



Academic Calendar – Cornell University operates on a semester calendar consisting of standard fall and spring semesters, and with summer and winter sessions of varying lengths.

Accreditation – Cornell University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) as a degree-granting institution at the baccalaureate, master’s, professional, and doctoral levels. Various departments and programs within the University are also accredited by various agencies. Detailed information about these agencies and the accreditation process is available from the Dean’s office of each academic unit.

Class Rank – Cornell University does not calculate or support a class rank for students.

Course Titles and Descriptions – Full course titles and course descriptions are provided in the Courses of Study/Catalog.

Credit Hour Definition – Credits are equal to semester hours. One credit is equal to one semester hour. A student will receive one credit by satisfactorily completing a course that requires at least fifteen hours (1.5) of instruction and at least thirty hours (3.0) of supplementary assignments. Hours are adjusted proportionately for the other formats of study, e.g., laboratory, studio, research, problem-based learning, and independent study. Winter and summer session courses and study abroad experiences vary in length but are reported in semester hours.

Dean’s List – Posting the Dean’s List notation began with the Fall 1971 term. Dean’s List awards are posted for most undergraduate schools/colleges.

Definition of an Official Transcript – An official transcript is one that has been received directly from the issuing institution. It must bear the University seal, date, and signature of the university registrar. A transcript received that does not meet these requirements should not be considered official.

Degrees and Credit Awarded by Other Institutions – Any information displayed reflecting degrees awarded by, or transfer work accepted from, other institutions should be verified with the original institution for accuracy.

Grade Point Average (GPA) – The GPA is computed by dividing the total grade points by the total of credit hours in which grade points were recorded. GPAs are displayed to three decimal places. Courses taken at external institutions are not included in the Cornell University GPA. Coursework in graduate school and law careers do not include a calculated cumulative GPA. If a student has enrollment in multiple career levels, the cumulative GPA is associated with credits completed at each respective career level.

Issuing Campus for Transcripts – Each campus has the authority to produce and issue a complete transcript that contains all courses attempted. Official transcripts may be issued from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, New York; or from Weill Cornell Medicine in Doha, Qatar. Official transcripts include the complete academic record of all credit-based courses taken at the respective campuses indicated above, which may include undergraduate, graduate, professional, and/or non-degree coursework.

Language – All courses are taught in English with the exception of certain language courses.

Leave of Absence/Withdrawal - Students may request a voluntary Leave of Absence (LOA), or a college may place a student on a leave of absence or withdraw a student from the University at their own discretion. A notation regarding the leave of absence/withdrawal is included within the academic term of the leave.

Median Grade – Median grades were posted on transcripts for all undergraduates enrolled Fall 2008 – Spring 2023. Median grades were not reported for all courses.

Release of Information – In accordance with U.S.C. 438(6)(4)(8), The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, you are hereby notified that this information is provided upon the condition that you, your agents, or employees will not permit any other party access to this record without consent of the student.

Transcript Accuracy – The official transcript is accurate as of the print date indicated on the front of the transcript.

Transcript Validation – All transcripts from this office are official documents. Alteration of this transcript may be a criminal offense. A transcript is printed on tamperproof paper, eliminating the need for signatures, raised seals, or stamps on the back of envelopes. Electronic PDF transcripts bear the Adobe® Blue Ribbon certification and a GlobalSign CA for Adobe® electronic certificate.

Current Course Symbols

- FWS – First-Year Writing Seminar
- H – “HONORS” for LL.M. candidates
- HH – “HIGH HONORS” for LL.M. candidates
- INC – Incomplete
- NG – Non-graded
- NGR – No grade reported; instructor has not submitted a grade for this course
- R – In Progress; represents multi-term course not graded until the end of the sequence
- SU – “S” means C- or above; “U” means D+, D, D- or failure
- SX/UX – Indicates that a course is graded exclusively on the “S” or “U” basis
- V – Visitor-Audit; course taken on a non-credit basis
- W – Indicates withdrawal from course after drop deadline
- * – In the grade field – indicates that the course was originally graded INC and has subsequently been completed. Asterisk Inclusion ceased Summer 2023.

Current Grading System – Grades are on a letter scale: A+ through D-, pass, F, failure. The grades of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) may be used when no greater precision in grading is required. Grades of S or U are not assigned numerical value and thus are not averaged with other grades in computing grade point averages. Letter grade values are combined with course credit hours to produce an average based on a 4.3 scale. For the purpose of computing semester, year, or cumulative averages, each letter grade is assigned a quality point value as follows:

A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3		
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	F = 0	
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = 0.7		

Beginning with Fall term 1983, Law School Averages are computed using the following point values:

A+ = 4.33	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D+ = 1.33		
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	F = 0	
A- = 3.67	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	D- = 0.67		

For information about historical course symbols, grading systems, and additional context for coursework, refer to <https://registrar.cornell.edu/grades-transcripts/transcript-keys>

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