



Cornell University
ILR School

Guidelines for First-Year Applicants

All applicants to Cornell must apply online using the [Common Application](#) (CA) or the [Universal College Application](#) (UCA). The ILR Admissions Committee does not prefer one application over another. For information on the required components of the application, how to complete each section, and how to check your application status, please review the University Admissions Office (UAO) website:

<http://admissions.cornell.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/admission-requirements>

ILR-Specific Requirements for First-Year Applicants

Courses and Standardized Tests

All ILR first-year applicants must take 4 units of English and 4 units of math in high school. Applicants must also submit scores from the SAT exam *or* the ACT exam (with writing). The Admissions Committee does not prefer one test over the other. SAT subject test scores are not required, though you are welcome to submit them. **Please note that Cornell does not participate in the College Board's Score Choice.** If you have taken a standardized test more than once, the ILR Admissions Committee will consider your highest score when evaluating your application.

Applying to ILR

CA:

If you apply with the Common Application, you will need to select "Industrial and Labor Relations" as your college/school and your major. You will then have an opportunity to complete the "**Cornell Questions and Writing Supplement**" essay.

UCA:

If you apply with the Universal College Application, you will need to select ILR as your primary choice college/school and enter the major code for ILR (701). You will then have an opportunity to complete the "**Cornell University Supplement**" essay.

The **Supplement essay** is the second of two essays you will need to complete to apply to Cornell, and this is where you must address your specific interests in the ILR School. In order to have a competitive application, it is essential to show the Admissions Committee, through this essay in particular, that your interests fit well with the

topics studied in our school. In this essay, it is important for you to clearly articulate what issues you are passionate about, why, and why ILR is where you hope to continue learning about these topics, fields, causes, etc. With that in mind, we strongly recommend that all applicants follow the Application Tips in this document to see the full range of topics covered in our school, and to learn how students use our program to pursue their interests in law, business, government, international affairs, social justice, and other areas.

Extracurricular Activities

Where the application asks for extracurricular activities, be sure to include any activities that have demonstrated your leadership skills, such as athletics, work experience, or community service. You should also include activities that demonstrate interests appropriate for study at ILR, such as participation in Mock Trial, Model UN, FBLA, participation in community events, etc.

Recommendations

Two Teacher Evaluations are required, and we suggest choosing at least one teacher who knows how your interests align with the ILR School. We do not recommend submitting more than the two required recommendations.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Certain advanced high school classes qualify as credits for your degree. Students can transfer in up to 12 AP/IB credits, though these credits cannot be used to accelerate graduation. All ILR students must complete eight semesters of full-time study, known as residency (12 credits or more completed during one semester is considered full-time study), to meet their degree requirements. This includes work done while on an approved credit internship or study abroad program. See ILR's Policy on AP/IB Credit at:

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/admissions/Academics/>

Interviews

Formal interviews are not offered. Members of the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Network (CAAAN) try to meet with many prospective students. If you receive a call from a member of this organization, consider this an opportunity to have a Cornell

representative get to know you better. It also gives you a chance to ask any questions you may have about the University. These discussions are designed to help students get a better feel for Cornell, and they do not play a major role in the admissions process. If you hear that one student heard from an alumnus, but you have not, please know that this does not imply anything about the specific chances of an applicant.

Application Tips

Before submitting your application, we encourage all students to:

1. Review the ILR curriculum and course descriptions to learn more about how our program works and the topics explored throughout the school. If you have any questions about our curriculum, courses, or how ILR can be used to pursue your interests, please contact us at 607-255-2222.

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/admissions/Academics/>

2. Explore the student profiles available on our admissions website:

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/admissions/Student_Experience/

3. Review information on careers from ILR:

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/admissions/Careers/>

4. If possible, attend an ILR information session and visit classes:

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/admissions/Visit/>

Financial Aid

Two important things to understand about financial aid at Cornell are:

- All admissions decisions are made on a need-blind basis. Neither your family's financial situation nor your own has any bearing on our decision to admit you.
- We award financial aid on the basis of demonstrated need. Cornell does not offer merit or athletic scholarships.

The University is committed to helping students and their families find ways to afford and finance a Cornell education. Our policies reflect our commitment to providing need-based aid. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Need-based loans are capped or eliminated for students from families meeting annual income guidelines.

- Students with total family income of less than \$60,000, and total assets of less than \$100,000, will have no parent contribution.
- Cornell will match the family contribution components and lower loan level of other Ivy League schools and will also strive to match the family contribution components and lower loan level offers from Stanford, Duke, and MIT.

For more information about our financial aid initiatives, visit:

<http://www.finaid.cornell.edu/cost-attend/financial-aid-initiatives>

If you would like to apply for aid, use our financial aid calculator, or learn more about the current cost to attend Cornell, visit:

[finaid.cornell.edu](http://www.finaid.cornell.edu)

Unfortunately, there is limited aid available for **international students**. International students can learn more about our financial aid policies here:

<http://www.finaid.cornell.edu/apply-aid/international-applicants>

For More Information:

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