

CSE 6001: Intro to the CSE PhD (Fall 2026)

Rich Vuduc

Your research will be judged not just by what you say and do, but how you say and do it. Your technical electives teach you “the what.” This course is about “the how.”

“The how” includes how to frame your work, how to write about it, how to present it, and how to conduct it in impactful, responsible, and ethical ways. These latter attributes will help you ensure that you follow Georgia Tech’s policies on Responsible Conduct of Research.¹

Schedule of events. The main schedule of events—including links to readings and assignments—will always be posted at this URL:

<https://bit.ly/4zKbugb>

Who should take this class? If you are a Computational Science and Engineering (CSE) PhD student, you **must** pass this course once, and you must take it in your first semester unless extenuating circumstances prevent you from doing so. (Please consult with the instructor in such cases.)

Logistics. The class meets Fridays from 12:30–1:20 pm in Room 52 of CCB.² By design, this time precedes the CSE Seminar, so we can all attend that together after class ends.

Books. There are no required books for the class. Instead, we will rely on readings available online.

Philosophy and approach. The basic philosophy of this course is that you learn best by a combination of reading, thinking, and most importantly, *actively doing*. Therefore, there will be few formal lectures. Rather, we will all do **actual stuff** together in class. This approach only works if you prepare **before** each class, so please do so.

Grading and requirements. Your grade is divided into two main parts: **workshop activities**, worth 40% of your final grade, and four **portfolio assignments**, worth the remaining 60%.

The workshop activities are hands-on, small-group exercises that we will do together in class. Some of them are RCR related, others are not. To pass the class, which is necessary to satisfy your RCR degree requirement, you **must** complete **all** of the RCR exercises. Your workshop grade consists of two main parts: 1) attendance, worth 15% of your final grade, and 2) exercises, worth 25% total.

Georgia Institute of Technology

richie@gatech.edu

<https://cse6001.gatech.edu>

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¹ www.rcr.gatech.edu



Figure 1: QR code for this syllabus (Fall 2026).

² College of Computing Building, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/c3bNzjeDQ1VAsK7p8>.

The portfolio assignments are designed to help you practice creating written and presentation artifacts. You will work on these outside of class, and we will use a mix of peer grading and in-class time to evaluate them. The four portfolio assignments are: 1) a static data chart; 2) a research poster; 3) a writing sample (e.g., paper abstract or intro); and 4) a short research talk. Each is worth 15% of your final grade, and we will discuss the logistics and requirements in more detail during the semester.