Overview

The Georgia Institute of Technology is one of the world’s premier research universities. Ranked seventh among U.S. News & World Report’s top public universities and the eighth best engineering and information technology university in the world by Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities, Georgia Tech has nearly 21,000 students enrolled in its Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Management, and Sciences. Tech is among the nation’s top producers of women and minority engineers. The Institute offers research opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students and is home to more than 100 interdisciplinary units plus the Georgia Tech Research Institute. In April 2010, Georgia Tech accepted an invitation to join the American Association of Universities (AAU), a nonprofit organization of sixty-three leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada.

Established by state law in 1885, Georgia Tech remains the only public institution in Georgia to offer a comprehensive array of engineering degrees in one of the nation’s largest and best programs:

- The Times Higher Education Rankings identified Georgia Tech as the 10th best engineering and information technology university in the world in 2010.
- Both the graduate and undergraduate engineering programs rank among the nation’s top five.
- Nearly all undergraduate and graduate engineering programs rank in the top ten. Industrial and Systems Engineering has been ranked No. 1 for the past 20 consecutive years (U.S. News and World Report).
- Tech’s College of Management’s MBA program is No. 28 in national rankings (U.S. News and World Report).
- Engineering enrollment grew by 32 percent over the past decade.
- During the 2010 academic year, Georgia Tech awarded more than 5,000 degrees.

Academic Diversity

Despite the fact that no major outside of the School of Modern Languages requires language study, roughly 50 percent of Tech’s bachelor’s recipients in 2010 studied a foreign language at some point in their tenure at Georgia Tech. The School of Modern Languages offers instruction in eight different languages.

There are only roughly two dozen endowed chairs in poetry nationwide, two of which are at Georgia Tech. The Institute regularly holds poetry readings featuring the nation’s top poets and attracting standing-room-only crowds from across campus, across town, around the state, and even outside the state.

Nearly 2,000 students per year participate in some form of organized music experience or activity. Georgia Tech has a long list of vocal and instrumental ensembles that travel the world—Australia, China, Hawaii, and Europe. About half of Tech students play musical instruments. Tech’s theater company, DramaTech, is the oldest continuously operating theater company in the city of Atlanta.
Students

- Tech’s student body includes nearly 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students, including the largest, most diverse, and best-qualified freshman class in Tech’s history.
- Graduate programs have grown over the past decade:
  - 49 percent increase in PhD enrollment; 63 percent increase in degrees granted.
  - 63 percent increase in master’s enrollment; 64 percent increase in degrees granted.
- Undergraduate retention and graduation rates have improved:
  - First-year retention increased from 86 percent in 1999 to 94 percent in 2010.
  - The six-year graduation rate increased from 68 percent in 1999 to 80 percent in 2010.
- Undergraduate students have outstanding qualifications:
  - The average SAT score of incoming freshmen increased from 1305 in 1999 to 1366 in 2010, one of the highest scores among the nation’s public universities.
  - In Fall 2010, Georgia Tech ranked second among public universities in the percentage of freshmen who were National Merit Scholars and first in the percentage of freshmen who were National Achievement Scholars.
  - Among Tech’s students are recipients of numerous prestigious scholarships, including Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Gates Cambridge, Fulbright, and Goldwater Scholars.
  - Georgia Tech is a national leader in graduating minority and female engineers.
- The undergraduate education experience has been enhanced during the past decade:
  - The number of students studying abroad increased 71 percent. Today, more than 40 percent of undergraduates study abroad, compared to 1 to 2 percent of undergraduates nationwide and less than 1 percent of engineering undergraduate students nationwide.
  - Students who study abroad twice and take courses in modern languages, global economics, and international affairs receive a special international designation on their transcript.
  - Nearly 40 percent of undergraduates participate in structured research for academic credit. Tech’s near-term goal is to exceed 50 percent.
  - Undergraduates who complete at least nine units of research and write a thesis on their work can receive a special research designation on their transcript.
  - New honors and leadership programs are flourishing.

Faculty

- Awards recognize the high quality of Tech’s academic faculty:
  - 162 faculty members have won NSF CAREER Awards (among the most nationally received by a single institution) with awards branching beyond the sciences and engineering into disciplines such as public policy and business.
  - The number of faculty elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) now stands at 27, which is among the top 10 universities in the nation.
  - Faculty are increasingly winning awards associated with the arts and humanities, including Fulbright Fellowships, Newberry Library Fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, and Sloan Research Fellowships.
  - Tech has 180 endowed or honorary chairs and professorships, one per 5.5 academic faculty members.
  - Approximately 45 percent of tenured/tenure track faculty participated in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program in 2009-2010.
International Initiatives

- International degrees include a Global MBA and undergraduate degrees in Economics/International Affairs, Global Economics/Modern Languages, and International Affairs/Modern Languages.

- Dual degree programs have been established with the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico, Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China, Korea Advanced Institute in Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea University, National University of Singapore, the University of Trento in Italy, the Technical University of Munich in Germany, and Imperial College in Great Britain. The Politecnico di Torino is Georgia Tech’s newest European dual master’s degree partner, offering a dual master’s in electrical and computer engineering. A joint degree program has been established in water resources management with the University of Pretoria in South Africa. The Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering offers a PhD in biomedical engineering conferred jointly with Peking University.

- Tech has several international research and education platforms:
  - Georgia Tech Lorraine: GTL celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2010. The residential campus in Metz, France, includes undergraduate and graduate degree programs, research programs, and joint initiatives with other European universities and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.
  - Georgia Tech Singapore: Research and graduate programs in conjunction with the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technical University.
  - Georgia Tech Ireland: Inaugurated in 2006. In the summer of 2010 Georgia Tech Ireland became a three-way joint venture between Georgia Tech, the National University of Ireland (NUI), and the University of Limerick to develop a translational research institute.

Research

- Over the past decade, overall research expenditures have nearly doubled to $562 million in 2009, while federal research expenditures increased more than 150 percent. Georgia Tech now ranks among the top in research expenditures among universities without a medical school.

- Georgia Tech is the top public university (second only to Johns Hopkins) in engineering research expenditures, both overall and by federal funding.

- Georgia Tech is home to or a partner in more than 25 centers of excellence, ranging from photonics to the engineering of living tissues.

- Funding from the National Institutes of Health increased from $4.8 million in 1999 to $31.2 million in 2010.

Economic Engine

- Through our research and partnerships with business and industry, Tech is an economic engine for Georgia and the Southeast, with an annual impact of more than $2 billion. Georgia Tech’s resources are a powerful selling tool in helping to attract new business and industry to the state.

- Georgia Tech research labs produce more than 400 invention disclosures annually, and Tech is one of the state’s top patent producers, ranking third behind AT&T and Kimberly Clark.

- For FY2010, 41 percent of Georgia Tech inventors were either graduate or undergraduate students. Additionally, 80 percent of invention disclosures listed at least one student as an inventor.

- Last year, Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute:
  - Evaluated 149 Georgia Tech innovations and formed 20 new companies based on this intellectual property. Startups based on Georgia Tech intellectual property attracted nearly $111 million in investment.
  - Helped Georgia companies win $664 million in government contracts, creating an estimated 13,679 jobs.
  - Assisted 44 startup technology companies through the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC). ATDC companies attracted $151 million in capital activity (venture capital investment and mergers/acquisitions).
• More than 350 student athletes compete in 17 intercollegiate varsity sports.

• In 2010, Georgia Tech’s football team qualified for a bowl game for the 14th consecutive year. The softball, golf and women’s tennis teams all won ACC championships.

• Georgia Tech athletes participate in the Total Person Program, which is based on the premise that excellence is the result of a balanced life that encompasses academic excellence, athletic achievement, and personal well-being.

• Georgia Tech student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom as well as the playing fields. When the Academic Progress Report (APR) was released in 2010, 12 of Tech’s 17 teams improved or had no change to their APR score compared to the previous year’s data. Five Georgia Tech teams - baseball, golf, volleyball and men’s and women’s cross country - were recognized for ranking in the top 10 percent nationally within their respective sport for their APR scores. One-hundred-fifty-five student-athletes were named to the ACC Academic Honor Roll.

• Athletic-related facility projects include the Mary R. and John F. Brock III Indoor Football Practice Facility, McCamish Pavilion, the new home to Yellow Jacket basketball beginning with the 2011-12 season, and the Ken Byers Tennis Complex project.

• Gross square footage increased by 64 percent over the past ten years and 25 percent in the past five years. It presently totals more than 14.5 million GSF.

• The Christopher W. Klaus Advanced Computing Building received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

• Construction is under way for the G. Wayne Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, a 230,000-square-foot building dedicated to students’ academic enrichment that will offer innovative learning experiences. The building will be occupied beginning in fall 2011.

• New facilities such as Technology Square (a five-building complex) and the Campus Recreation Center have won numerous awards, both local and national.

• Georgia Tech is cited by Kiplinger’s as a Top 20 best value in public education.

• Tech’s combined endowment is valued at $1.3 billion, similar in size to other major public research universities such as Pennsylvania State University, Michigan State University, and Indiana University.

• In the fall of 2010, Tech launched the public phase of Campaign Georgia Tech, with a goal of $1.5 billion by December 2015. Of that, nearly $1 billion has been raised over the last several years.

• Georgia Tech is a leader in environmental sustainability. Georgia Tech’s sustainability programs have been recognized by the National Wildlife Federation, the Sustainable Endowment Institute, and the Princeton Review. Georgia Tech has signed the President’s Climate Agreement.

• Georgia Tech is located on a 400-acre residential campus nestled in an urban environment. Sixty percent of undergraduates live on campus, while many more populate the new apartments and condos that have emerged in the adjacent Midtown neighborhood.

• Fifty-eight percent of Tech undergraduates live in on-campus housing.

• Georgia Tech offers an extensive campus bus system (that also serves select off-campus locations) for the convenience and safety of students, faculty, and staff.