We’ve made some changes to admissions requirements and unveiled a new freshman enrollment option! Here are the important updates:

- The standardized testing requirement no longer includes the writing portion of any test. Students are required to submit the ACT or SAT. In addition, some of Cornell’s colleges and schools require specific SAT subject test scores (these cannot be replaced by AP or other exams). Please refer to our “Freshman Requirements Chart” online, which provides details on all application requirements.

- First-Year Spring Admission (FYSA): FYSA is an opportunity for freshman to join the Cornell community in the spring semester. With so many amazing applicants, FYSA allows us to welcome even more freshman students to campus. Students interested in FYSA will have the opportunity to answer a question on the Cornell supplement. Select applicants to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Human Ecology and the School of Hotel Administration will be considered for January 2017 admission. Learn more about FYSA at: admissions.cornell.edu/fysa

- New majors for your students to consider:
  - Biomedical Engineering (College of Engineering)
  - Global and Public Health Sciences (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences)
  - Fashion Design and Management (College of Human Ecology)
  - Fiber Sciences (College of Human Ecology)

See a list of our majors and minors here: https://www.cornell.edu/academics/fields.cfm

Every academic year brings the promise of fresh experiences and opportunities for current and incoming students alike, but this semester is especially exciting because it is the first full semester students get to spend with our 13th President, Elizabeth Garrett! Cornell had the amazing chance this past spring to celebrate our 150th birthday while welcoming our first female president. President Garrett was elected on September 30th, 2014, and formally began her term July 1st, 2015. She has said she was drawn to Cornell in part because, “Cornell has been fundamentally shaped by its founders’ lasting vision of a university dedicated to inclusion, to egalitarianism and public engagement. I found that vision compelling. It resonates with my own work and my life, which involves public service.”

President Garrett was previously the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Southern California, but her connection to Cornell actually goes back to when she published her first paper in the Cornell Law Review as an assistant professor at the University of Chicago! In addition to her duties as President, President Garrett will be on the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences and of the Law School.

Her academic interests include the legislative process, the initiative and referendum process, the federal budget process, the design of democratic institutions, and tax policy, and in her free time she enjoys needlepoint, cross-stitching, and traveling. Plus, it seems like she enjoys reading books by Cornellians: as of an interview shortly after her election, she was reading one work by our vice provost for international affairs Fred Logevall. Her formal inauguration ceremony is set for Friday, September 18. We offer her a warm welcome, and are incredibly excited to see what her presidency brings!
My summer internship in admissions

Cornell University has received state approval to offer a long-awaited undergraduate major in biomedical engineering (BME) and will begin taking sophomores into the program this fall.

"This has been part of the conversation since Cornell Engineering’s BME department started," said Lawrence Bonassar, professor of biomedical engineering and an original member of the department, which was created a decade ago and currently offers master’s of engineering and Ph.D. degrees and an undergraduate minor.

The College of Engineering also just announced a $50 million gift to expand the BME department into a school named the Nancy E. and Peter C. Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering.

"The Meinigs’ gift will give the new school significant resources as we launch the new major," said Marjolein van der Meulen, the Swanson Professor and the James M. and Marsha McCormick Chair of Biomedical Engineering. "Launching our biomedical engineering undergraduate major is an initiative our faculty have been working on for a long time, and an opportunity our students have been eagerly anticipating," van der Meulen said.

"College administrators and faculty have known that many engineering students would have majored in BME if they could have the option available," Bonassar said. A survey of the incoming Engineering freshman class indicated that 60 percent of the students had an interest in biological applications of engineering.

"This major allows Cornell Engineering to attract creative and intelligent prospective students who are interested in biomedical engineering," explained Jonathan Butcher, associate professor of biomedical engineering, associate department chair and director of undergraduate studies for the department. For the Class of 2019, 12 percent of incoming freshman engineers have indicated BME would be their top choice.

"Our college’s particular strengths in BME fit well into Cornell’s collaborative culture and accentuate our collaborations with the College of Veterinary Medicine and Weill Cornell Medical College," she said.

Biomedical engineering builds research around a quantitative understanding of the human body as an integrated, multiscale system. The study of mechanisms of disease through engineering analysis can be used to design better therapies, devices and diagnostic procedures to improve human health.

Unlike graduates of many traditional engineering fields, BME graduates must be able to thrive in an environment of variability and think through problems in which the assumptions are poorly defined, Butcher said. (Article from Cornell Chronical, June 23, 2015—by Joe Wilensky)
**Tips for seniors...help us help them begin**

To help you and your students have a great start to senior year, here are some tips to help ease the stress of the college application process.

**Select exam dates ASAP!**
The window to take (or retake) standardized tests is quickly closing.

- Fall 2015 dates for SAT
  - October 3
  - November 7
  - Dec 5 *Subject Tests Only*

- Fall 2015 dates for ACT
  - October 24
  - December 12

For both the SAT and ACT, the registration deadline is approximately 4 weeks before the test date. We will super score test scores and encourage students to submit all scores in order for us to use the highest scores they have in each section. Please have students request the scores to be sent directly from the testing agency.

**Don’t save the best for last!**
Students constantly ask how they can stand out in the admissions process. With so many great applicants, the essay can differentiate a student from everyone else who has applied. The essays should be thought out and well written, which may require several drafts. Encourage students to start working on first drafts of the essays, if they have not done so already. The essay prompts for the Common Application, Universal College Application and Cornell supplemental essay are available online and through the two application websites and our site. (admissions.cornell.edu)

**Start the application!**
Even though college application deadlines are a few months away, starting the application will help students becoming familiar with application requirements and deadlines. Filing out the application will also allow students to proofread, edit and proof again to make sure all information is included and correct.

**Ask questions!**
The admissions and financial aid staffs are here to assist students and parents on this process. Encourage seniors to call or email us with any questions they may encounter throughout the process. And while we do not track demonstrated interest, taking initiative to contact us, certainly will help them in the long run.

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**Skype with Us!**

*The Undergraduate Admissions Office is available via Skype for live, face-to face interactions with you and your students!*

**Skype Session Topics**

- Cornell Info Session
- Financial Aid Session
- CSS Profile
- Essay Writing
- Bus group visits planning
- Partnership opportunities
- Articulating Fit
- Application Workshop

**For more information, please email:**

diversity@cornell.edu

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Classes began at Cornell on August 25th.

“*The admissions and financial aid staffs are here to assist students and parents throughout the process.*”

Hundreds of volunteers help during Move-In Day.
CBO Spotlight: Cornell Student

Salvador Herrera—Class of 2019—East Village Youth Program

My educational journey has been both challenging and rewarding. Growing up in the city of Chicago, I have witnessed what a strong educational background can yield, as well as the effects of a lack of education on an individual and societal basis. I have been blessed to have such amazing parents and teachers who have believed in me every step of the way, from elementary school to high school, and even now in my new chapter in life at Cornell University.

A common thread throughout has been the East Village Youth Program (EVYP), an organization started to promote college readiness in the underserved minority population of Chicago, especially Latinos. I joined the program in 6th grade, hoping to get a jumpstart on my high school readiness and college search, but the program has given me much more.

During my time at EVYP, I have gotten to know and befriend many great program directors, including Amanda Ochoa, Sarah Bird, May Cheng, Nora Frazin and Julia Gerasimenko. I have also found a great afterschool tutor in Amanda Payonk, who now tutors my little sister. They have all taken a strong interest in my education at some point, supporting my decisions and pushing me to work harder and reach my highest potential. I have received everything from ACT prep to invitations to college visit trips, and even just knowing that people back home are rooting for me has really helped make my college transition smoother. Julia and I have regular Skype and phone conversations each semester to check-in on my progress and set goals.

My first year at Cornell was interesting to say the least. I changed my educational path from pre-med to English, and I am now considering applying to law school in a few years. I have made so many new friends who I cherish, and whatever lies before me going forward, I know have the strong support network I need to be successful; the East Village Youth Program has played a major role in that.

Cornell is a private, Ivy League university and the land-grant university for New York State. Cornell's mission is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge; produce creative work; and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the Cornell community. Cornell also aims, through public service, to enhance the lives and livelihoods of our students, the people of New York, and others around the world.

Our faculty, students, alumni, and staff strive toward these objectives in a context of freedom with responsibility. We foster initiative, integrity, and excellence, in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. As the land-grant university for the state of New York, we apply the results of our endeavors in service to our alumni, the community, the state, the nation, and the world.