

## **Grand Challenges Living Learning Community**

Established in 2012 as a part of the Leadership Education and Development Program within the Division of Student Life and in partnership with the College of Engineering, Grand Challenges Living Learning Community promotes student-driven, cross-disciplinary teams that investigate societally relevant technological and sociological problems. The program is open to all entering Georgia Tech students of any major.

The program has three core components: living, learning, and leading. Once admitted to Georgia Tech and invited to the program, students live with other program participants in Howell Residence Hall and take two Grand Challenges classes together. As part of those classes, students are divided into teams to complete coursework that will accelerate their problem-solving skills while developing potential solutions to real-world problems. In both semesters of the coursework, developing leadership skills and team camaraderie are vital to student success. At the end of the first year, teams pitch a project proposal for funding the implementation of their solution.

In the second year, teams take a one-hour course each semester designed to facilitate progress on the implementation of a solution. After the second year, teams work with an advisor and meet with a facilitator once a month to manage project progress.

### **Facilitator Description**

As a facilitator for Grand Challenges, you will be asked to work with teams of 6-8 undergraduates as they progress from problem identification to solution implementation. While facilitators are not subject matter experts, they do have the freedom to select the teams that they are the most interested in working with. A facilitator's role is to help the team identify objectives and develop a plan to achieve objectives. A facilitator is not an advisor and does not "give" answers. A facilitator always remains neutral in the team's discussions and asks many questions that may challenge students' thinking. A facilitator does not "judge" ideas - they would not say an idea is good or bad or right or wrong. As a facilitator, your job is to create an environment where the entire team can contribute as they work on identifying a problem worth solving and then a solution that they plan to implement.

As a facilitator, you will

- Set the ground rules – As a class, we will decide upon the ground rules, and teams may add some of their own. How will students interact? How will you ensure that students respect each others ideas? How will questions be handled?

- Set the scene – You will help identify the daily objectives and agenda. Make sure that everyone understands their role, and what the group is seeking to achieve.
- Keep up the momentum and energy – You might need to intervene as the class and energy levels proceed. Make sure that people remain focused and interested.
- Listen, engage and include – Even though, as facilitator, you're taking a neutral stance, you need to stay alert, listen actively, and remain interested and engaged. This sets a good example for the team, and also means you are always ready to intervene in facilitative ways. Is everyone engaged? If not, how can you bring them in? How can you get better participation?
- Monitor checkpoints, and summarize – Keep in control of the agenda, tell students what they've achieved and what's next; Summarize often.
- Intervene in the process only if absolutely required.
- Watch for and close any side conversations. These limit the ability of others to focus, and often students are exchanging ideas that should be brought to the group.
- Keep a close eye on the timing. Be flexible, and balance the need for participation with the need to keep things running efficiently.
- Learn what to do when a discussion isn't reaching a natural conclusion. Is more information needed? When and how will the discussion proceed? Park topics that cannot be concluded, and ensure that action time is scheduled to address these issues.
- Be on the lookout for students who aren't participating fully. Are they experiencing discomfort? What is the source of the discomfort? What can you do to bring them into the conversation?
- Pay attention to group behavior, both verbal and non-verbal. Some of the most damaging behavior is silent.
- Step in and mediate immediately if there are obvious personal attacks. Reminding everyone of the ground rules is often a good place to start. Whatever the issue, you can't allow bad behavior to continue so be prepared to take the steps necessary to stop attacks.

We have several opportunities for Grand Challenges Facilitators for the 2017-2018 academic year. For each class or meeting, time outside of class or meeting is equal to in class time, e.g. a 3 hour class is equal to 6 hours of work per week.

### **Fall 2017**

Grand Challenges PUBP 1142 - Tuesday/Thursday 9:35-10:45am, Brittain Rec Classroom (6 hours/week; \$1980/semester)

Grand Challenges GT 2201 A - Tuesday 1:35-2:25pm Brittain Rec Classroom (2 hours/week; \$660/semester)

Grand Challenges GT 2201 B - Wednesday 12:20-1:10pm Brittain Rec Classroom (2 hours/week; \$660/semester)

Grand Challenges 3rd year teams - two hours per month, day and time determined by facilitator and team (2 hours/month; \$82.50/semester)

### **Spring 2018**

Grand Challenges GT 1201 - Tuesday/Thursday 9:35-10:45am, Brittain Rec Classroom (6 hours/week; \$1980/semester)

Grand Challenges GT 2201 A - Tuesday 1:35-2:25pm Brittain Rec Classroom (2 hours/week; \$660/semester)

Grand Challenges GT 2201 B - Wednesday 12:20-1:10 pm Brittain Rec Classroom (2 hours/week; \$660/semester)

Grand Challenges 3rd year teams - two hours per month, day and time determined by facilitator and team (2 hours/month; \$82.50/semester)

### **Facilitator Requirements**

- Attend all classes for selected course. If you are going to miss a class, please have absence approved by Wes or Jeff at least 2 weeks prior.
- Meet with your team outside of class twice per semester. Funding will be provided up to \$15 per student per team.
- Attend required facilitator training. Training will either be held on Sunday, August 20, from 3-6pm or on Monday, August 21, from 9am-12pm. Training will be determined based on poll of facilitators' schedules.
- Attend monthly meetings
  - September 15 – 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room
  - October 13 - 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room
  - November 10 - 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Crescent Room
  - January 19 - 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room
  - February 9 - 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room
  - March 9 - 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room
  - April 13 – 9:30am-10:30am – Student Center, Peachtree Room