Transfer Option
Course Selection Guidelines

Before enrolling in courses, please review the course selection guidelines below to clarify the types of classes that fulfill the Transfer Option (TO) requirements. Once you have identified appropriate courses, send the course titles and descriptions to Ian Schachner (ims25@cornell.edu), ILR’s Associate Director of Admissions, for review.

TO Requirements

1) At least one of ILR’s two Introductory Economics requirements (micro or macroeconomics). If you are only able to complete one, we strongly recommend completing microeconomics. (AP scores of 4 or 5 will satisfy each economics requirement.)

2) At least one of ILR’s two First-Year Writing requirements. (AP scores of 4 or 5 will only satisfy one of these requirements)

3) At least two of the three ILR distribution requirements listed below (AP credit can only satisfy one of the distribution requirements.)

   Western Intellectual Tradition  
   Cultural Perspectives  
   Science & Technology

AP Credit

Please note that Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) credits are awarded based only on Cornell’s policies. For example, you may receive credit for an AP Microeconomics exam score of 3 at your first school, but a score of 4 or 5 is required at Cornell. A maximum of 12 AP/IB credits may be used toward your degree requirements. **AP/IB credit may not be used to accelerate graduation.**

You may only fulfill one of the three distribution requirements with AP/IB credit. If you have credit for two or three of the distribution requirements, you can decide before or after you join ILR which requirement you would like to fulfill. For example, if you received a 4 or 5 on both AP US History and Biology, you can choose whether you would like to fulfill the Western Intellectual Tradition or Science & Technology requirement. You are allowed to change this at any point in your studies.
The following section outlines information to help you fulfill the TO requirements:

**Introductory Economics requirement:**

If your college offers a basic Principles of Micro or Macroeconomics course, this will typically fill the TO economics requirement. If your college only offers one general introductory economics class that covers topics from macro and microeconomics, that course will transfer as macroeconomics credit and you can take microeconomics the following semester, during the summer or winter sessions, or when you transfer to Cornell.

If your school does not allow you to take micro or macroeconomics courses during the fall and spring semesters, you will need to take at least one of these courses at another two- or four-year school the summer before your first year of college or during the winter session. Since a solid background in economic principles will help ensure your success at ILR, the admissions committee must see that you have completed, or are in the process of completing, at least one of ILR’s Introductory Economics requirements when your application is submitted.

**First-Year Writing requirement:**

For a course to fulfill a first-year writing requirement, it must require at least three formal essays on different topics. The essays must total at least 18 pages of polished prose, count for at least 50% of the final grade, and go through a process of development under the instructor's guidance (e.g. proposals, drafts, peer review, responses to readings, conferences). Online discussions, text for websites and blogs, and in-class writing assignments cannot count toward the 18 page requirement.

Please note that literature, business, creative, and technical writing courses typically **do not** fulfill this requirement. The class must focus on the proper use of theses, argument, evidence, structure, and diction in your writing.

Many schools require first-year seminars that are designated as Writing Intensive, and while some may not be in the English department, they may still fulfill one of our writing requirements. In these and all other cases, the course syllabus, or the website that outlines the college’s guidelines for Writing Intensive courses, should clearly show that the class meets the requirements stated above.
ILR distribution course requirements:

- Western Intellectual Tradition (WIT)
- Cultural Perspectives (CP)
- Science and Technology (ST)

**Western Intellectual Tradition (WIT)**

To fill the WIT requirement, a class must focus on Western regions, governments, philosophers, music, authors, art, etc. The course must introduce students to the foundation of “Western” political, economic, and legal thought and cover a) a period of time broad enough to affect contemporary thought, and b) at least two thinkers, authors, or contributors to the Western Intellectual Tradition (this must be clearly noted in the syllabus). Students often fulfill this requirement with a class on Western Civilization, American or European Government or History, or Philosophy.

Many colleges and universities offer general courses in Cultural Anthropology, Comparative Politics, World History, and International Relations. To fulfill the WIT requirement, ILR requires that more than 50% of the course content focus on western governments, cultures, music, etc. Therefore, for these and other general courses that do not explicitly state a focus on western regions in their titles or course descriptions, a syllabus will be required to evaluate and approve the course.

**Cultural Perspectives (CP)**

To fill this requirement, a class must engage students in the study of ideas, histories and cultures of countries beyond the United States and Western Europe. Students typically fill this requirement through a class that focuses on governments, philosophers, history, or art of areas in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and other non-western regions. Examples include Introduction to Japanese Art, Asian or Middle Eastern History, or African Literature.

Many colleges and universities offer general courses in Cultural Anthropology, Comparative Politics, World History, and International Relations. To fulfill the CP requirement, ILR requires that more than 50% of the course content focus on non-western governments, cultures, music, etc. Therefore, for these and other general courses that do not explicitly state a focus on non-western regions in their titles or course descriptions, a syllabus will be required to evaluate and approve the course.

**Science & Technology (ST)**

Courses that fulfill the ST requirement include introductory courses in biology, chemistry and physics. Other courses that fulfill this requirement include astronomy, evolution, geology, etc. To fill the ST requirement, a class must focus on the
perspectives, models, values, and issues associated with science and technology. A lab section is not required and computer science classes cannot be used for ST credit.

Selecting Additional Courses

Most three- or four-credit courses at any accredited college or university that do not fulfill the above requirements will transfer as General Elective Credit (GEC). If you fulfill the TO requirements and several GECs during your first year, you will still have the opportunity to take additional GECs throughout your undergraduate experience.

If you want to maximize the number of General Elective Credits that remain after you transfer, you will want to focus on fulfilling the two economics, two First-Year Writing, and three distribution requirements during your first year of college. Taking foreign language and/or accounting classes (financial and managerial accounting) during your first year will also leave you with more GECs.

Statistics:

If you have the option to take a math class during your first year, we recommend taking statistics. However, please note that you will only be able to waive out of ILR’s core statistics class if the course at your school covers hypothesis testing or regression.

If the syllabus makes it clear that the class covers how to state and assess null and alternative hypotheses for regression, usually on b-coefficient with a t-value (or if an email from the professor confirms that the class covers this material), then the class will likely fulfill our core statistics requirement. If it does not cover this material, you will not need to take our four-credit statistics class, but you will need to take a two-credit class on applied regression at ILR.

For assistance with selecting courses, please contact Ian Schachner, ILR’s Associate Director of Admissions, at 607-255-2222 or ims25@cornell.edu.

*Please download a copy of this document for your records. This information is meant only for ILR TO students and should not be shared.