

## Transfer Application Tips

Our *Transfer Application Tips* are designed to help you thoughtfully approach the application process. We hope the information will answer some of the questions you might have and make what can be a challenging process a bit more comfortable.

We strongly encourage you to review the College of Human Ecology's publications, including fact sheets and our website as you consider applying to Cornell and to our College. The information provided is designed to make the selection of a college and a major, as well as the application process more comfortable for you.

Limiting your search to online resources does not allow for a complete understanding of the College of Human Ecology, its programs and how they fit in the context of the world. We encourage you to take advantage of the variety of resources to grasp the possibilities available through the Human Ecology experience.

You are also strongly encouraged to contact the Human Ecology Admissions Office to make an appointment to speak with an Admissions Counselor about your interests, our required coursework and the transfer application process, *well in advance of submitting the application.*

We also host a Transfer Day program each fall to give prospective students the opportunity to learn more about our majors, admissions issues, financial aid, and student life. Visit [www.transferday.cornell.edu](http://www.transferday.cornell.edu) for more information.

### Applying to a major

Cornell University requires applicants to select a specific undergraduate college during the application process.

Selecting a college and a major are important decisions that might seem daunting. There are, however, a few tips to keep in mind as you consider your options.

- ✦ Consider the mission of each college - its academic objectives, research focus, family of majors and graduation requirements.
- ✦ Obtain a copy of the Cornell University Courses of Study ([www.admissions.cornell.edu](http://www.admissions.cornell.edu)) and read the course descriptions listed under the major(s) that interests you. The course descriptions will help you better understand the program components and the curriculum requirements.

In general, Human Ecology programs:

- focus on contemporary issues that influence all aspects of the human condition;
- blend the liberal arts with practical, real-world experiences; and
- are adaptable and allow for meaningful concentrations across all of Cornell's colleges.

Know that Human Ecology is organized around the exploration of contemporary social issues, not simply academic disciplines.

### The Application – An uncommon approach

We strongly encourage applicants to take an *uncommon* approach to the application, particularly the essays. Students should use the essay as an opportunity to reveal something about themselves, versus simply reporting what is already included on the application.

Human Ecology's Admissions Committee is very interested in how you establish a match between your academic goals and our College offerings. Applicants must thoughtfully consider how they write about their academic interests and goals within the context of Human Ecology, and that these interests are clearly stated and genuinely connected to our mission.

The Human Ecology Admissions Committee wants to know which major(s) you are considering and why. What kindled your interest and how you have tested that interest through academic, extracurricular and/or work experiences? Do you have a career goal in mind? How will a Human Ecology education help you achieve your goals?

General or vague statements of interest are detrimental to an application.

### Personal essay

The personal essay allows the Admissions Committee to get to know you better – about what are you curious, what drives and inspires you, and/or what you find worthy of respect. Your essays should be thoughtful and genuine. Again, be mindful of the difference between revealing and reporting.

### Interior Design, Apparel Design and Apparel/Textile Management applicants

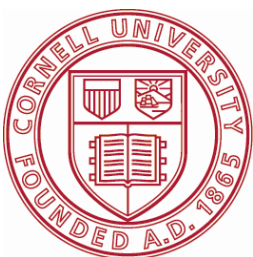
All students applying to the Interior Design, the Apparel Design and the Apparel and Textile Management majors are required to submit a Design Index with their application.

Transfer applicants interested in Interior Design, Apparel Design and Apparel and Textile Management are also required to include a portfolio. Visit [www.human.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.human.cornell.edu/admissions) for the Design Index and the portfolio guidelines.

### Extracurricular and work experience

The Human Ecology Admissions Committee is interested in how you use your time outside of the classroom, what engages you and what informs your academic interests. Along with teams, clubs and organizations, other important extracurricular activities include work, internship, volunteer, and research experiences.

We are more interested in quality than in quantity.



The Committee would rather have insight into something you really care about than see a long list of activities that might have competed for your time and attention.

Be sure to inform us of what you are doing if you are not currently in school. Out of school experiences often teach as much about career preparation as academic courses.

### Letters of recommendation

The Admissions Committee needs to see candid comments from people who know applicants well enough to help us assess their maturity, self motivation, initiative and character.

Choose people who can add another dimension to the application. We are not looking for additional assessments of your academic abilities. We want to hear about your strengths, weaknesses and the challenges you've faced.

### Coursework

We emphasize academic preparation in a parallel curriculum as a major component of our transfer admissions decision. Be sure to carefully review the required preparatory coursework at <http://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/transfer/requirements.cfm>

Completing the required coursework best prepares students to thrive in their transition to Cornell University and to graduate on time. Completing the coursework also increases the competitiveness of an applicant; though it does not guarantee admission. Students lacking required coursework are not competitive applicants.

### College transcripts

An official transcript from all colleges/universities where you completed undergraduate level coursework (including summer/winter sessions) must be submitted for thorough and complete consideration of your application.

The Admissions Committee also requires midterm grades, as they need to know the courses in which applicants are currently enrolled and an instructor's appraisal of work to date. We understand that not all institutions provide official midterm grades, so applicants need to complete the appropriate form included in the application. In some cases, the Admissions Committee might need final grades for the current semester.

A delay in the receipt of the midterm and/or final grades will result in a delay in the processing and review of your application.

### Educational history

While college transcripts are the primary basis used to determine an applicant's academic performance and potential, secondary/high school transcripts are a vital component to help us assess your preparation for a rigorous academic program. For example, if you completed high school biology, but not chemistry or physics, you need to pursue college level coursework in chemistry or physics.

The Admissions Committee can appropriately advise applicants based on their past academic endeavors.

The standardized exam (SATs, ACTs, etc.) reports may be submitted, but are **not** required.

### What the Admissions Committee considers

We consider a number of factors as we review transfer applicants. The following factors work together to build a competitive applicant.

- ✧ *Pursuit of a parallel curriculum.* The Admissions Committee considers a student's academic readiness for a transfer to our programs. That readiness is demonstrated by strong performance in the preparatory coursework requirements. Students who have completed the required preparatory courses are more competitive in the applicant pool, though they are not guaranteed admission.
- ✧ *Coursework performance.* The Admissions Committee is interested in students who have an established record of strong academic performance. A GPA of 3.3 or above, with As and B+s in required preparatory coursework, increases an applicant's competitiveness.
- ✧ *Demonstrated interest match.* Given the nature of the College of Human Ecology's programs, it is imperative that transfer applicants clearly articulate their interests, how they have evolved and how Human Ecology's majors will help students attain their goals. Applicants must have a solid understanding of Human Ecology's offerings. In addition, the Admissions Committee needs to see that a student has tested that interest through extracurricular activities, inter/internships, volunteer work, jobs, etc.

### Financial Aid (*Cornell University admissions is need blind*)

Submission of the Cornell Financial Aid Form(s) is required if you are interested in receiving financial aid from Cornell University. The University cannot calculate your financial need without these forms. Financial need is determined once the Financial Aid Office is notified of a student's acceptance.

*DO NOT* wait until you receive your decision letter to submit the financial aid forms. Cornell might exhaust its financial aid resources before your case is considered if your forms are missing or late.

### Miscellaneous tips

- ✧ Please be patient. We understand that you are eager to hear our decision, and you will. We make transfer decisions on a rolling basis, which means that we make decisions as applications become complete. Often we need final grades for the current semester's classes.
- ✧ Please let us know your impending deadlines and send in your final grades as soon as possible.
- ✧ Students who are accepted to the College of Human Ecology will receive a credit evaluation shortly after receiving their decision. Credit evaluations cannot be completed prior to this point.
- ✧ Cornell University is on the semester system where a quarter hour is usually equal to two-thirds of a semester credit.

**Feel free to contact us with any questions.**

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