# Education Assistance Info Session: Applying TAP & STRAP (Spring 25)

For All Employees

Spring 2025



### Before We Get Started



This session will be recorded



A PDF of the presentation will be shared with attendees



Please use the Q&A for any questions



We will follow-up on any unanswered questions



### Agenda

- 01 Welcome and Introductions
- 02 Education Assistance Programs
- 03 Applying: Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Applying: Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STRAP)
- 05 Tax Implications and Updates
- 06 Application Status Updates
- 07 GTRI Supplemental Programs
- 08 Resources
- 09 Questions









# Education Assistance Programs





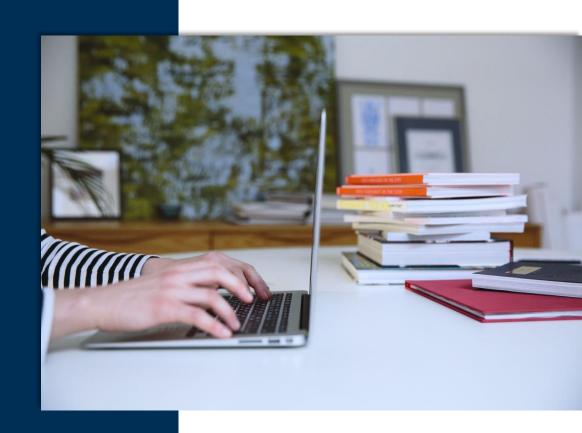
# **Education Assistance Programs**

# **University System of Georgia (USG) Programs**

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

#### **Georgia Tech Programs**

- Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STRAP)
- Georgia Tech Applied Research Corp (GTARC) Program
- GTRI Supplemental Tuition Assistance Program (STP)





# TAP & STRAP Comparison of Programs

Master's, Doctorate degree or Academic Certificate program (see exclusions list)

	Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)	Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STRAP)
Employment Requirement	Any benefit eligible staff or faculty (exempt and non-exempt), employed in a full-time (100%) benefit eligible position for six (6)	Any benefit eligible staff (exempt and non- exempt), employed in a full-time (100%) benefit eligible position for twelve (12)
	months or greater within a USG institution by the application deadline	months or greater within Georgia Tech by the application deadline
Eligible Colleges/Institutions	Any USG institution	Non-USG accredited institution or college
Credit Limits	Up to 9 credit hours per semester	Up to 6 credit hours per semester
<b>Grade Requirements</b>	"C" or better	"C" or better
<b>Assistance Method</b>	Tuition payment waiver applied up front	Reimbursement received after term up to the GT reimbursement rate
Eligible Programs	Associate degree, Bachelor's degree,	Associate degree, Bachelor's degree,

Master's, Doctorate degree or Academic

Certificate program (see exclusions list)

# Educational Assistance Program Exclusions

- Medical/Veterinary degree
- Law degree
- Dental degree
- Pharmacy degree
- Theology (for STRAP)
- Continuing education courses
- Certificate courses that do not include a letter grade and credit hours
- Student fees (for STRAP)
- \* Executive Total Cost Programs: these programs are typically cohort structured and there is one set fee for the program, not per credit hour.

(Georgia Tech includes <u>Executive</u> MBA and <u>Executive Master's</u> in International Logistics & Supply Chain Strategy)



### Educational Assistance Academic Certifications

Academic Certificate Programs are programs that provide students with **academic credit and a letter grade.** 

Professional certifications or continuing education certifications that **do not** provide an academic credit and a grade; **are not** eligible for TAP.

- TAP Participants should check with TAP Coordinators at the USG institution that they are attending to verify TAP eligibility
- STRAP Participants and employees enrolled in TAP at Georgia Tech should contact:

Administrative Services Center at (404) 385-1111 or submit a Request Help ticket at asc.gatech.edu



# Educational Assistance Application Deadlines





#### For TAP and STRAP Participants

When the 15<sup>th</sup> is on a Saturday or holiday, applications are due on the business day prior. Applications submitted and approved after the deadline will not be accepted.

#### For STRAP Participants only

You must fill out a STRAP application based on Georgia Tech semester dates.

Example: If your school has a "Winter" term that begins in January, then you will need to fill out a Spring STRAP application because that "Winter" term falls within GT Spring Semester dates.



### TAP/STRAP: Reminders



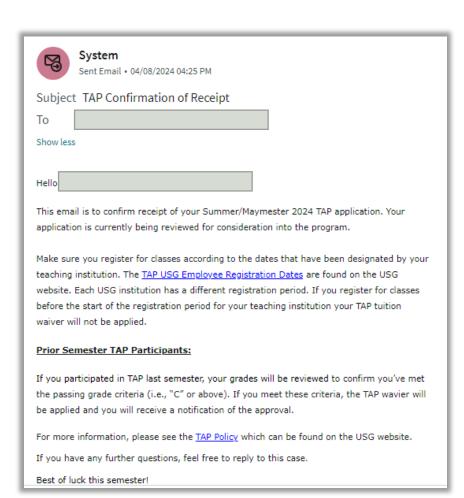
#### **Prerequisites**

- Must go through regular student admissions process prior to applying for TAP
- Must receive a student ID prior to TAP and STRAP application



#### **Reminders**

- A new TAP/STRAP application must be submitted for each semester that you wish to participate in
- One TAP/STRAP application is permitted for the institution you will attend each semester
- You will receive an approval letter via email through ServiceNow.
- Late applications are not accepted





# USG: Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)





# **TAP Application Process**

**Current Semester Pending Register for Submit TAP Ends & Confirmation Manager Approval Eligibility Review** Attend the Classes **Application** of Grades (Automatic (Contingent approval Next (During the TAP (Confirmation of notifications sent to letter sent) (TAP waiver applied to Semester! registration period) managers for Receipt sent) account by payment approval) deadline) **Eligibility Requirements** ✓ Employment Status: no upcoming termination, FMLA, LOA, and Paternity Leave ✓ Must be <u>active</u> during Eligibility Review, Registering for classes, and

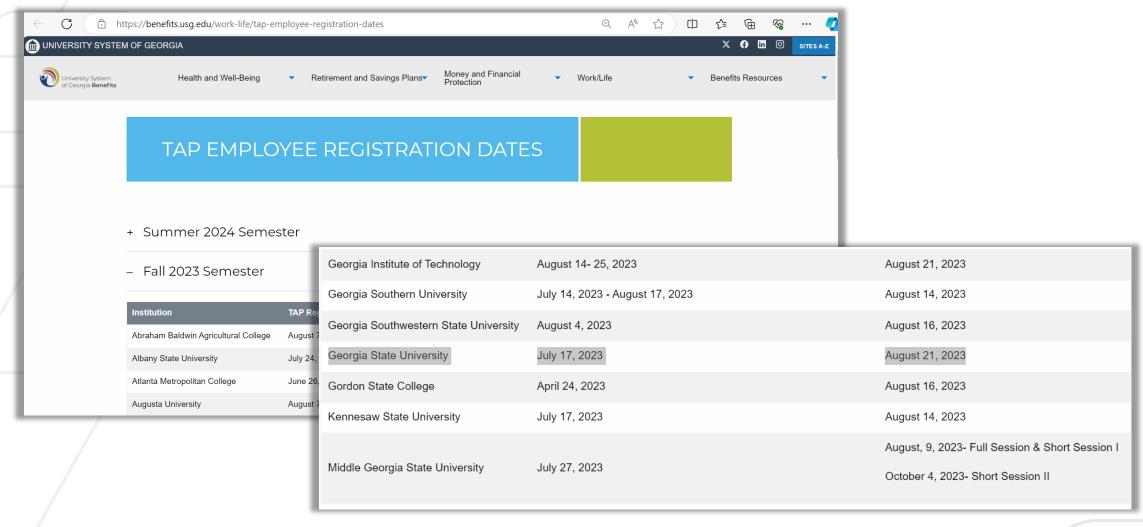
Confirmation of Grades

✓ Application is reassigned to <u>teaching institution</u> for review

✓ Enrollment Status: no withdrawals from prior semester courses

✓ <u>Grades</u> from previous semester were a "C" or greater

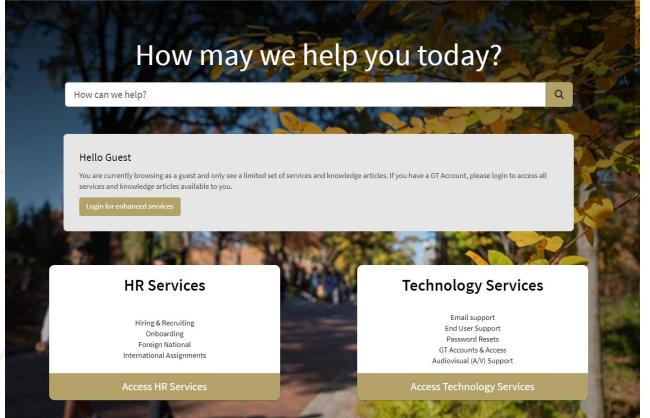
# **USG** Registration Dates





# Navigating the Administrative Services Portal



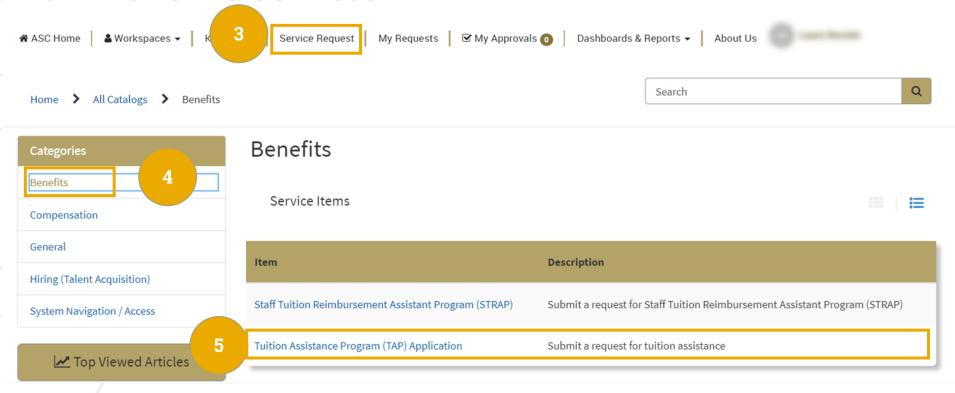


- Navigate to your Administrative
   Services employee portal
- 2. Log in using your **Georgia Tech** credentials



# Locating the TAP Application

#### **Administrative Services**



- 1
- **Eligibility Warning**

If you have not maintained a full-time, benefit eligible status for six months or greater within the University System of Georgia (USG) by the application deadline, you will receive an error.

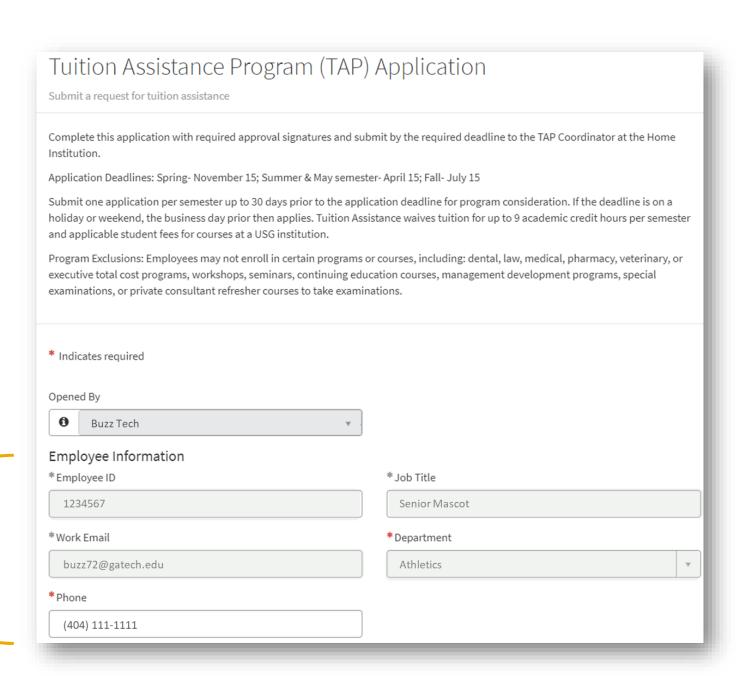
- Select Service Request
- 4. Select **Benefits** from the Categories
- 5. Select Tuition
  Assistance
  Program (TAP)
  Application

**Reminder:** You will only see the TAP and STRAP application in your portal when the application period is open

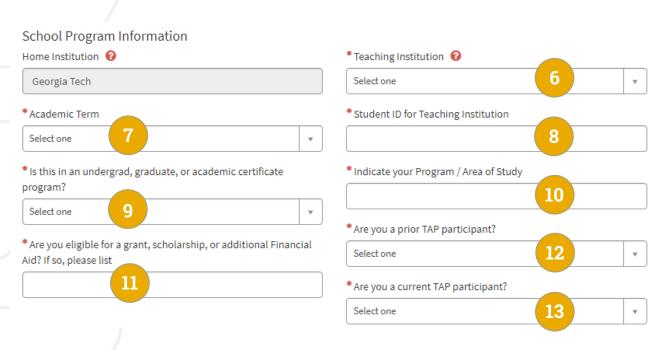


# Completing the TAP Application

Your information will prepopulate in this form; everything except your phone number



# Completing the School Program Information

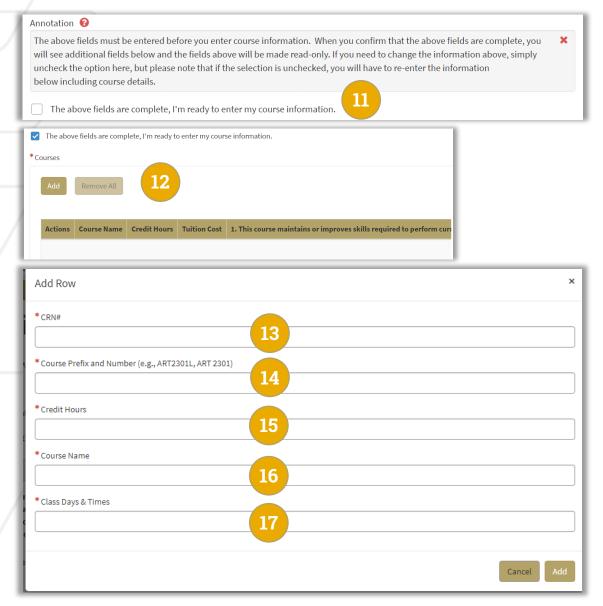


- 6. Select the **USG institution** you are attending **Note:** You must already be accepted into the institution
- 7. Select the upcoming **Academic Term**

Chose from Drop-Down
Spring
Fall
Summer

- 8. Enter your **Student ID**; if you are attending:
  - GT = auto populates with your GTID
  - Other USG School = enter your student ID at the teaching institution
- 9. Indicate the **type of program** you are enrolled in
- 10. Indicate your Program / Area of Study
- 11. Indicate if you are eligible for additional Financial Assistance
- Indicate if you are a prior TAP Participant
- 13. Indicate if you are a current TAP Participant
  - If select yes on both #12 & #13 then additional field will populate, indicate the School, Term, and Year

# Completing the Course Information



- 11. Indicate the **fields are complete**
- 12. Select Add
- 13. Indicate the CRN #
- 14. Indicate your Course Prefix and Number
- 15. Indicate Credit Hours
- 16. Indicate Course Name
- 17. Indicate Class Days & Times



GT: Staff Tuition Reimbursement Program (STRAP)





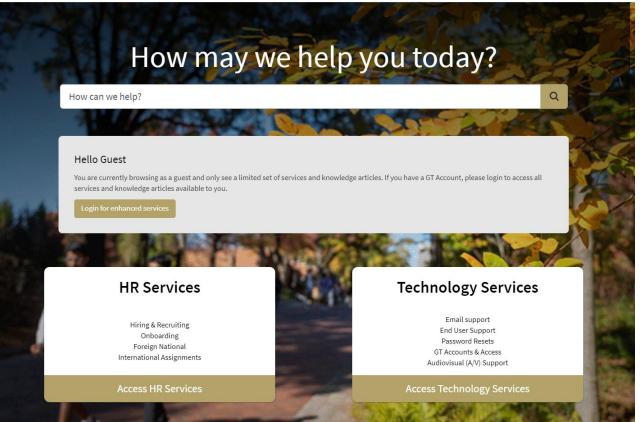
# STRAP Application Process



Georgia Tech

# Navigating the Administrative Services Portal

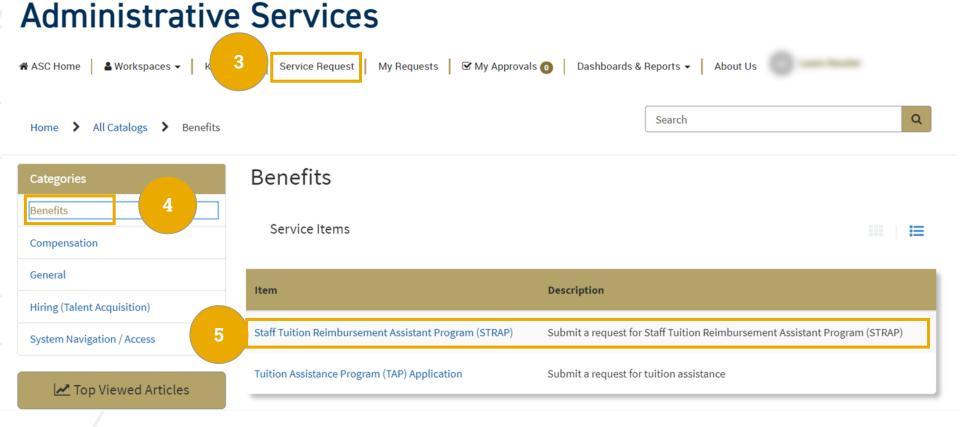




- Navigate to your Administrative
   Services employee portal
- 2. Log in using your **Georgia Tech** credentials



# Locating the STRAP Application



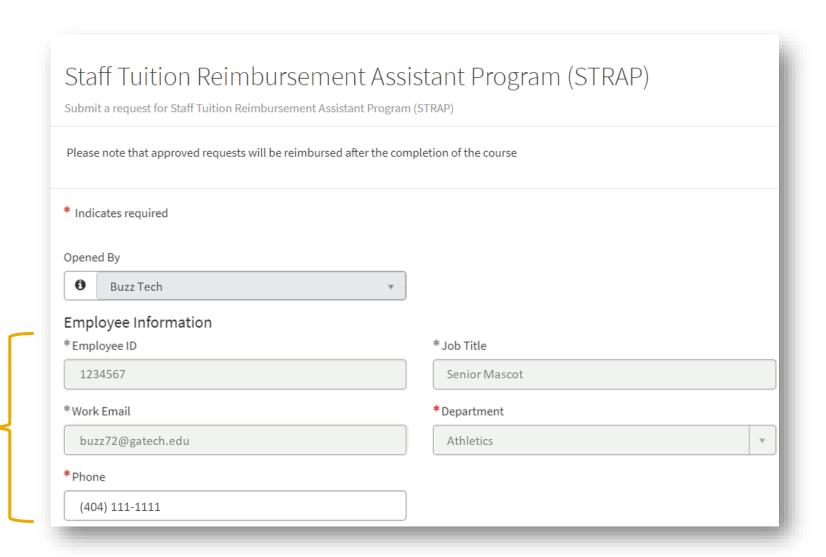
Reminder: You will only see the TAP and STRAP application in your portal during the application period

- Select Service Request
- 4. Select **Benefits** from the Categories
- 5. Select Staff
  Tuition
  Reimbursement
  Assistance
  Program
  (STRAP)

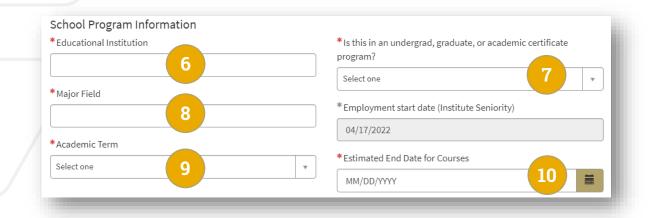


# Competing the STRAP Application

Your information will prepopulate in this form; everything except your phone number.



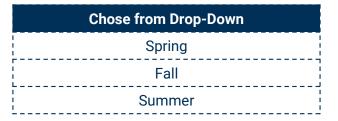
# Competing the School Program Information



6. Enter the **accredited non-USG institution** you are attending

**Note:** You must already be accepted into the institution

- 7. Indicate the **program** you are enrolled in
- Indicate your Major Field
- 9. Select the upcoming **Academic Term** (see table on the left)

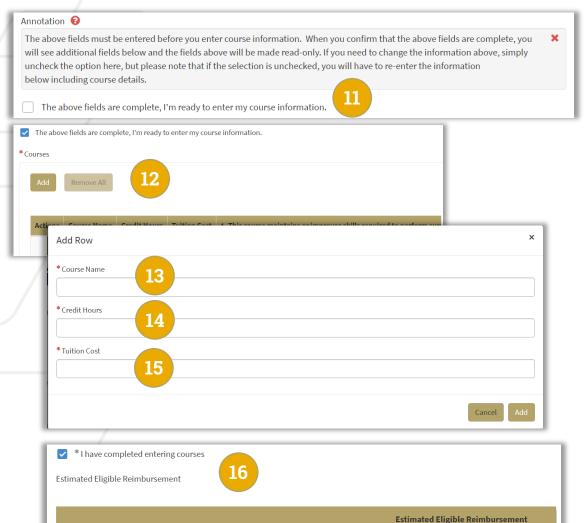


10. Enter you're the estimate end date of your courses

When you approach the end of your coursework, submit an expense report to request reimbursement for your courses

\*Reminder: You must fill out a STRAP application based <u>on Georgia Tech</u> semester dates. Example: If your school has a "Winter" term that begins in January, then you will need to fill out a Spring STRAP application because that "Winter" term falls within GT Spring Semester dates (January-May).

# Completing the Course Information



**Tuition Cost** 

900

\$900.00

[Credit Hours] X \$203

\$609.00

\$609.00\*

**Credit Hours** 

3 (up to 6 hours eligible for reimbursement)

**Course Name** 

- 11. Indicate the **fields are complete**
- 12. Select Add
- 13. Indicate the Course Name
- 14. Indicate your **Credit Hours**
- 15. Indicate **Tuition Cost**
- 16. Automated: Estimated Reimbursement Eligibility Table Summary



### STRAP Reminders: Reimbursement Process

- Create an <u>expense report via Workday</u>. Be sure to have:
  - Official/original transcript
  - Copy of paid tuition statement (must include name, term, and amount paid with a zero balance)
  - Worktag (Can be found on the STRAP Approval Letter)
  - Class names and dates that's on your STRAP application should match the information on your transcript.
  - STRAP reimbursement requests should be submitted upon the completion of your course. The requests will not be processed more than three times annually per participant.
- Reimbursement rates are:
  - Undergraduate: \$203.00/credit hour
  - Graduate: \$287.00/credit hour
- Full reimbursement instructions can be found in your STRAP APPROVAL LETTER



# Tax Implications





# TAX Waiver Eligibility Guide

#### To be eligible for a tax waiver, certain IRS requirements must be met.

#### The course MUST:

• Be related to the employee's current job, maintain or improve current job skills.

#### The course MUST NOT:

- Include courses to work toward an advanced degree REQUIRED to retain the current job or pay level.
- Be **REQUIRED** to meet the minimum education requirements of the employee's current job.
- Qualify the employee for a new trade, business or new role.

Reminder: Tax waiver questions are based on your current position



### Tax Implications

If you are taking a graduate program and you will exceed tuition benefits over \$5,250 annually, you are subject to tax reporting.

- Select "Yes" to the tax wavier question to apply for a Graduate Student Tax Wavier
- Select "No" if this does not apply to you

**Consult your tax professional if you have questions** 

\* Graduate educational assistance over \$5,250 is subject to tax reporting except under certain circumstances. If you're taking graduate level courses, and will pay more than \$5,250 and want to apply for a Graduate Student Tax Waiver, click "yes".

Yes

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) graduate students applying for a tuition benefits tax waiver for amounts in excess of the annual IRS tax-free educational benefit of \$5,250 need to complete the following additional fields. Additional information is available on the USG website at https://benefits.usg.edu/work-life/tuition-assistance-program.

I request that the graduate level courses identified in the course list below be excluded from my gross income based on each of my answers below:

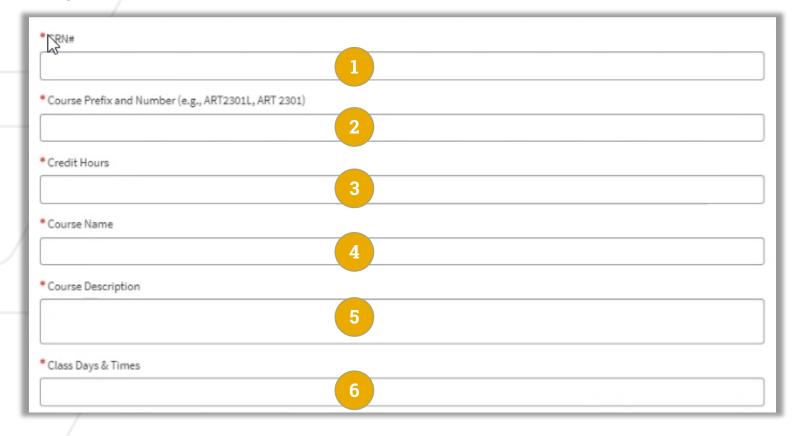
The above fields must be entered before you enter course information. When you confirm that the above fields are complete, you will see additional fields below and the fields above will be made read-only. If you need to change the information above, simply uncheck the option here, but please note that if the selection is unchecked, you will have to re-enter the information below including course details.

The above fields are complete, I'm ready to enter my course information.



### Completing the Tax Wavier and Course Information

#### If you select "Yes" or "No" to Tax Wavier



- 1. Indicate the CRN#
- 2. Indicate the Course Prefix and Number
- 3. Indicate the Credit Hours
- 4. Indicate the Course Name
- 5. Indicate the **Course Description**
- 6. Indicate the **Class Days and Times**



# Completing Remaining Fields of Tax Waiver

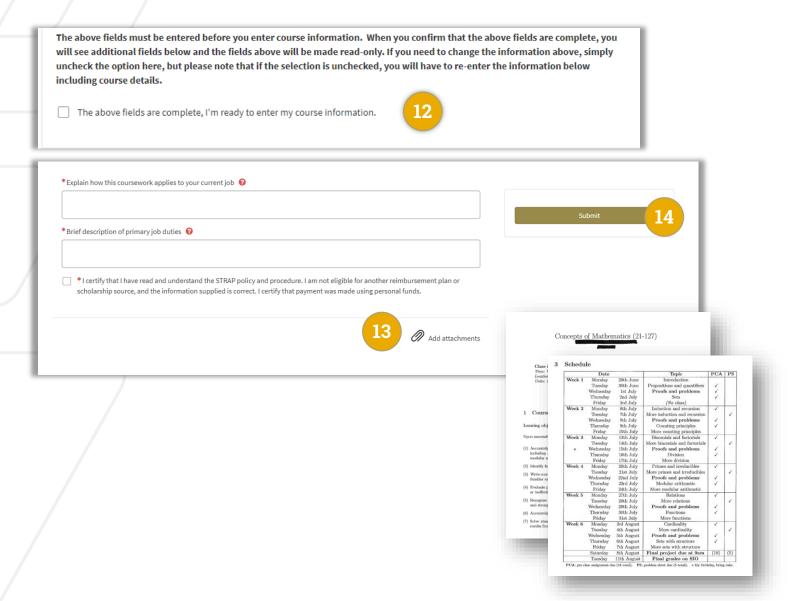
#### Only applicable if you selected "Yes" for the Tax Waiver



- 7. Select if this course **helps improve** your ability to **perform current** job duties
- 8. Select if this **course is required** by my employer for my **current position**
- 9. Select if the **course is required** for a **promotion or salary increase**
- 10. Select if the course is to qualify for a new trade, business, or new role
- 11. Provide a **brief description** of the coursework and how it will help support your current job duties



### Completing Attestation, Attachments and Submit



- 12. Attest that the information you filled out is accurate and truthful; be sure to read the whole message
- 13. Attach your **course syllabus** to the request (STRAP)

This is required for your manager to review your request

14. Click "Submit"



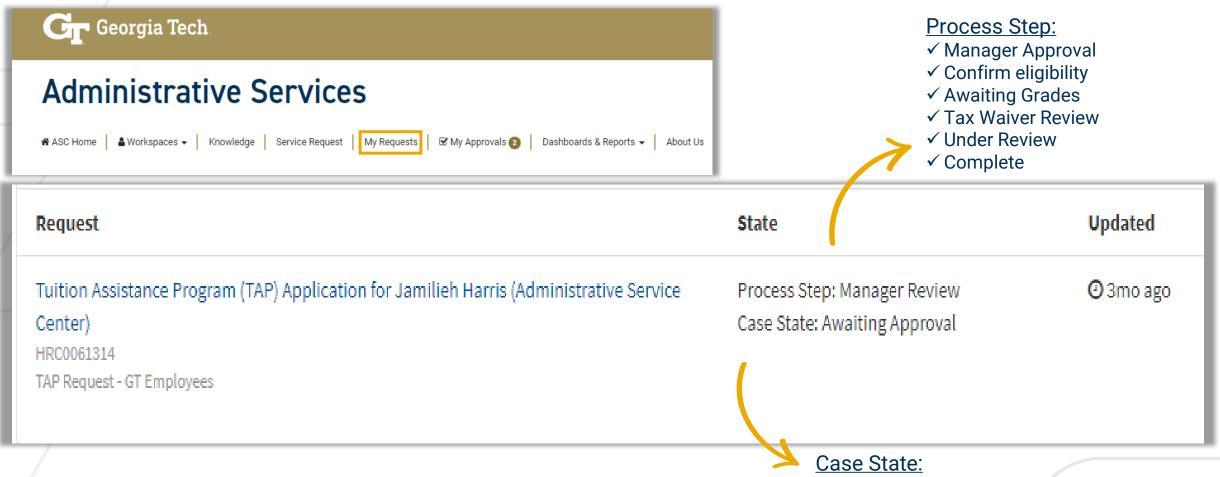
# Application Status Update





# Checking Your Application Status

Shows current up-to-date progress within application process:



✓ Awaiting approval

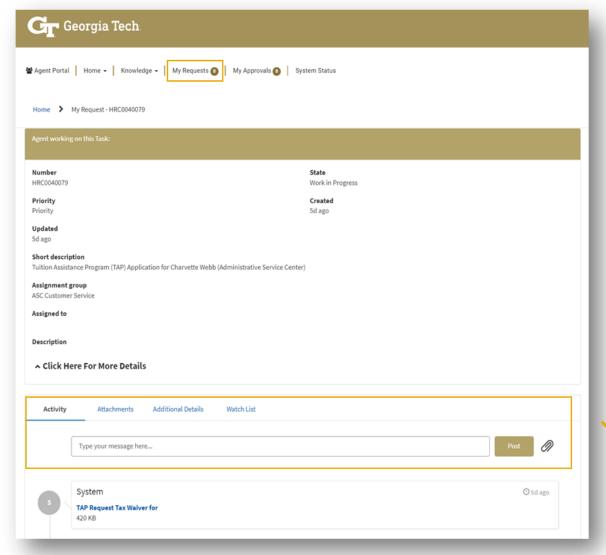
✓ Work in progress

✓ On hold

Georgia

#### Communicating with Tuition Assistant Program Team

If you have changes to your coursework or need to contact the Georgia Tech Tuition Program Team, leave a comment on your application!



Leave a comment on your case!



# GTRI Supplemental Programs





# Georgia Tech Applied Research Corp (GTARC)

- Available to GTRI Research Faculty (only) who apply for but do not qualify for TAP/STRAP
  - (Example: Research Engineer, Scientist, Associate I through Principal Research Engineer)
- Reimburses up to \$15,000 per calendar year for tuition and fees at an accredited institution
- Degree must be job-related
- Eligibility occurs for RF (.75 FTE or greater) on day one of GTRI employment
- Must obtain a grade of "C" or better and submit documentation for reimbursement

#### **Contacts for GTRI's Education Assistance Program**

Crystal Hannah (Database Administrator II) at <a href="mailto:Crystal.Hannah@gtri.gatech.edu">Crystal.Hannah@gtri.gatech.edu</a>
Sarah Cockrell (Director, Employee Development) at <a href="mailto:Sarah.Cockrell@gtri.gatech.edu">Sarah.Cockrell@gtri.gatech.edu</a>.



# GTRI Supplemental Tuition (STP) Assistance Program

- Available to GTRI Operations Staff and Research Faculty
- Reimburses the difference between total eligible expenses and what TAP or STRAP or GTARC covered
- Employee must participate in TAP or STRAP or GTARC and also apply for STP during preapproval
- A two-year work commitment & repayment agreement applies
- Must obtain a grade of "C" or better to remain eligible for reimbursement

#### **Contacts for GTRI's Education Assistance Program**

- Crystal Hannah (Database Administrator II) at <a href="mailto:Crystal.Hannah@gtri.gatech.edu">Crystal.Hannah@gtri.gatech.edu</a>
- Sarah Cockrell (Director, Employee Development) at <u>Sarah.Cockrell@gtri.gatech.edu</u>.



#### **GTRI** Resources

- For GTRI employee Education Assistance Website: <u>https://webwise.gtri.gatech.edu/departments/shrp/education-assistance</u>
- GTRI EA Infographic: <u>https://webwise.gatech.edu/system/files/2023\_Education%20Assistance%20</u> <u>Infographic\_1027%20%28updated%29.pdf</u>
- Register to attend the GTRI Info Session on Friday, Sept 27 at 11 a.m.
   <a href="https://gtri.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web\_spf/NA7P1PRD132/app/me/learningeventdetail/cours00000000006660;spf-url=common%2Fledetail%2Fcours00000000006660">https://gtri.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web\_spf/NA7P1PRD132/app/me/learningeventdetail/cours00000000006660;spf-url=common%2Fledetail%2Fcours00000000006660</a>



# Reminders, Resources and Questions





#### Contact Us



### Contact the Administrative Services Center (ASC)

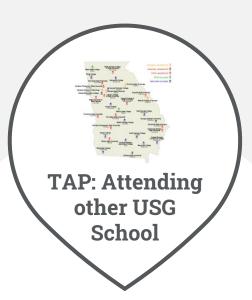
- Phone: (404) 385-1111
- Submit a Request: General HR Request
- Leave a comment on your HR case



TAP: Attending GT

# Contact the Tuition Program Team at Georgia Tech

 Leaving a comment on your application in the Administrative Services portal



# Contact the TAP Coordinator at your Teaching Institution

 Look up contact information on USG Board of Regents



# Contact the Tuition Program Team at Georgia Tech

 Leaving a comment on your application in the Administrative Services portal

# Top 4 Things To Remember

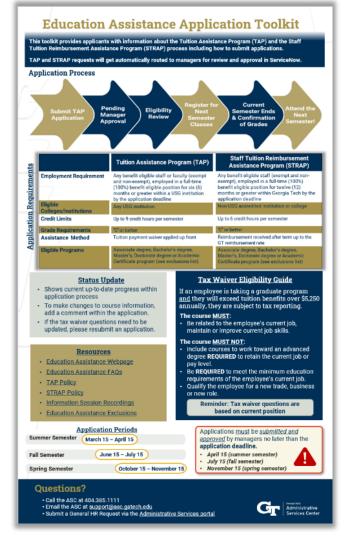


- 1. Applications can be submitted through the <u>Administrative Services portal</u> and will be available **during the application period only**.
- 2. Turn it in on time. Late applications are not accepted.
- 3. Your supervisor(s) will need to approve the application **before** the deadline.
- 4. You should register for classes prior to receiving the approval letter.



#### Resources

Click here to download a PDF of the TAP and STRAP Flyer



# Click here to download a PDF of the TAP and STRAP Flyer





#### **Educational Assistance Contact & Resources Information**

Education Assistance

Education Assistance FAQ | Human Resources (gatech.edu)

Administrative Services (TAP & STRAP)
 Administrative Service Center at (404) 385-1111 or submit a Request Help ticket at here

• Education Assistance Email (GTRC & GTRI)

Crystal.Hannah@gtri.gatech.edu or Sarah.Cockrell@gtri.gatech.edu

• USG - Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) | University System of Georgia (usg.edu)

Tuition Reimbursement Programs (STRAP)
 Education Assistance | Human Resources (gatech.edu)

Tuition Assistance Program Policy
 HRAP Employee Continuing Education TAP (usg.edu)

• USG TAP Policy, TAP Coordinators, and Registration Periods http://www.usg.edu/hr/benefits/tuition\_assistance\_program

 Georgia Tech Academic Calendar www.registrar.gatech.edu



### **Education Assistance**:

TAP and STRAP (Spring semester)



These virtual session will provide employees with information about the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STRAP) including eligibility, important deadlines, how to apply and the application process.

Thursday, September 26 @10 - 11 a.m.











Education Assistance: Approving TAP and STRAP (for managers and supervisors)

These virtual session will provide managers with information about the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STRAP) process including how to approve applications in ServiceNow.

Tuesday, October 1 @2 - 3 p.m. Thursday, October 3 @11- 12 p



Scan the QR code to register for the sessions

# Questions



### Feedback: Tell us how we did?



