Suggestions for Yearly Class Schedules – How Do You Know If You Are “On Time” for Graduation

- Schedules vary according to individual interests and career goals and matriculation year (the year you entered Cornell)
- New students should take 12-15 credits in the first semester to adjust to demands of Cornell courses
- Students should consult the full curriculum sheet for their matriculation year, HD Career Tree, and other advising documents
- It is the student’s responsibility to understand college and major requirements for graduation; for example,
  - All HD didactic courses must be taken for a letter grade
  - Special Studies (HD4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4998, 4999) do not count toward the 30 credits required in the major
  - Become familiar with your curriculum sheet!

Freshman Year – you are “on time” if you take:

At least two courses in Human Ecology (5 credits of CHE are required in the first year)
An introductory Biology course (see the curriculum sheet for your graduation year)*
HD1150 + HD1160
At least one 2000 level HD course
An additional HD course at the 2000 level, if your schedule allows
Two first year writing seminars (CHE requires that you complete the writing seminar requirement in the first year)

Note: you should complete at least 28-30 credits, exclusive of PE, that fulfill other requirements e.g. social science, CHE credits outside the major, premed courses, second course in natural science)

*Premeds may find it necessary to complete introductory biology in their second year at Cornell

Sophomore Year – you are “on time” if you take:

At least two courses in Human Ecology (Must take 12 Human Ecology credits by the end of the year)
Additional specified HD 2000 level courses, if needed, to complete the 2000 level requirement in the major (see the curriculum sheet for your graduation year for the courses)
Introductory statistics
HD Research Methods, if required to fulfill the college Scientific Methods requirement** or for applying to the HD honors program***
Courses that fulfill other requirements, e.g. social science, CHE credits outside major, humanities, natural science, premed courses

Note: You should complete at least 60-62 credits by the end of your second year.

**The college Scientific Methods requirement was instituted for all CHE students beginning in the 2010-2011 matriculation year. Premed students who take Biology laboratory fulfill the Scientific Methods requirement.
***HD honors students must complete HD2830 Research Methods for a letter grade in order to enter the honors program.

Junior Year – you are “on time” if you take:

Enough HD didactic courses to complete 18-21 of the 30 credits required in HD
At least 2-3 courses at the 3000-4000 level in HD (this excludes Special Studies, e.g. HD4000, 4010, 4020, 4030)
Courses to fulfill other college requirements, e.g. social science, CHE credits outside major, humanities, natural science, premed courses, scientific methods, and other career related electives (see HD Career Tree)

Special advising notes for juniors:
You should complete a minimum of 90 credits by the end of your junior year. But completing at least 93 credits may be preferable in order to assure that you complete your degree on time.

You must declare an HD concentration during your junior year. A student’s concentration is not recorded automatically; students need to respond to a message from the Registrar in order to declare it.

If interested in the honors program, apply by October 15 and register for a HD 4010 with possible thesis advisor
If interested in the honors program, you need to take a second, more advanced course in Statistics during your junior year (see Honors webpage for choices)
Senior Year – you are “on time” if you take:

HD 3000-4000 level courses as needed to complete HD major (try to fulfill the 4000 level requirement by the first semester of your senior year)
An HD course outside of your declared concentration to fulfill the HD “breadth” requirement
Course to fulfill other college requirements, e.g. 43 total credits in CHE, 9 CHE credits outside major, humanities, natural science, social science, scientific methods, and other career related electives (see HD Career Tree)
If honors student, HD 4980 and HD 4990

Special advising notes for seniors:
Try to complete all HD and CHE graduation requirements by the end of the Fall semester, except for elective credits.

Planning to graduate with only the minimum 120 academic credits can be risky; it is wise to plan to graduate with more than 120 academic credits (PE credits do not count in the 120 required for graduation). The university never waives the 120 credit requirement.

Likewise, it is risky to plan to graduate with only the minimum 43 credits required in Human Ecology. The college never waives the 43 credit requirement.