

Course Selection

1. You may not be able to register for the courses you desire during your first semester because they have reached their capacity and have been closed. Some courses are closed during early registration before you were even allowed to register. Be prepared to be proactive and flexible with respect to your registration in your first semester. For your second and third semester you can register during the early registration period when there is a larger choice of courses that have not been closed.
2. There are 3 courses in the core and 6 courses in core electives. These are the topics and courses that ISyE is famous for. I recommend that you take them all. This will count for two of your technical electives.
3. Deterministic Models and Probabilistic Models contain methodology that will be used in the core and other courses. Take these two courses as early as you can in your program.
4. During the spring semester there are fewer technical courses offered in ISyE than during the fall semester. You may want to take two core courses during the spring semester, since they are typically offered every semester.
5. Other typical choices of technical electives are
 - a. Design of Experiments
 - b. Statistical Methods in Manufacturing
6. Balance your workload during a semester. It is not a good idea to take the three core courses in the same semester. If you have three courses from the core or core electives, it is a good idea to balance this with a free elective.
7. Develop a plan for your complete program of study, typically three semesters. Have a primary course plan and a backup course for each course on the primary plan.
8. Register for the courses you want in each semester. If they are closed, register as an overload. Students register initially for more hours than they plan to take and then drop classes from their schedule. This creates a chaotic registration situation during the first days of the semester. Check your registration often and update your courses.
9. Do not take courses in the College of Management on supply chain or operations management. These are core areas of expertise in ISyE and you should take these topics in ISyE. You can explore additional topics in management that are not offered in ISyE such as
 - a. International finance
 - b. International marketing
 - c. Legal topics in management
10. Special Topics in Industrial Engineering or Operations Research are courses with a standard structure that are offered on an irregular basis. There may be more than one course offered in a semester, indicated by letter after the course number. ISyE 8813B in one semester is not the same course as ISyE 8813B in the following semester.
11. Special Problems are courses where you interact on a one on one basis with a professor based on an agreed upon statement of work. You will need the professor's permission to register and have to file the special problem description. Unless you have extensive prior experience in an industrial job, special problems should be taken toward the end of your program of study.
12. Ph.D. level courses are significantly more rigorous and demanding than masters' courses. In general, you should not take Ph.D. level courses. The level of a course is not clearly

indicated in the course listing so be careful to register for masters' courses. If you decide to take a Ph.D. level course it should be in the major concentration area of your program of study, after you received an A grade in the corresponding masters' level course, towards the end of your program, and you should only take one such course at the time.

13. Typically there three meetings between you and myself. The initial meeting to discuss your program of study and courses for the first semester. The second meeting is held after you have received all of your midterm grades. During this meeting your academic performance so far is discussed. The third meeting is held one week before the early registration period for your second semester. During this meeting your program of study is finalized.
14. You can visit me more often if you like to. The best way is to send me electronic mail to request a meeting with a number of possible meeting times. I will reply with a time for our meeting. You can knock on my door, but many times I am not in my office. You can also ask me questions via electronic mail. I will try to reply to you within one day with an answer. I have been known to forget what I told you in earlier emails.

General Advice

1. I can give you advice about courses and your program of study. I am not the right person to give you any emergency advice. Use the appropriate campus services such as the student health center, emergency room, or campus police if you have an emergency problem.
2. One of your biggest challenges at Georgia Tech is personal time management. The pace in the courses at Georgia Tech is often much faster than in your undergraduate institution. Start studying in a course during the first week. It is very difficult to catch up once you have gotten significantly behind in the course work.
3. Use the opportunity of your stay at Georgia Tech to explore new cultures, meet new people, develop new hobbies, and become more of a world citizen. This requires that you develop the proper time balance between these activities and your course work.
4. Maintain the proper balance between socializing with people from your home country and language group and meeting people from other countries and language groups. If English is not your native language, in most social activities you should not be able to speak your native language because it is not spoken by some of the participants.
5. Georgia Tech is located in the middle of large city and the campus and campus environs are easily accessible by inhabitants of Atlanta. Avoid risk seeking behavior. I recommend that after dark you travel and have activities in groups of at least two people and more people is better.

Studying at Georgia Tech is great challenge and a great opportunity. I encourage you to realize the full potential of your time at Georgia Tech.