

[Introduction]

Hello, in this chapter, we will show you some of the resources that will aid in your success in the OMSCS program. Some of these resources are tools that you may use in your class projects; others are excellent study guides that you can use to prepare for certain classes, and the rest are communities that allow you to connect with other people, including students, prospective students, alumni, and even faculty members.

A comprehensive list of resources is available at the links provided [FILL THIS IN, DO NOT READ WEB LINK]

[skip verbal]

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gk3IPDd7_WyKeSfyuxXWrh4Hkk80As82CnaOO2m750M/edit#gid=0

Let's talk about some of the resources mentioned in this document.

[Georgia Tech resources]

First, let's look at the resources provided by Georgia Tech.

[GT Library]

As a Georgia Tech student, you will have access to Georgia Tech Library which can be found at library.gatech.edu **[skip verbal]** <http://www.library.gatech.edu/>. Here you will be able to read electronic versions of books and academic journals; you can also search for individual articles. Some of those documents you will be able to read online, and some you can even download. Georgia Tech has many providers of books and articles, and the Georgia Tech Library website allows you to search all of them at the same time.

[Official GT email]

As a current student, you automatically have your official Georgia Tech email, which will probably be your first initial and last name, followed by a number. In this email address, everything up to the "at ga-tech.edu" is your official Georgia Tech account, so in this case it would be "jsmith9".

You also have the option to create a customized email address, such as johnsmith@gatech.edu, (of course, this depends on the availability of the email address you choose). It will be an alias to your official Georgia Tech mail, but using this alias may be more convenient for you. You can set this up at passport.gatech.edu/email-preferences.

On that page you can also choose an external email address to which your emails will be redirected. We recommend you do this because it will work even after you graduate from

OMSCS. If you don't want your emails to be redirected, they will be saved in your Georgia Tech Office 365 mailbox, but you will not be able to use this mailbox after graduation.

[OMSCS coursework websites]

Now let's discuss some of the main websites you will be using for your OMSCS coursework.

[Piazza]

Piazza is an online forum you will want to become very familiar with. It will be the primary method of communication for most, if not all of your OMSCS courses. You will use it for communicating with both your classmates (as a community) and with your instructors in private. Piazza has several settings that you can customize, including email notifications of when there's a new post in the forum. Get in the habit of checking Piazza daily for announcements from instructors, questions and comments from classmates, and other important information. Piazza is an incredible tool for helping you stay up-to-date in your courses and for completing your assignments. If you have any questions about a current class assignment or test, do a search within Piazza, just like you would do a Google search. If you don't find an answer to your specific question, create a new post. Your classmates will appreciate it.

[T-Square]

T-Square is another very important course-specific website. This is where you'll submit written assignments, check your grades, and receive other important information about your courses.

[Udacity]

Udacity is the portal where you will find your course lecture videos and content. It is built around YouTube, so you can pause videos and even speed them up and slow them down. Each lecture is a series of several videos where each video is just a few minutes long. Most courses provide short quizzes mixed in with the videos, so this is a great way to check your knowledge after a short time of watching the content.

[Additional resources]

Be sure to go through OMSCS Student Orientation course available on Udacity using your Georgia Tech account. In it you will find more details about T-Square, Udacity, and Piazza. You will also find short tutorials on R and C programming.

[Software provided by GT]

Georgia Tech provides students with software at this website: **[SKIP VERBAL]** <https://software.oit.gatech.edu/request.php>. Some of the software available includes Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus, Mathematica, Matlab, and Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

[Study Material]

Let's mention some resources outside of Georgia Tech that will be very helpful with getting you through your courses.

[Lynda]

Lynda.com is a subscription-based platform that offers hundreds of videos, many of which are directly related to Computer Science and programming. As an OMSCS student, you have free access to incredible website. **[SKIP VERBAL]** screen shows lynda.gatech.edu). If you want to learn about a specific programming language or tool, you can probably find an instructional video for it on Lynda.com.

[Udacity]

In addition to being the hosting platform of OMSCS lecture videos, **Udacity** also creates and publishes a number of classes for the non-OMSCS users. These classes range from the beginner level **[SKIP VERBAL]** (screen shows classes like Intro to Computer Science) to advanced level **[SKIP VERBAL]** (screen shows classes like...intro to Parallel Programming?). Many of the OMSCS classes are freely available to the public, so this gives you the option to preview the lecture videos of certain classes prior to enrolling. Just remember, you should use a non-OMSCS email account in order to do this.

Udacity also offers some refresher courses **[SKIP VERBAL]** (screen shows linear algebra refresher course, AOS refresher course) specifically for OMSCS students. These refresher courses are short and are great preparation for certain classes (screen shows linear algebra refresher course for...Computer Vision? And AOS refresher course for AOS).

[Khan Academy]

Khan Academy is an excellent resource if you need to review some of the high school or college math may have forgotten since you last took it. Many OMSCS courses depend heavily on these topics, and Khan Academy is probably the quickest way to get a refresher.

[Other learning platforms]

Similar to Udacity, **other online learning platforms** like Coursera and edX have free, high quality classes created by top universities or technology organizations.

Be sure to check Google and YouTube for other study materials and tutorials related to your courses.

[Other Software available for students]

You can find a lot of great software available to students on Internet for free or at discount. Let's discuss some of those.

[Microsoft Imagine]

[Microsoft Imagine](#), formerly known as Microsoft DreamSpark, offers a free download of many Microsoft programs, including the Windows Operating System, Visual Studio, Microsoft Project, and several others.

[Editors/JetBrains software]

For computer scientists it is important to have the ability to write code in the most productive environment. For some of you that may be the vi editor or emacs. Others may prefer Sublime Text, Notepad++, Atom, Eclipse, or any other.

You may not know that you can get commercial grade editor for free as a student. JetBrains offers full versions of their editors (including PyCharm and IntelliJ IDEA) if you have a student email at <https://www.jetbrains.com/student/>.

[Version control/GitHub Student Developer Pack]

You have probably heard of version control systems. A popular one used at Georgia Tech is git, and GitHub is commonly used to host repositories for OMSCS courses. Github offers a free [Student Developer Pack](#) that provides unlimited private repositories on Github and many other developer tools.

There are alternatives to GitHub that provide private repositories even without a student email address. These include GitLab and BitBucket.

[Other free stuff]

Take a look at this shared document for more resources: **[SKIP VERBAL]**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gk3IPDd7_WyKeSfyuxXWrh4Hkk80As82CnaOO2m750M/edit#gid=0

[Tools]

[SKIP VERBAL] Let's talk about some other tools that will be very useful for you as a student.

[G Suite]

G Suite, formerly known as Google Apps, is a group of Google Cloud-based applications that many students use to collaborate and communicate with each other. It's free and accessible to anyone who has a Google account. Let's talk about some of the popular apps:

[Communication]

You're probably already familiar with **Gmail**. It's actually a major component of G Suite and a lot of students tend to use their Gmail accounts rather than their Gatech accounts to communicate.

Google Hangout is a popular tool that allows you to connect with your classmates by video calling, audio calling, or text messaging. It is probably the most commonly used tool for group

video conferencing. Skype and GoToMeeting are two similar alternatives. Google Hangouts are also commonly used by OMSCS instructors to broadcast office hours.

Google Calendar is a web-based calendar app that you can share with your group members. You can schedule group meetings and post important deadlines on the shared calendar.

[Productivity]

Google also has three apps that are great alternatives to Microsoft Office applications: **Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides**. These apps are simple, web-based applications that you can use instead of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. While these Google apps are less powerful than their Microsoft counterparts, they are easy to use, have autosaving functions, and allow real-time collaborative editing so multiple people can edit the same document at the same time.

Google Drive offers several free gigabytes of cloud-based storage, so it is a great tool to share files, especially large video files. You can share the files with your group members, or people outside of your group, and then set the permission level (view, comment, edit) specific to each group or individual.

The best part of using G Suite is that it is not only free and simple to use, many students already familiar with it, so there's little to no learning curve. Finally, each app is tightly integrated with other apps to provide a great user experience.

[Microsoft Office 365 or Office 2016 Download]

If Google is not your preference, the Microsoft Office 365 suite is available for download from the Georgia Tech software portal. Please note there is a limited number of devices that you can activate this software on.

[LucidChart (UML)]

You might want to design diagrams or charts for your project. Although some classes will provide you with an ubuntu virtual machine that has ArgoUML installed, you may consider using [LucidChart](#), which is free for students and is cloud-based, so collaboration becomes easier. [Draw.io](#) is another good cloud-based alternative that a lot of students use.

Communities

Finally, there are a few online communities where you can communicate with potential applicants, current students, alumni, or even instructors. We will talk about some of the more popular communities here.

Google+ features a [large OMSCS community](#) with thousands of members. There are new posts almost everyday. The posts can be filtered into different topics from admission questions, course discussions, and job opportunities. The community also provides helpful links to various pages and resources, which include an excellent FAQ document about the program. Occasionally, instructors and staff will create new posts and answer questions.

In addition, there are a number of smaller communities based on geographic location or specific courses. For a complete list, see this [Google document](#).

The [OMSCS Subreddit](#) is not nearly as large or as active as the Google+ community, but if you are a frequent Reddit user, you can easily subscribe to it to get updates. A majority of the posts are either from potential applicants asking about program admission, or current students wanting more information about course enrollment.

There is also an OMSCS Facebook group, though it is not as active as the communities on Google+ or Reddit.

Slack is a cloud-based team collaboration tool that allows users to message each other, share documents, and perform many other functions. Users can access the OMSCS Study Group [Slack](#) page by signing up with their Georgia Tech email address. You can join discussions with other users through various channels representing different topics, and later on, you can create your own private channel and communicate with specific users for group projects.

Conclusion

In this video, we covered most of the tools you can make use of during your tenure in OMSCS. Some of these tools, such as Piazza and Udacity, will be used more frequently than others. Many of these resources contain vast amounts of OMSCS information, accumulated by current and former students and instructors. Take some time to sift through this information. We recommend you become familiar with and customize these sites and portals. Doing so will lead you to an incredible amount of helpful information.