Freshman Year Spring Admission Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) **Q:** What is the First-Year Spring Admission Program?
   **A:** The First-Year Spring Admission (FYSA) program is an opportunity for 125 freshmen to begin their Cornell experience in the spring. The School of Hotel Administration (SHA) will welcome approximately 30 new students to the Cornell campus in January 2016.

2) **Q:** How are students selected for FYSA?
   **A:** SHA students selected for spring semester enrollment are exceptional candidates whom we were unable to admit for fall because of on-campus space constraints.

3) **Q:** What should I do in the fall, before I come to Cornell for spring semester?
   **A:** This is a great opportunity to explore your options and there are a number of experiences to select from:
   - **Attend an accredited college/university:** You may enroll at an accredited college or university. If you choose this option, we ask that you use our office as a resource to help you select your classes to maximize your transfer credits earned toward School of Hotel Administration (SHA) degree requirements.
   - **Work in the hospitality industry:** Experience provides exposure, context for your studies, real work skills and a broader professional network. Note that work experience prior to enrolling at Cornell does not count towards your SHA Practice Credit requirement.
   - **Explore:** Fall can be an exceptional opportunity to engage in volunteer, study abroad, or other experiential opportunities to develop character and leadership potential in your community or abroad. For study abroad, we can advise on programs where you may be able to earn transfer credit toward degree requirements here.

4) **Q:** If I attend college elsewhere in the fall, will I still be able to graduate ‘on time’ (i.e., in May, after 7 semesters at Cornell)?
   **A:** If you transfer 12 or more university-earned credits for courses completed during the term prior to entering Cornell, you should be able to graduate in May, after seven subsequent semesters at Cornell. Cornell University places no requirement on spring freshmen to graduate early. If you wish to accelerate to a May graduation date, we recommend you work with the SHA Office of Student Services once you are enrolled.

5) **Q:** If I decide to attend college in the fall, does it matter what subjects I study?
   **A:** We recommend you choose a college that allows you to take general education and introductory level business courses. We do not recommend attending another hospitality program, as hospitality courses taken elsewhere likely do not fulfill SHA hospitality course requirements.
6) **Q:** What classes should I take in the fall?
**A:** We recommend you take general education courses such as freshman writing, or introductory business courses such as microeconomics, financial accounting and/or organizational behavior and leadership; non-hospitality courses. Before enrolling in a course, if you have a question whether it fulfills a Cornell SHA requirement, you may submit the syllabus for review to hotelschool_admissions@cornell.edu with your name, the name of your college, and the SHA course you hope it fulfills.

7) **Q:** How will Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) credit(s) transfer?
**A:** For details and information about AP and IB credit at Cornell, go to: courses.cornell.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=4314

While the college you attend in the fall may award credit for AP/IB scores and some A/O level exam results, the School of Hotel Administration follows its own established policies and you may not be awarded the same credit. The SHA credit policy can be found here: hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/transfer.html

8) **Q:** Will both my grade point average and college credits transfer?
**A:** Credit for courses earning a “C” or better will transfer. The GPA for completed college coursework prior transfer is not calculated in your GPA nor is it listed on your official Cornell transcript.

9) **Q:** How will my fall college credits transfer?
**A:** Most transfer credits will fulfill Non-HADM (general education) electives and free electives. While Cornell University will accept a maximum of 60 transfer credits, only 42 credits are needed to fulfill non-HADM (distributive) and free electives.

- Information regarding the SHA transfer credit policy can be found here:
  - [https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/transfer.html](https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/transfer.html)
- Up to 18 credits may transfer toward **Non-HADM (general education) electives**:
  - [https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/dist.html](https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/dist.html)
- Up to 24 credits may transfer toward **free electives**:
  - [https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/electives.html](https://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/electives.html)
- On rare occasions, SHA may accept transfer credit toward SHA core courses in the major. Up to 18 credits may be considered for transfer toward **SHA core** required courses:
  - Core courses that may be considered for transfer credits include:
    - HADM 1150 Organizational Behavior and Leadership Skills
    - HADM 1210 Financial Accounting
    - HADM 1410 Microeconomics for the Service Industry
  - [http://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/core.html](http://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/academics/ugrad/requirements/core.html)
  - Please submit a syllabus for review to hotelschool_admissions@cornell.edu with your name, the name of your school, and the SHA core course you hope to fulfill.
10) Q: How do trimester or quarter system credits transfer?  
A: Your college catalogue will provide a paragraph that converts its system into semester hours. If not, contact the college registrar to ask how credits convert to semester hours. For the quarter system, we generally calculate that 1 quarter system credit = .666 semester credits. We do not round up; for example if the calculation = 15.9, you will receive 15 semester credits.

11) Q: Once at Cornell, can I study abroad, or take Cornell electives?  
A: SHA students who study abroad earn non-HADM and free elective credits. If you plan to enroll full-time at another college during the fall semester prior to your spring Cornell enrollment, and if you are also interested in studying abroad while at Cornell, we recommend that you contact our office to help plan. Individual circumstances will determine the best study abroad opportunity. Some students may consider a summer or winter abroad versus a semester abroad.

12) Q: Will I be able to participate in the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) Alliance?  
A: If you plan to enroll full-time at another college during the fall semester prior to your spring Cornell enrollment, and if you are also interested in the CIA Alliance, we recommend that you contact our office to provide suggested courses to consider.

13) Q: Do I need another admissions interview?  
A: No. Your interview as a freshman applicant was successful and no additional interview is required.

14) Q: What orientation and transition support is offered to freshmen entering in the spring?  
A: We have programming in place to help all of our newly enrolled students become fully integrated into life at Cornell. Both freshmen and transfer students participate in an orientation program together before the start of classes. In addition, you are assigned a SHA student peer advisor, a staff academic advisor and a faculty advisor.

Still have questions?  
If you have any questions, contact the School of Hotel Administration at: hotelschool_admissions@cornell.edu, or contact our office at 607.255.6376.