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. Please review the University Admissions Office (UAO) website for information on the required components of the application, how to complete each section, and how to check your application status.

Application Tips

Before submitting your application, we encourage all students to:

1. Review the ILR Curriculum and Sample Electives document to see some of the ways students tailor our program to their interests and course descriptions from the current semester to see the full range of topics covered throughout the school.

2. Explore the student spotlights to learn more about the unique classes, internships, volunteer and international opportunities that our students pursue.

3. Review information on careers from ILR.

4. If possible, attend the ILR information session.

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. Writing sections are not required or evaluated, and the Admissions Committee does not prefer one test over the other. SAT subject test scores are not required. 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
Whether you apply with the CA or UCA, you will need to select “Industrial and Labor Relations” as your college/school and your major. You will then have an opportunity to complete Cornell University’s 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 that your interests fit well with the topics studied in our school. In this essay, it is important for you to clearly articulate the issues you are passionate about, why, and why ILR is where you hope to continue learning about these topics, fields, causes, etc.

Extracurricular Activities
Where the application asks for extracurricular activities, be sure to include any activities that demonstrate interests appropriate for study at ILR, such as work experience, participation in Mock Trial, Model UN, FBLA, athletics, DECA, 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 on the Admissions Academics site for additional information.
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.

Financial Aid

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.

If you would like to apply for aid, use our financial aid calculator, or learn more about the current cost to attend Cornell, please review the financial aid website.

For More Information:

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