



Focus on Georgia Tech

Not everyone at Georgia Tech is a “techie.” In fact, half of the freshman class generally self-identifies as pre-med. Located in the heart of Atlanta, the university has 14,000 undergraduates in its six colleges: Architecture, Computing, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Business, and Sciences. Many students double major, especially those taking one of their degrees in Liberal Arts.

Ninety-six percent of freshmen as well as many upperclassmen live on the attractive self-contained campus which is hidden behind walls that separate it from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding neighborhood. Life for most of them, though, takes places outside as well as inside those walls. That’s because Georgia Tech has been providing co-op education (real world work experience) for one hundred years and has the largest voluntary co-op program in the nation.

Co-op students typically work 40 hours per week alternate semesters, and although this means it takes most of them longer than four years to graduate, 88% of their internships are paid, during their co-op semesters students pay fees but no tuition, and the employment statistics for Georgia Tech graduates immediately upon graduation are among the best in the nation.

Smart Money magazine recently rated Georgia Tech as the number one “Academic Deal” based on the fact that its graduates carry 20% less debt and earn starting salaries nearly double the national average. Internship experiences give graduates a distinct edge in the job market, especially since 40 % of students who do the co-ops receive jobs from the companies they did the co-ops with. Companies employing Georgia Tech interns include Coca Cola, Home Depot, Cisco, Boeing, Delta, Starwood Hotels, Facebook, and many more including some overseas.

They seem to be recruiting earlier and earlier, so students are encouraged to begin their co-ops as early as the summer following their freshman year.

The Early Action application deadline is 10/15, and 70% of the current freshmen applied by that deadline. The admissions decision is based primarily on the G.P.A. evaluated in the context of the school and recalculated with just the core courses, and all three parts of the SAT. In fact, the admissions office has determined that the G.P.A. is the number one predictor of success at Georgia Tech, and the SAT writing score is the number two predictor. The median SAT scores of admitted students are 1960 to 2010, the median G.P.A.s are 3.77 to 4.08, and the average number of A.P., I.B. or dual enrollment courses students took in high school is 7.31. The admissions criteria are the same for in-state and out-of-state applicants, and the admissions rate for both is currently 50%.