Our First-Year Application Tips are offered to help you thoughtfully approach the application process and present an application that reflects you as a person, an academic, and a community citizen.

Choosing a college and a major
Having a clear understanding of your interests and being well-informed about your options are important as you make decisions regarding your college and major choice.

- Carefully review the College of Human Ecology's viewbook, major fact sheets, and website.
- Attend an on-campus College of Human Ecology information session for a more complete understanding of our mission, programs and how they match your interest and goals.
- Draw on the combination of your experiences – academic, research, extracurricular, work, and volunteer – that makes Human Ecology a compelling and thoughtful choice.
- Applicants who are unsure about the major they would like to pursue can choose the "undeclared" option, but will need to demonstrate a deep connection to the Human Ecology mission and one or more of our programs.

The application – an uncommon approach
A thoughtful and college specific approach to the essays and application makes for a more compelling candidacy.

- Use the essays as opportunities to reveal something unique and authentic about yourself and is also relevant to our programs.
- Articulate a connection to the college’s mission and programs by answering the academic interest question on the Cornell Supplement. Why is our program right for you? What kindled this academic interest? How have you reflected on your academics, involvements, and experiences to develop this interest and find meaning? Do you have a career goal in mind? How will a Human Ecology education help you achieve your academic and career goals?

DEA and FSAD applicants
Design supplements are required for Design and Environmental Analysis, Apparel Design, and Fashion Design Management applicants. These materials are critically evaluated by faculty in the departments as part of the complete application.

Visit our website for more information.

The high school transcript
The high school transcript is a critical piece of the application that reflects academic growth, rigor, and persistence. Our most competitive candidates pursue the highest level of coursework available at their schools and consistently earn very strong grades that place them in the top of their class.

- Students are expected to pursue challenging math and science courses at the highest level for which they are prepared throughout their high school career regardless of their choice.
- The Admissions Committee prefers that applicants complete calculus before statistics; biology and chemistry or physics before environmental science or other elective science courses. Students interested in careers in medicine and health should take available advanced courses in biology and chemistry and math.
- Apply yourself to your schoolwork throughout your senior year and do not underestimate the importance of the required senior mid-term grades or the required final grades for accepted students.
- Accepted students should not drop any senior coursework without first consulting the Human Ecology Admissions Committee. Accepted students who do not maintain the academic momentum presented at the time of application will be contacted by the Admissions Committee.

Extracurriculars
The Admissions Committee is interested in how you use your time in your school and greater communities; what engages, informs and tests your academic interests; and how those pursuits connect you to the College of Human Ecology. Along with teams, clubs, and organizations, other important extracurricular activities include work, internship, volunteer, and research experiences.

- Include your most valued activities. We are interested in quality, not quantity.
- Remember that leadership is demonstrated in many ways, including being an officer of an organization or a team captain, as well as through meaningful and committed participation.
- Connect the dots between your extracurricular involvements, your coursework interests, and our programs.

Letters of recommendation
Letters from teachers, guidance/college counselors, coaches, supervisors, members of the community, etc. are carefully reviewed to better understand your maturity, self-motivation, initiative, character, and role in the classroom, community, and work.

Applicants to our natural science based majors should strongly consider having a science or math teacher submit a letter.

Standardized exams
The SAT I or the ACT exam with the writing component is required. The Admissions Committee does not have a preference as to which exam is taken. The SAT Subject exams are not required.

International applicants should visit admissions.cornell.edu/apply/international-students for more information about required testing.