree and simply would be extra credits earned. **Students must have a College of Computing (CoC) faculty member who is willing to be the "Supervising Faculty Member" in order to proceed with this option.**

Additionally, there are newer research-based opportunities that have become available to OMSCS students: the Vertically Integrated Projects program (https://www.vip.gatech.edu/) and CREATE-X (https://create-x.gatech.edu/). There are specific limitations with those hours as far as how they can and cannot count toward the MSCS degree requirements, so students should refer to the program rules/requirements and notify their OMSCS advisor if they decided to pursue either of those options as an OMSCS student.

As stated previously, the OMSCS program is course only — unless a student has a College of Computing faculty member who is willing to be a faculty advisor, the thesis and project options typically are not available to OMSCS students. However, it has been possible in the past for a select few OMSCS students to complete the project or thesis option if they had a College of Computing faculty member who was willing to oversee their research. If this is the case, please be sure to notify our office, and we can provide more information regarding one of those options if you have secured a College of Computing faculty member's approval.

Note that matriculated OMSCS students will have access to the OMSCS Student Center where additional information is shared, including Student Research Support and more details about Research Opportunities. New OMSCS students will need to wait until Phase II registration has ended before they will gain access to the OMSCS Student Center.

34. **If I am interested in finding research opportunities, how do I begin that process?**
Students may find research opportunities either by reaching out to individual faculty members directly or by using the OMSCS-internal Buzzme website which lists opportunities actively seeking students every semester. Emails

are sent each semester via the official OMSCS mailing list to identify CS 8903 research opportunities for the upcoming semester.

As noted previously, the vast majority of students in the OMSCS program complete the degree through the course track. However CS 6999 and CS 7000 (project track and thesis track, respectively) are available to OMSCS students solely through the advising of a faculty member within the College of Computing. For all research credits (CS 6999, CS 7000, and CS 8903), you must secure approval and a plan from a willing CoC-faculty advisor before attempting to register for the permit-restricted course.

35. **Am I able to participate in research without needing to register for course credit?**
    The previously-stated research options (CS 6999, CS 7000, and/or CS 8903) represent research options related to course credit. OMSCS students are welcome to volunteer with research labs or find paid opportunities if available, though please note that the OMSCS program does not facilitate these.

36. **I was approved to enroll in a research-based course (such as CS 8903). By when should the required form be signed and submitted so that I can register for the research hours/course?**
    Research-related forms, including the Docusign request for CS 8903 enrollment, must be fully signed (by the student, their College of Computing supervising faculty member, and any other required signatures) and submitted before the start of Phase II registration. Late submissions are not guaranteed to be approved and/or processed ahead of the registration deadline, and no schedule changes are permitted once Phase II registration has ended.

37. **I was approved to enroll in a research-based course (such as CS 8903). How do I register for the correct number of hours since the system defaults to 1 credit hour?**
    If you were approved to enroll in a research-based course, please visit the Registrar's website for step-by-step instructions on how to adjust your hours for a variable-hours course, such as CS 8903.

    You must ensure that you are registered for the number of credit hours agreed upon by you and your supervising faculty member. This must be finalized **before** the end of Phase II registration, as the Registrar's Office will not allow any adjustments after that deadline.

38. **What is the difference between CS 8903 Special Problems and CS 6999 MS Project?**
    As noted previously, OMSCS students who are selected/approved for a CS 8903 Special Problems course can count up to three hours toward their "free" elective requirement. Should students decide to pursue the MS Project option and have a College of Computing faculty member who is willing to serve as their faculty advisor, they will be required to fulfill the 9-hour CS 6999 requirement for the MS Project option, as noted on the program rules/requirements webpage. The 9-hour requirement of CS 6999 will count toward the "free" elective requirement and is graded on the letter grade basis.

    Like the CS 8903 course, the CS 6999 course is a variable-hour course and defaults to 1 credit hour when approved students receive a permit to register. As noted previously, please visit the Registrar's website for step-by-step instructions on how to adjust your hours for a variable-hours course. You must ensure that you are registered for the number of credit hours agreed upon by you and your supervising faculty member. This must be finalized **before** the end of Phase II registration, as the Registrar's Office will not allow any adjustments after that deadline.

OMSCS Seminars

1. **Will OMSCS seminars count as credit toward my degree?**
   No, OMSCS seminars will not count toward your MSCS degree requirements.

2. **Are OMSCS seminars required for OMSCS students?**
   No, since OMSCS seminars do not count toward the MSCS degree requirements, they are not required.

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3. **As a graduate of the OMSCS program, will I be permitted to register for OMSCS seminars?**
   Alumni of the OMSCS program may enroll in OMSCS seminars just like current students, as long as they have requested to be in the "Special/Non-Degree" status. Please contact oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu and provide your full name and nine-digit GTID (90XXXXXXX, replacing the first two digits with "xx") for more information.

4. **Are the OMSCS seminars graded?**
   Seminars are graded as "pass/fail", meaning that no letter grade is assigned. This grading mode is not used to calculate any relevant grade point average (GPA).

5. **Will the OMSCS seminars appear on my transcript?**
   Yes, OMSCS seminars will appear on your transcript but will not impact your GPA since they are graded on the pass/fail grading basis.

6. **Do OMSCS seminars count toward the maximum hours permitted for an OMSCS student each semester?**
   Yes, these seminars will count toward the maximum hours permitted for an OMSCS student each semester.

7. **Do OMSCS seminars count toward making satisfactory academic progress toward my degree?**
   If you are only enrolling in OMSCS seminars (and no other graded courses) during a semester, this will not count toward making satisfactory academic progress toward your degree.

8. **Can students take more than one OMSCS seminar in a semester?**
   Yes, it is possible for OMSCS students to take multiple OMSCS seminars in a semester, as long as you do not exceed the maximum number of permitted hours per semester. If you plan to take more than one OMSCS seminar, you will need a duplicate course permit to register for both sections. Click here to request a duplicate course permit.

Payments & Financial Information

1. **Who should I contact if I have questions regarding financial aid, tuition/fees, my financial student account, or other financial-related questions, such as deferring my previous student loans, tuition reimbursements for my employer, tax documents that need to be completed by the Institute, etc.?**
   Please contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and/or the Bursar's Office for assistance.

2. **How do I apply for Financial Aid?**
   Please review the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid's website for more information and contact their office with any questions.

   Please note that Financial Aid and other programs may have specific credit hour requirements, so be sure to follow up with their office(s) directly for more information regarding eligibility.

3. **How do I pay for classes? (Note – You do NOT pay for classes until you register for them.)**
   Please refer to the Bursar's website and click on "Student Pay" located at the top right of the webpage. Methods of payment accepted by the Bursar's Office are cash, check, money order, wire transfers, webchecks, and credit cards (online only). Please note: there is a third-party service fee when paying by credit card. *OMSCS students are ineligible for the GT Payment Plan.*

4. **What is the amount I need to pay?**
   Please refer to the Bursar's website and view the costs by term by reviewing the information under the "Tuition and Fees" menu.

5. **How can I update my residency status for tuition calculation purposes?**
   While students cannot update their residency status on their own, they can initiate the process by contacting the Tuition Classification team within the Registrar's Office at tuitionclass@registrar.gatech.edu.

   Information on tuition classification is available online at Registrar's Office @ Georgia Tech. Any questions should be directed to the Tuition Classification team and/or the Bursar's Office.

6. **What is the deadline to pay my fees?**
   Please refer to the Bursar's website for the Fee Payment Deadline for the specific term. If fees are not paid by

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the Fee Payment Deadline, class cancellation may occur, and a late fee may be assessed.

7. **What is the process to be reinstated if my schedule is cancelled by the Bursar's Office due to nonpayment?**
   If your schedule is cancelled for nonpayment, you will be notified by email. Appeals can be submitted by visiting the Bursar's website. If you are reinstated into classes, a reinstatement fee of $200.00 will apply, and the account balance must be paid immediately to avoid re-cancellation.

   For questions regarding the fee payment deadline or reinstatement process, please contact the Bursar's Office directly (omsbursar.ask@gatech.edu).

   Please note: Reinstatement does not guarantee that faculty will allow students to make up any work missed. It is the student's responsibility to confirm ahead of being reinstated what accommodations, if any, will be permitted during the time frame in which the student was not enrolled due to non-payment.

8. **Will I have a record of enrollment if my schedule is cancelled by the Bursar's Office due to nonpayment?**
   If your schedule is cancelled for nonpayment, you will **NOT** have a record of enrollment for the semester. Therefore, please note the following:

   - If this is your first semester in the OMSCS program, you will need to defer your admission, if you are eligible to do so. Please refer to the "Deferring Admission" section of this document for more information regarding this.
   - If this is not your first semester in the OMSCS program, you will need to make note of whether this will be your third consecutively-skipped semester. If you will have three or more consecutively-skipped semesters, you will need to seek readmission in order to enroll in a future semester. Please refer to the "Taking Time Off" section of this document for more information regarding this.

9. **Why was I charged for health insurance?**
   If you believe you have been erroneously charged for health insurance, please contact grad.ask@grad.gatech.edu for assistance. Note that you may be asked to complete a waiver application form.

10. **Who should I contact for information regarding my 1098-T?**
    Please contact the Bursar's Office for more information regarding your 1098-T.

11. **Who should I contact if I have questions regarding refunds and/or refund eligibility?**
    Please contact the Bursar's Office for more information regarding refunds. *Keep in mind that you will receive NO refund if you are enrolled for more than one class and withdraw from only one course. You only are eligible for a partial refund if you completely withdraw from school (withdraw from ALL of your courses for the current term).*

Taking Time Off

1. **Can I take a semester off?**
   OMSCS students may take up to two consecutive semesters off at any time after they have matriculated into the OMSCS program. However, if you take three or more consecutive semesters off, you must apply for readmission. Please note that the summer term counts as one of the consecutive semesters, even though students are not required to enroll in the summer term. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee you will be readmitted. For more information, please review the Registrar's Readmission Policy.

   To clarify, if a student enrolls in a course and **withdraws** (which would result in a "W" on the student's transcript), this counts as a record of enrollment for that semester and does not count as sitting out for the semester. Therefore, the student would need to sit out the next three consecutive semesters before needing to apply for readmission. If a student **drops** a course, this does not count as a record of enrollment, and this would be considered as sitting out a semester.

   Please see the FAQ section entitled "**Registration-Related Information**" for a detailed explanation of the difference between dropping and withdrawing from a course.

   Please note: *If you are a newly-admitted student and are not planning to attend your first semester, you will need to submit a request to defer your admission. Please refer to the "**Deferring Admission**" section of the FAQ for*

more information about how and when to submit this request.

2. **What is the process once students seek readmission?**
   Students must complete the step-by-step instructions on the Registrar's readmission website. After they have successfully submitted their readmission application (by following the step-by-step instructions), the information is sent to the Registrar's Office where initial processing is completed. They then submit your readmission packet to our office, and we process everything on our end.

   If you have been academically dismissed, we will prepare and send you the graduate readmission contract. Once we receive the signed copy from you, or if you do not require the readmission contract, we will submit everything to the Executive Director or Director of OMSCS Advising for review. After they have made their recommendation as to whether or not your readmission application should be approved, we will submit everything to the Registrar's Office for a final decision and processing. You will be notified by their office once a final decision has been made.

   Please note that there are different deadlines when you are seeking readmission as a student who has been academically dismissed versus a student who has taken three or more consecutive semesters off.

3. **What is the difference between readmitting versus reapplying to the OMSCS program?**
   Readmission is for current OMSCS students who matriculated into the program and then took time off (either voluntarily or as a result of being academically dismissed). Students are considered to have matriculated if they registered in at least one course and earned a grade, even if the grade was a withdrawal ("W").

   Reapplying (or submitting a full new application to the OMSCS program) is for admitted students who did not matriculate and are already outside of their one-year deferral timeframe. For example, if your original application term is Spring 2026, you would need to reapply to the program if you wish to matriculate after Spring 2027.

   To summarize:

   - Current OMSCS students who have been academically dismissed and/or who have taken three or more consecutive semesters off must seek readmission.
   - Admitted students who have not yet matriculated into the OMSCS program must reapply if they are past the one-year deferral time frame from their original application term.

4. **If I am readmitted, will my previously-earned credits still count?**
   Yes — your eligible, previously-earned credits will count toward your OMSCS degree if you are approved for readmission (subject to the six-year program completion rule). To clarify, it is not possible to "start over" or "erase" your previous academic history, as that always will be a part of your student record.

5. **What if I need to seek readmission but have not fulfilled my foundational requirement as of yet?**
   We will address your foundational requirement as part of the readmission application process, so there is nothing additional that you need to do regarding this when seeking readmission.

6. **Is there anything I need to do if I wish to take a semester off?**
   If you wish to take a semester off, you simply should not enroll in a course for that term. If you are registered for a future term, please be sure to drop your course(s) once you have an active time ticket so that you are not charged tuition/fees. You do **not** need to notify your advisor or complete/submit any forms. Please keep the readmission policy in mind, as you will need to seek readmission if you skip three or more consecutive semesters (including the summer semester).

7. **Can I work as a TA during a semester that I am not enrolled in a course?**
   OMSCS students can work as a TA during a semester in which they are not enrolled, *only if they do not need to seek readmission*. If they are in their third consecutively-skipped semester and will need to seek readmission to enroll in a future semester, then they are not eligible to be a TA.

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8. **What if I need to take an extended amount of time off from school due to an extenuating circumstance (such as required military service, maternity/paternity leave, scheduled surgery, etc.)?**
Students may be eligible for an approved Leave of Absence. Please review Section D of the academic catalog for more information. If you have any questions regarding the Leave of Absence policy, please be sure to contact the Registrar's Office directly.

   Please note the following regarding the Leave of Absence policy:
   - **The Leave of Absence cannot be approved retroactively.**
   - An approved Leave of Absence would be effective in a **future** term. Students on an approved Leave of Absence would not have to apply for readmission and would be able to retain their email accounts during the approved absence. Prior to returning, the student would have to notify the Registrar's Office so that their record could be reactivated for re-entry.
   - The Leave of Absence would cover eligible students for at least three and no more than seven semesters (including summer). If the seventh semester is a spring term, students may opt to return in either the summer or fall term.
   - Students on an approved Leave of Absence may not attend class or access other campus services.
   - The form to request an approved Leave of Absence is on the Registrar's Office's website.
     - **Please be sure to use your advisor's direct email address (NOT oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu) when submitting this form via DocuSign.**
   - The Leave of Absence may be used more than once but for no more than seven total semesters during the student's enrollment at Georgia Tech.
   - Students who have been placed on academic drop, suspended, or expelled for disciplinary reasons may not participate.
   - Students must clear up any other issues such as registration holds or providing any requested documentation prior to re-entry. The approved Leave of Absence does not override other considerations or restrictions on enrollment.
   - Students should apply for a Leave of Absence as soon as possible. Applications for a Leave of Absence will require review and signatures by the Office of the Dean of Students and the student's major academic advisor. Other signature approvals, such as the Office of International Education and Financial Aid, also may need to be obtained.
     - Students should bear in mind the time limits in determining the anticipated date of return.
     - As a reminder, readmission is required when three or more consecutive terms have been missed (the summer term counts as one of the consecutive semesters, even though students are not required to enroll in the summer term). However, once students have made the decision that they will have to or need to be out for three or more consecutive terms, and the students wish to return to Georgia Tech without being readmitted, the application for a Leave of Absence should be filed with the Registrar's Office.
     - The clock begins when the student does not enroll for a third consecutive term. The Leave of Absence would have to be in effect for the third consecutive missed term to avoid readmission.
   - Students must file a Return from Leave of Absence form to return. If the leave exceeds the seven-semester time frame, the student must apply for readmission. The form is available on the Registrar's Office's website under the "Forms" menu.
   - As stated previously, the Leave of Absence, if approved, would be effective in a future term. It will not be approved to be effective in the term in which the application is made. It in no way supplants or replaces any other policy. If a student needs to withdraw from classes within a given term, they should follow the standard withdrawal process, and if a Leave of Absence is needed or desired, it would be effective for a future term(s) only as approved.
   - Applications for a Leave of Absence are due by:
     - **Fall – July 1**
     - **Spring – December 1**
     - **Summer – April 1**

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Graduation

1. **When do students need to apply for graduation?**
   Students will need to apply for graduation in the semester preceding the semester they plan to graduate. For example, students who will be graduating by the end of the Fall 2026 term were asked to apply for graduation during the Summer 2026 term. OMSCS Advising will send email announcements with step-by-step instructions on how and when to apply for graduation.

   Unless noted otherwise, the OMSCS departmental deadlines for graduation are as follows:

   - Spring graduation: October 15
   - Summer graduation: March 15
   - Fall graduation: June 1

   Please note that our departmental deadline is earlier than the posted Institute deadline for students' benefit. If the advisors do not have time to process/audit students' graduation application materials before the registration period ends for the anticipated graduation term, we cannot ensure that students will meet their degree requirements by the end of that term.

2. **How do I know if I am eligible to apply for graduation?**
   Students should apply for graduation if they meet the following criteria:

   1. they are planning to take their final course(s) during the next semester and will have met all other MSCS degree requirements at the end of the semester; **OR**
   2. they have already met or will meet all other MSCS degree requirements and are seeking approval for a grade substitution for a course successfully repeated in the previous semester. *Please refer to the grade substitution policy for information regarding eligibility requirements.*

   For example #1, if a student will be taking their final course(s) in Fall 2026, they should apply for Fall 2026 graduation by the departmental deadline in Summer 2026. The student's graduation eligibility would depend on their performance in their final semester of the program. Please refer to the other FAQs in this "Graduation" section for more information.

   For example #2, if a student was in the process of repeating a course in Fall 2026 and wanted to pursue a grade substitution for that course (again, please refer to the grade substitution policy for information regarding eligibility requirements), they would need to apply for Spring 2027 graduation by the departmental deadline in Fall 2026. Once the Fall 2026 grades were released, if the course was, in fact, successfully completed/repeated, the student must then submit the grade substitution request by the grade substitution deadline in Spring 2027. If the course was not successfully completed/repeated, the Spring 2027 graduation application could be inactivated by an OMSCS advisor as noted in the other FAQs in this "Graduation" section.

3. **How do I submit my Online Application for Graduation (OAG)?**
   Please visit the Registrar's website for step-by-step instructions on how to submit your Online Application for Graduation (OAG). Note that the OMSCS departmental deadline is earlier than the Institute's deadline, so please follow all instructions included in the email announcements our office sends each semester.

4. **I am receiving an error message when trying to submit my OAG. Why can I not submit it?**
   More than likely, you have already submitted an OAG. Please contact our office at oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu from your GT email account and include your full name and your nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx". Your OMSCS advisor can confirm whether your OAG has already been submitted for the semester.

   Note that you will not be able to submit an OAG for multiple semesters, so even if you are a degree candidate for the current semester and know that you will not be fulfilling your degree requirements that semester, you must work with your OMSCS advisor to have your current OAG inactivated before the system will allow you to submit a new OAG for a future semester.

5. **Why can I not find my graduation term when submitting my OAG?**
   As noted on the Registrar's website, during the first step of the process, the "Curriculum Selection" is not

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necessarily your graduation term. Select the current term (or the most recent term in which you registered for classes) from the drop-down menu in order to proceed to the next steps.

6. **What is the process once I apply for graduation?**
   After you submit your Online Application for Graduation (OAG) and Program of Study (POS) form, your advisor will conduct several audits on your record to ensure you are on track to graduate by the end of the term:

   - The first audit is completed between the start of Phase I registration and the first day of classes for your graduating semester. The purpose of this audit is to ensure you are enrolled in the course(s) you need to fulfill your degree requirements.
   - The second audit is completed after Phase II registration has ended to ensure that you remained registered in the appropriate course(s).
   - The third audit is completed after the semester's withdrawal deadline to ensure you did not withdraw from a course(s) you need to graduate.
   - The final audit is completed after grades have been released for the semester so that we can confirm that you successfully met all of your degree requirements.

7. **When registering for my final semester, what happens if I am waitlisted for a course(s) that I need to graduate, or the wait list for the course(s) I need to graduate is full?**
   As we have done in previous semesters, we will ensure that official degree candidates (students who have submitted the OAG and a completed POS form to their advisor by the departmental deadline) are registered for the specialization course(s) that they need to graduate. As we are conducting our first audit, we make note of any degree candidates who are waitlisted or not yet waitlisted for a specific specialization course(s) that they need. As we get closer to Phase II registration, we will bump these students to the top of the wait list(s). *There may be an exception to this process for specific courses, such as CS 6515, but our office will send detailed instructions regarding this, if applicable.*

   Please note that we only do this for specialization courses, not "free" electives.

   As with any waitlisted course, please be sure to monitor your account carefully and frequently to ensure that you do not miss a wait list notification, if you receive one. If you are not yet on the wait list, be sure to monitor the course, add yourself to the wait list as soon as a space becomes available, and notify your advisor once you are on the wait list if you need to be prioritized as an official degree candidate.

8. **What if I have submitted my Online Application for Graduation (OAG) but no longer wish to be considered a degree candidate for that semester?**
   As noted on the Registrar's website, "[t]he Registrar's Office will not inactivate a graduation application for students who are on track for graduation or have completed all requirements for their degree." Therefore, unless there is an academic reason to do so, such as a student not registering for the appropriate/sufficient courses, a student not earning the required grade and/or cumulative GPA, a student withdrawing from a course and/or the semester, etc., the OAG will not be inactivated once it has been submitted.

9. **What resources should I consult as a degree candidate?**
   Please visit the Registrar's "Degree Candidate" website for helpful information. There are additional links available on the Commencement website that may be of interest to you, including information regarding the commencement ceremony. The Commencement Office's contact information can be found online (at the bottom of the page) if you have any questions.

10. **Am I invited to participate in the commencement ceremony?**
    OMSCS students are invited to participate in the commencement ceremonies. Please note that commencement ceremonies only take place in the spring and fall terms. If you are a summer graduate, you would be invited to attend the fall commencement ceremony. For more information regarding commencement ceremonies, please visit the Commencement website.

11. **How long after commencement will I receive my diploma?**
    Diplomas are printed by an outside company, and it typically takes eight to twelve weeks after the commencement ceremony for the diplomas to be printed and mailed.

12. **Who should I contact if I need to update my diploma address or if I have questions about my diploma?**
    Please send a message from your GT email account to diplomas@registrar.gatech.edu for assistance with

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updating your diploma address or if you have any other questions regarding your diploma.

13. **I have applied to graduate by the end of the semester, and I need a document to prove this. Are there any documents that the Institute can provide to show that I am approaching my graduation date?**
    As per the Registrar's website, "[s]tudents who have petitioned for a degree for the term may request a letter stating that they have a 'pending' degree and that the degree will be awarded when all requirements for the degree are completed. This option is not available for students who have already been awarded a degree. Students who wish to have verification of an awarded degree should request a *Degree Verification* instead." Please visit the website linked above for more information on how to request this letter.

14. **If I am not sure that I will meet the degree requirements by the end of the term, am I still permitted to attend the commencement ceremony?**
    Since grades are not finalized until after the commencement ceremony, there have been times when students have attended the commencement ceremony but unfortunately did not earn the grade(s) they needed. In this case, the student would need to enroll in a future term in order to fulfill the degree requirements.

    Therefore, if you are a degree candidate and have followed the steps on the Commencement Office's website to attend the ceremony, you should be eligible to attend, even if you are not sure you will obtain the grade(s) you need. Please contact the Commencement Office directly if you have additional questions regarding this. As a reminder, the Commencement Office's contact information can be found online (at the bottom of the page).

15. **When will I know that I completed my degree requirements and will graduate from the OMSCS program?**
    Grades typically are released on the Tuesday after the commencement ceremony. Our office performs the final degree audit once grades have been posted so that degrees can be conferred by the Thursday of that same week. Therefore, as explained previously, it unfortunately is possible for students to attend the commencement ceremony and later discover that they did not earn the grade(s) they needed to fulfill the degree requirements. We will notify students if this is the case, but fortunately this does not happen often.

16. **What happens if I apply to graduate and do not meet the degree requirements by the end of that term?**
    As noted previously, if you did not meet the degree requirements by the end of the term for which you applied to graduate, your graduation application would be inactivated. To clarify, these are the most common reasons why your graduation application would need to be inactivated:

    - You did not register for the courses you needed to fulfill your degree requirements by the end of the term.
    - You withdrew from a course(s) you needed to fulfill your degree requirements by the end of the term.
    - You did not earn the grade(s) you needed to fulfill your degree requirements.
    - You did not earn the overall cumulative 3.0 GPA requirement.

    Once your graduation application was inactivated, you would need to re-apply for graduation and submit updated graduation materials as instructed by OMSCS Advising for your new anticipated graduation term.

17. **What happens if I pass my courses and fulfill my course/specialization requirements, but my cumulative GPA is below 3.0?**
    Even if you complete your courses and ultimately fulfill your course/specialization requirements for the MSCS degree, you cannot graduate from the OMSCS program if your cumulative GPA is not 3.0 or higher. Therefore, you would be required to take additional courses beyond the required 30 hours in order to increase your GPA and meet the minimum requirement of a 3.0. Please be sure to contact your advisor directly for further guidance, especially if you are considering repeating a course, as students cannot repeat courses in which the grade of "B" or higher has been earned previously.

18. **Is it possible to graduate with honors/distinctions from the OMSCS program?**
    Graduating with distinction/honors is not available at the graduate level at Georgia Tech. Please visit https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/degree-candidate-faq#about-honors for more information.

19. **Can I continue taking OMSCS courses after I graduate from the program?**
    It is possible for students to continue taking courses after they have graduated. In the semester you are graduating, you should tell your academic advisor (after your graduating term's withdrawal deadline) that you wish to become a special/non-degree student in the next (or in a future) term. Term-specific information regarding the exact timeline and deadline to submit the required form should be available after that term's withdrawal deadline.

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To confirm, special/non-degree requests are not processed until after degrees have been awarded by the Registrar's Office at the end of the term, as the advisors do not want to request the status change in the unfortunate event that a student did not fulfill the degree requirements that term as planned.

Please keep in mind the following regarding the special/non-degree student status:

- You will continue paying OMSCS tuition and fees.
- You will have a later registration time ticket than most degree-seeking students.
- The same rule applies in that if special/non-degree students do not enroll for three consecutive terms (including the summer term), they have to apply for readmission.
- The special/non-degree status will last until you apply for another program at Georgia Tech.
- There is no overall limit on how many courses you can take as a special/non-degree student.
- You would earn credits in the sense that if you wanted to transfer them to another institution, you could. However, at Georgia Tech, the credits would not count for anything.
- Courses taken as a special/non-degree student **will** alter your GPA because the GPA does not start over with a new class standing. However, for the purposes of your resume, whatever your GPA was when your degree was awarded will be your MS GPA.
- Courses taken as a special/non-degree student will appear on your transcript and become a part of your student record (this is not optional).

20. Can I continue being a TA after I graduate from the program?

This is possible, but it is more complicated than taking courses after graduating. You would have to be hired as a part-time instructor. The hiring takes more time, and you have to consent to a background check. Therefore, you should be absolutely sure that you really want to continue being a TA before you apply.

Also, please note that international students who are not living in the U.S. most likely cannot be hired as TAs, as the Institute has to be able to verify your identity and conduct a background check, and you have to have a Social Security number to do this. International students who are not living in the U.S. may not work as TAs for free. Unless we hire them as a TA, there is no way of holding them accountable for their work as a TA.

21. What technology-related services will I retain as a graduate of Georgia Tech?

Please visit https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0027556 and https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0027561 for information on what will happen to your GT accounts once you have graduated from the OMSCS program. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact OIT directly. Their contact information can be found on their website.

22. How can I request a degree verification and/or an academic transcript from the Institute?

Visit the Registrar's website for information on how to request a degree verification and/or an academic transcript.

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SECTION L. GEORGIA TECH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT & WEBSITE	CONTACT INFORMATION	REASON(S) TO CONTACT
Bursar's Office https://www.bursar.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-4618 **Email:** omsbursar.ask@gatech.edu	Questions about tuition/fees, payments, refunds, 1098-T form, etc.
BuzzCard Center https://www.buzzcard.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-2899 **Email:** Please complete the webform available online at https://www.buzzcard.gatech.edu/contact/.	Questions regarding your BuzzCard
Campus Recreation Center (CRC) https://crc.gatech.edu/home	**Phone:** (404) 385-7529 **Email:** Please complete the webform available online at https://crc.gatech.edu/contact.	Access to the CRC and other related resources (**OMSCS students do not pay the fee to cover these services/resources, so arrangements may need to be made through the Bursar's Office to become eligible.*)
College of Computing Career Development https://www.cc.gatech.edu/computing-career-services	**Schedule an Appointment:** https://gatech.joinhandshake.com/login	Questions regarding on-campus and virtual career fairs, in addition to help with job searching, interviewing, networking, career planning, and professional development
Commencement Office https://commencement.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 385-2638 **Email:** events@gatech.edu	Information regarding the Commencement ceremonies
Dean of Students Office https://studentlife.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-6367 **Email:** studentlife@studentlife.gatech.edu	Student-support services, especially when students are facing extenuating circumstances
Georgia Tech Athletics https://ramblinwreck.com/	**Phone:** (404) 894-5447 or 888.TECH.TIX (Ticket Office) **Email:** tickets@athletics.gatech.edu	Information regarding Georgia Tech athletic events (**OMSCS students do not pay the athletic fee, so arrangements may need to be made through the Bursar's Office if you would like to purchase tickets.*)
Georgia Tech Career Center https://career.gatech.edu/ Graduate Student Website: https://career.gatech.edu/graduate-career/ CareerBuzz: https://gatech-csm.symplicity.com/	**Phone:** 404-894-3320 **Email:** careercenter@gatech.edu	This is the central career services office that serves all students at the Institute. They offer services that allow students to explore careers, to prepare for the job market, and to connect with employers. Students can utilize their workshops, career fairs, and a job and internship board.
Office of Disability Services https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-2563 **Email:** dsinfo@gatech.edu	Services for students needing support, resources, and/or accommodations.

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Office of Graduate Education https://grad.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-1610 **Email:** grad.ask@grad.gatech.edu	Admissions-required documents such as undergraduate/graduate transcripts, English proficiency scores, clearing the lawful presence requirement, etc.
Office of Information Technology https://www.oit.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 385-5555 **Email:** Please visit https://www.oit.gatech.edu/contact-us to open a ticket with their office.	Questions regarding technical support for Institute-related services
Office of International Education https://www.oie.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-7475 **Email:** info@oie.gatech.edu	International student services and resources
Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid https://finaid.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-2000 **Email:** Please complete the webform available online at https://finaid.gatech.edu/contacting-our-office.	Questions regarding FAFSA, financial aid eligibility, financial aid disbursement, etc.
Office of Student Integrity https://osi.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-2566 **Email:** osi@mail.gatech.edu	Academic integrity issues or concerns
OMSCS Help Desk	https://pe.gatech.edu/contact-omscs	Assistance for prospective students regarding general program information, admissions, and application-related questions
Registrar's Office https://registrar.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-4150 **Email:** oms@registrar.gatech.edu	Transcripts, enrollment verifications, updating personal information, etc.
STAMPS Health Services https://health.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-1420 **Email:** Please visit the website to complete a web form.	Student health insurance, immunizations, healthcare-related services, etc.
Student Engagement and Well-Being	https://students.gatech.edu/content/mission-vision	Provides services to students to support its mission to develop diverse student leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition, by enhancing engagement, promoting holistic wellness, and cultivating inclusive communities.
Technology Services Organization https://support.cc.gatech.edu/	**Phone:** (404) 894-7065 **Email:** helpdesk@cc.gatech.edu	Questions regarding technical support or departmental-related services
Veteran's Services https://registrar.gatech.edu/veterans-services/	**Phone:** (404) 894-4150 **Email:** veterans@registrar.gatech.edu	Serves as a liaison between GT veteran students and the Department of Veteran Affairs regarding VA-related educational benefits

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SECTION M. GET CONNECTED!

You are encouraged to connect through social media:

- ➢ Facebook (OMSCS Official)
- ➢ X (OMSCS Official)
- ➢ OMSCS reddit
  - o This is not an official OMSCS page; however, it is monitored by OMSCS employees periodically. It is run by students, for students, and is a great way to connect with your classmates across the globe.
- ➢ OMSCS MeWe
  - o As with the reddit community, this is not an official OMSCS page. It again is run by students and is another great way to connect with your classmates.

SECTION N. OMSCS ADVISING CONTACT INFORMATION

- As an admitted student, we strongly recommend that you add oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu to your contact list, especially if you have a Gmail account. This is to prevent OMSCS Advising responses from being inadvertently directed to your "junk" or "spam" folders.
  - *This should not be a necessary step once you have access to your GT email account, as you will be required to use that account as a matriculated student when communicating with GT offices/employees.*
- For all OMSCS Advising questions, please send an email from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu. Please be sure to include your full name and nine-digit GTID number (90XXXXXXX), replacing the first two digits with "xx". Once you send an email to this address, you will receive an automated response that will include a ticket number – this number is assigned to your inquiry directly and is confirmation that we have received your message.
  - Once we respond to your message, you will receive two emails: one with our response and the other stating that your ticket has been resolved. You should receive our response first; however, if you receive the "resolved ticket" message first, please be patient, as the response email should arrive soon. Please check to ensure it did not go to another folder (like spam) before emailing us to say that you did not receive a response.
  - If you have further questions after we answer your email, you MUST create a new ticket by sending a new (separate) message from your GT email account to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu. If you reply to our response, you most likely will not receive a reply because these are not directed back to the oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu account.
  - If you are instructed to contact your advisor directly, please do so in a separate email and include the ticket number in your message. Do not forward the email to your advisor, as these messages are not always routed to the advisor's inbox, so you may not receive a reply.
  - When you send a message to oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu, please do not copy other people/departments on the message – OMSCS Advising will direct you to another department if necessary. Likewise, please do not copy the oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu account on your messages to other people/departments.
  - Please allow 24-48 business hours as a standard response time. During certain times of the year, such as registration and the end of the term, the response time may increase. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding.
- Please do NOT reply or send messages to the omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu account, as this could result in all OMSCS students receiving your message. As a reminder, please pay special attention to any messages sent from omscs-official@cc.gatech.edu, as important announcements typically are sent from this account.
- While it is not required, we also encourage students to subscribe to the omscs-announce@cc.gatech.edu account for non-academic events and announcements. You can subscribe by visiting this webpage.

Again, welcome to Georgia Tech and the OMSCS program! We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

OMSCS Advising
College of Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology
oms-advising@cc.gatech.edu

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