Welcome & Introductions

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The 1960s and 1970s saw the rise of second-wave feminism, with a record number of women seeking education and employment in fields previously only made available to men, and a general sense that these opportunities should be open to all regardless of gender.

Annie Tiselbaum Wise, the first woman to earn a degree from Georgia Tech, graduated in 1919 from the School of Commerce — despite it being against official school policy at the time. In response, the state General Assembly ratified a provision making it legal for women to attend the School of Commerce just one year later.

It was not until 1952 that women were allowed to become full-time students at Georgia Tech. This decision was fueled by requests to the Board of Regents for out-of-state tuition reimbursement. However, it was only for engineering degrees not offered at other state schools, such as the University of Georgia.

In 1956, Diane Michel and Shirley Clements were the first full-time women students to graduate from Georgia Tech.

The 1960s saw a significant push for equal rights, and Georgia Tech was no exception. Women began to demand full access to educational opportunities, including higher education.

Historic lack of opportunity meant women were without the relevant credentials for career or academic pursuits. Johnson’s Executive Order was therefore used as a basis to sue colleges and universities accepting federal funds. Advocacy groups supported these lawsuits, noting the lack of employment opportunities for women graduate students.

While conditions slowly improved, inequality impacted enrollment and lessened the student experience of women at Tech. When passed, Title IX required equity in all areas of higher education.

The first black women to complete degrees at Georgia Tech were Grace Hammond and Clemmie Whatley. Both earned mathematics master’s degrees in 1973. In that year, Tech still only had 15 African American female students.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed Executive Order 11246 outlawing discrimination in the recruiting, hiring, and training of federal contractors based on race, color, religion, or national origin. In 1968, Johnson amended the order to include sex.

After making decisions case-by-case for years, in 1965 the Board of Regents approved a measure to admit qualified women applicants to all Tech majors — with one remaining exception: Industrial Management. Tech officials convinced the board to lift the restriction in 1968.

With policy no longer blocking their enrollment, women encountered a new obstacle — space. Georgia Tech was unable to provide adequate restrooms or housing to allow more women to enroll.

As a result, in 1968 Georgia Tech began construction on its first women’s dormitory with a study lounge, kitchen, laundry facilities, and air conditioning.
TITILE IX BECOMES LAW


THE IMPACT OF TITLE IX

Attention on Title IX often focuses on opportunities for women to participate in athletics, but the law also prohibits all discrimination on the basis of sex. Legally, sex-based discrimination includes: failing to provide equal opportunities for participation in a school’s courses, programs or activities; sexual harassment and sexual assault; and discriminatory treatment based on marital status and pregnancy.

AREAS COVERED

- Admissions, recruitment and retention
- Financial aid and fellowships
- Athletics
- Academic offerings and STEM programs
- Employment assistance and the hiring practices of institutions
- Housing and facilities
- Health and insurance benefits and services
- Marital and parental status (including pregnancy)
- Sex-based harassment, including sexual assault and other forms of sexual-violence
- Employment

NOW AND THE FUTURE

According to the Department of Education, as of August 2021, Title IX applies nationally to: local school districts; post-secondary institutions; and charter schools, for-profit schools, libraries, and museums.

In June 2021, President Joe Biden’s Education Department issued a federal notice reaffirming that Title IX protects transgender and nonbinary students from discrimination.

“Gender should never limit your opportunities. Title IX is good for everyone because it provides similar opportunities regardless of gender. We’re appreciative of the women who paved the way before us, pushing for legislation and continuing to fight for opportunities in sports and education.”

Aileen Morales, Georgia Tech head softball coach
50 Years of Title IX at Georgia Tech
50 Years of Title IX at Georgia Tech

Title IX is landmark legislation that protects women's access to all aspects of higher education. Passed in 1972, Title IX has had a substantive, positive
THINK-PAIR-SHARE

What kind of synchronous content (classes, programs, or events) would you like to make into a module?
We used a series of Title IX events in 2022 as a catalyst for this project. Can you tell me a little bit about how you select events for the GT Library?
Question for Liz – Online Learning

You took the lead on getting a group of colleagues together to create an asynchronous module from this series of programs. What kinds of human resources, technologies, and infrastructure did you rely on to get started?
Question for Alex - Archives

Can you tell me more about the timelines and milestones for Archival exhibits and how they differed (or not) in the case of this module?
Can you speak briefly about creating and deploying this module?
THINK-PAIR-SHARE

What human resources, technologies, and infrastructure would you need to create a module like this?
Question for Alex - Archives

Does this have benefits for the Archives?
Question for Catherine – Public Programming

During a synchronous event or in the planning of a program, can you tell in advance what will be good to utilize in a module?
Question for presenters

What audiences do you anticipate will use this module? What do you want them to take away?
Lessons Learned

Cross-departmental collaboration is key & beneficial: the friends we made along the way

• Liz learns the Archives
• Catherine learns DLO/module building
• Alex learns leveraging the resources at Georgia Tech