ORS Application Answers

**While particular technical skill set is not needed to be accepted to ORS, list any technical expertise you may have, or that you would like to develop. Limit to 1000 characters**

* Software
* Robotics
* Coding
* Web development
* Hobby embedded systems projects with microcontrollers and motors
* Want to improve on cybersecurity skills
* Also want to improve on different methods of wireless communication and learn more about data transfer via 5G or fiber optic.

**ORS is a team-based research program that requires commitment that extends beyond your individual preferences. Provide an account of your experience in a team-based setting (if applicable), any challenges you encountered and how you overcame them. If this will be your first team experience, suggest how you could anticipate and successfully navigate potential challenges. In either case, highlight how you can be productive and significantly contribute to the progress of your team. Limit to 3000 characters.**

In my role as president of my high school's Technology Student Association (TSA), I led a team of 5 executive officers tasked with managing a club of approximately 70 members. We all had one goal in mind: to learn and be proactive in applying our education to real-world projects.

As club leaders, our job was to lead the club effectively and efficiently so we can foster an environment best suited for creativity and community. However, this was easier said than done. We were to manage an accurate roster of ~70 students, plan competition logistics, and provide workshops to aide members in their projects (the most important item).

We originally followed a loose and hands-off approach where each officer was responsible for designing and implementing major tasks. For example, our treasurer was responsible for competition logistics and our vice president was responsible for running workshops. The inherent vague nature of this “divide-and-conquer” strategy was the root of our problems because we soon found out that officers not involved in specific tasks were often disengaged and officer meetings became ineffective. Additionally, the broad responsibility that fell on each of our shoulders made jobs extremely messy since they could not fit in with other work efficiently. As officers, our purpose was to help members with their projects, but because only one officer is responsible for workshopping, the remaining team easily became disconnected from the club and overall vision.

We realized the nature of our problems, and over Fall Break we restructured the leadership such that each officer was responsible for contributing to a small portion of each goal. Work was explicitly enumerated into small manageable tasks and put on a Google Calendar which we all followed religiously. I immediately noticed a difference in the quality of work we produced. For example, the previously boring workshops with dull presentations turned into a machine shop training session where we taught members how to use a drill press and laser cutters and even pitched ideas on the various ways these machines can be used in their projects. By treating each officer meeting as a brainstorming session, each of us could effectively execute our assigned tasks since we saw how our work sat in the overall objective; and more importantly, each officer felt engaged as a critical member of the team. We took pride in the work we produced.

Although it is trite to say, communication really is key to working in a team. Especially when working alongside a team in a research project, I believe prioritizing proactive communication and individual accountability enables individual team members to contribute most effectively. I believe I can contribute significantly to my team because I place importance on collaborative discussion rather than completely dividing work. With a shared passion for learning and a dedication to communication, I am confident that our team can achieve remarkable outcomes together.

**List school-related activities and other commitments such as sports, student government, co-curricular/extracurricular activities, job, etc. that you expect to be doing in the coming academic year (fall 2024 and spring 2025). Limit to 1000 characters.**

Marching Band (Fall 2024)

RoboJackets (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025)

**ORS includes more than conducting research. Students are required to attend workshops, follow instructions, and communicate promptly and regularly as well as completing periodic assignments and deliverables. Share your assessment of your time-management, communication and organizational skills.**

**What are your particular strengths and particular challenges in these areas?**

**What tool do you use to manage your time, how effective has it been, and how will you prioritize your responsibilities to include these required events in your schedule? Limit to 3000 characters.**

Like many at Georgia Tech, I believe myself to be a person who takes great appreciation in organization. Especially as a college student, I strongly believe that an organized schedule along with a list of tasks are crucial for success. That is why I use Google Calendar and Notion.so as my main scheduler and agenda tools. At the start of the semester, I list all homework and major projects from each class on a Notion table so I can see over the next few months what parts will be heavier than others. Knowing this in advance is critical to my time-management so over the semester, I know when I can and cannot pick up another commitment.

In particular, I think a major strength for me is being able to categorize various assignments by when I will complete them. I know what works best for my schedule, especially knowing when I can effectively complete all my homework and when I need to take a break. For example, I find it best to work on my CS homework and my English assignments late at night because that’s simply what clicks best for my brain. Not everyone is productive 9 AM to 5 PM; but what’s important is to realize a schedule that works best so you can effectively manage your workload and prevent the dangers of procrastination. That, in my opinion, is what constitutes effective time management skills.

However, I believe one shortcoming I have in my time management is in the fact that I can easily get caught up in rabbit holes for small, insignificant tasks and lose sight of the overarching goal. For example, in my ECE 1100 project, I spent nearly all last week in designing and printing 3 iterations of a fairly insignificant door attachment. I should have rather taken a step back and made small iterations to the overall door opening mechanism rather than narrowing in one piece. I do believe, though, that by creating weekly goals, I can help overcome this challenge, and hopefully carry out my work with end goals in mind.

With regards to my communication, actual conversations, whether it be over the phone or in person, are invaluable compared to instant messaging. I work best in a team where we can meet in person and collaborate effectively on group projects; especially with an organization like ORS, in person meetings and/or virtual phone conversations are favored over emails since we can easily convey feelings over certain topics which would be otherwise impossible to gauge over texts. I will make communication a priority by opting for a team SharePoint page so that all collaborative or individual work is easily accessible. Additionally, I think planning team meetings months in advance on a shareable Google Calendar is key as it gives all group members time in advance to meet deadlines.

I will make ORS a priority in my education by treating it as I would any other class at GT. I will block out mornings till noon every Tuesday/Thursday for required events and be dedicated to maintaining healthy relationships with my team members.