Dear New Cornellian,

Happy New Year! This is the beginning of your undergraduate career in CALS. Cornell differs from your past institution, not only in the education and classroom experiences but the abundance of information and resources available to you. At Cornell we provide you with a framework and map for successfully completing your degree. It will take our map and your initiative to be successful! You will need to be pro-active about finding information and starting conversations with faculty, staff and students around campus. As you begin to think about orientation and what to expect your first semester at Cornell we encourage you to step outside your comfort zone and start asking questions to the resources available.

This email is to let you know about your academic record, your college distribution requirements and some information on enrollment into classes which will occur during orientation. You will be receiving further information from your department concerning major requirements and the CALS Student Services office concerning advisor assignments and Orientation. This is a long email, so please take the time to read it, understand it, and be prepared to ask questions during our college orientation!

Please pay particular attention to the areas that are marked TODO! Should you have questions concerning your transfer credits and your college graduation requirements do not hesitate to contact the CALS Student Services team!

Enjoy the rest of your break. I look forward to meeting you later this month, as I will be at the college orientation session!

Best,

[Signature]

Torrey Jacobs
Registrar/ Sr. Associate Director of CALS Student Services
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Graduation Requirements:

There are 2 sets of requirements that all students must complete in order to graduate: the college graduation requirements (also called “distribution requirements”), and major requirements.

1. College graduation requirements are outlined here: [http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/degree-requirements/](http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/degree-requirements/)

   • The application of your transfer credits is ongoing. As we update your record with the most recent transcripts we will send you and your advisor an email notifying you to check your degree progress.

   ✓ CALS has a college portal that is useful for CALS and University Resources, one of which is your personal Degree Progress. This portal is called DUST ([https://dust.cals.cornell.edu](https://dust.cals.cornell.edu)). Once logged into this site using your Cornell netID and password, you can see information specific to you. Your Degree Progress is currently updated with the most recent transcript our office has received. This should look familiar to your preliminary transfer credit evaluation but with more detail. Become familiar with this link, it is a tool that will help you better understand your academic record and your progress towards completing your college graduation requirements.

   • If you have not yet sent your final transcript or your AP Scores please do so immediately (140 Roberts Hall). It is also recommended that you bring your final transcript in the original sealed envelope to orientation.

2. To discuss major requirements, you’ll want to get in contact with your academic department and/or faculty advisor. You will be receiving information by Cornell email and at orientation concerning requirements for your major. Advisors will be assigned between now and Orientation. Departments are working hard to make sure your interests align with your faculty advisor by reviewing your admissions essay’s and Student Biography, so please be patient through this process.

   • To assist departments in assigning you a faculty advisor you can complete your online student biography through DUST.

     ✓ Located under Academic Advising on the right hand side of DUST you will see a link called “Student Biography”. Click on this link, and answer the 4 questions in the text box provided.

     ✓ If you would like to talk to a representative in your department, you can find a list of administrative advisors and department web pages here: [http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/orientation/department-contacts/index.html](http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/orientation/department-contacts/index.html)

   • Your faculty advisor is responsible for verifying that you are meeting your major graduation requirements. Your faculty advisor will be reviewing your transfer credits and assessing how they will be applied towards major requirements (it is important to
Course Enrollment:

- You will be emailed by the University Registrar concerning your add/drop appointment time. You can also view this on the right hand side of your student center. During this window of time (3 weeks to add a course; 7 weeks to drop a course or change the grading option), you can add classes and adjust your schedule accordingly.
- You must sign up for at least one CALS class every semester. **What departments count as CALS credit?** [CALS Classes](#)
- A student needs 12 academic credits (does not include PE or coursework under 1100 level) for a full-time course load.
- It is recommended that new students take between 12 and 15 academic credits their first semester to help transition.
- Here is an [academic guide](#) that helps you to think about some important steps throughout your undergraduate career in CALS.
- Once your enrollment appointment has started, you are able to enroll in 18 academic credits manually through student center. If you are going to go over 18 academic credits you will need to complete an add/drop slip with your advisors signature.
- Add/drop slips are located in 140 Roberts Hall. You will use these to manually override an instructor’s permission and/or a class that is full. You will need professors and/or the department’s signature for this request to be processed.

Study Abroad

**Yes, transfer students can study abroad!**

Many transfer students study abroad – it just takes a bit of planning! CALS students have a lot of opportunities such as enrolling directly in universities in Sweden or Australia, participant in fieldwork in Africa, or exploring the wonders of a foreign city while participating in an internship. Don’t know a second language? That’s Okay! Whether you want to study abroad to broaden your world view, boost employment prospects, learn a new language, gain independence, or discover a new educational system (or all of the above!) – There is a program suited for you! Find out more information during orientation and [here](#).

Career Development

- It’s never too early to start thinking about your career: [http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/advising/career/](http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/advising/career/)

Additional Orientation information can be found here:

- The college’s orientation page is here: [http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/orientation/](http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/registrar/orientation/)
- The New Students website is extremely useful. If you have not visited it yet, you will find a lot of helpful information: [http://newstudents.cornell.edu/](http://newstudents.cornell.edu/)

Tips, facts and useful information:

- 1/3 of the CALS student body is transfer students.
- The average low and high temperatures for the spring semester (January 15°F - 31°F; February 17°F - 34°F; March 23°F - 42°F; April 34°F - 56°F; May 44°F - 67°F) and there was an average of 13.26 inches of precipitation during the semester.
There are over 800 registered student organizations – get involved!

A must see tribute to Cornell from 2 graduates in the Class of 2011!