

College of Human Ecology | 2017 First Year Application Tips

Our *First-Year Application Tips* are offered to help you thoughtfully approach the application process and present an application that reflects you as a person, an academic, and a community citizen.

Understanding your interests

Understanding your interests, considering your academic strengths, and being well-informed about your options are important as you make decisions regarding your college and major.

You might have family, friends, or others in your community who attended or are familiar with Cornell University. While these people can offer insight into their experiences, we urge you to make this your own exploration of Cornell University.

Families, we hope that you will support your student as their interests develop and deepen.

DO: Carefully review the College of Human Ecology's viewbook, major fact sheets, and website.

DO: Attend an on-campus College of Human Ecology information session. Discussions are shaped around the interests that our guests share during their introductions. Appointments with faculty members do not impact the admissions process and are discouraged unless you are interested in our design-based majors.

The application – an uncommon approach

A thoughtful and college-specific approach to the essays and application makes for a more compelling candidacy.

DO: Articulate a connection to the college's mission and programs when answering the academic interest question on the Cornell Supplement. Why is our program right for you? What kindled this academic interest? How will a Human Ecology education help you achieve your academic and career goals?

DO: Draw on the combination of your experiences – academic, research, extracurricular, work, and volunteer – that makes Human Ecology a compelling and meaningful choice.

DON'T: Use the "Additional Information" section as a means to include a second personal essay. This option is best used to clarify course selection choices, briefly provide context for grades that might seem inconsistent with past performance, etc.

The secondary school transcript

The transcript reflects your academic rigor, preparation, persistence, and growth. Our most competitive candidates pursue the highest level of coursework, particularly in math and science, available at their schools, and earn very strong grades that place them in the top of their class, regardless of their choice of major.

DO: Know that the Human Ecology Admissions Committee prefers that applicants complete advanced level (i.e. Advanced Placement; International Baccalaureate, etc.) calculus before statistics; biology *and* chemistry or physics before environmental science or other elective science courses. Students interested in careers in medicine and

health should take available advanced courses in biology, chemistry, and math.

DO: Apply yourself to your schoolwork throughout your senior year. The required senior mid-term grades and the final grade reports for accepted students are of critical importance. Accepted students who do not maintain the academic momentum presented at the time of application will be contacted by the Admissions Committee.

DO: Consult with the Human Ecology Admissions Committee before making changes to your senior courseload if you are an accepted student.

Extracurriculars

The Admissions Committee is interested in how you use your time in your school and greater communities, what engages, informs and tests your academic interests, and how those pursuits are connected to the college.

DO: Be thoughtful about which extracurricular activities you list – only the most important and relevant are of interest to the Human Ecology Admissions Committee.

Letters of recommendation

Letters of recommendation help the Admissions Committee understand your maturity, self-motivation, initiative, character, and role in the classroom and community.

An additional letter or two from coaches, supervisors, members of the community, etc. will be considered if you choose to submit those materials. Be thoughtful about that choice and the number you submit.

DO: Ask a science or math teacher to submit a letter on your behalf if you apply to one of our natural science based majors.

DEA and FSAD applicants

[Design supplements](#) are required for Design and Environmental Analysis, Fashion Design, and Fashion Design Management applicants. These materials are critically evaluated by faculty in the departments as part of the complete application.

Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Standardized exams

The SAT I or the ACT exam is required. The SAT Subject exams are not required. Visit <http://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/first-year-applicants> for more information.

International applicants should visit <http://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/international-students> for more information about required testing.

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