GRADUATE SCHOOL

Overview

The Graduate School is a community of over 5300 graduate and professional students enrolled in nearly 100 fields of study with programs located on the Ithaca campus, Geneva AgriTech Campus, and at Cornell Tech in New York City.

Graduate study is cross disciplinary by design, and students experience an unusual degree of freedom and flexibility in our graduate programs. It is a culture of collaboration and interdisciplinary possibilities.

We are organized into fields of study that are independent of traditional college and department divisions. Graduate fields are formed when faculty members come together around a shared intellectual interest, and may draw from different campuses, colleges, or departments.

In our graduate fields of study, many of which offer multiple graduate degrees at both the master's and doctoral levels, students can shape a course of study that cuts across interrelated field offerings and develop a distinctive academic framework with the help of a special committee of faculty advisors chosen by the student.

We are proud of the genuine sense of camaraderie among professors and students that would be impossible in a less intimate city or campus, and our field structure encourages relationships that cross colleges, campuses, and the globe.

The Graduate School provides a stimulating, challenging, and deeply rewarding environment that aims to develop and nurture the next generation. Eligible students also have the opportunity to engage in their studies and research beyond the Ithaca campus via in absentia research, the Ivy+ Exchange program, and the linkage partnership program with Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

Professional staff experienced in supporting master's and PhD students are available for 1:1 advising meetings and run workshops and experiential learning opportunities to help Graduate School students explore and prepare for a range of career options (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/career-and-professional-development/office-of-career-and-professional-development/) within and beyond academia. The Graduate School is committed to data transparency (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/about/program-metrics-assessments-and-outcomes/) and captures exit survey data from all students within a month of graduation, as well as maintaining and publishing detailed career outcomes information for doctoral students.

Website: gradschool.cornell.edu (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/)

General Information

Administration

- Kathryn J. Boor, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education
- Robert S. Weiss, Senior Associate Dean
- Josephine E.M. Martell, Associate Dean for Academics
- Sara Xayarath Hernández, Associate Dean for Inclusion and Student and Faculty Engagement
- Jason Kahabka, Associate Dean for Administration
- Janna Lamey, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Life
- Colleen McLinn, Associate Dean for Professional Development
- Anitra Douglas-McCarthy, Assistant Dean for Access and Recruitment
- Merry Riley Buckley, Assistant Dean for Communications

Graduate School Admissions

A successful applicant to the Graduate School must:

1. have received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a college or university of recognized standing (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/application-steps/transcripts/)
2. have adequate preparation for graduate work in the chosen field of study
3. present evidence of promise in advanced study and research
4. have fluent command of the English language (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/application-steps/required-tests/english-language-proficiency-requirement-2/) and
5. if required by the field, take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test or other specific examinations (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/application-steps/required-tests/english-language-proficiency-requirement-2/)

Deadlines

Each graduate field of study has specific deadlines for fall and spring admission. Many deadlines fall between early-December and mid-January. Applications should be received no later than those published dates (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/academic-progress/degrees-fields/cugradfos/).

For More Information

Applicants should contact individual fields of study for answers to specific questions about admission to their graduate programs. Contacts in the fields can also answer questions about facilities for advanced study and research, special requirements, and opportunities for fellowships and assistantships. Phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other contact information are available online (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/academic-progress/degrees-fields/cugradfos/).

General questions about graduate study can be directed to Graduate School Admissions (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/contact-us/), (607) 255-5820 extension 1.

Detailed information about the admissions process, academic programs, financial aid, and student services is available at the Graduate School website (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/). The site features links to the Graduate School's online application (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/application-steps/apply-now/), printable forms, and links to sites of interest to graduate applicants.

Research & Professional Degrees

Students interested in professional and research master's and doctoral degrees at Cornell pursue their graduate studies through the Graduate School, which administers nearly 100 graduate fields.

Fields of Study

At Cornell, graduate study is organized using a field structure. Fields are composed of faculty members from a number of departments who come together around a shared intellectual interest and may draw from different campuses or colleges. Graduate students are admitted to fields of study. Within each field, they select major and minor subjects, which are research interests or concentrations.

Fields span departments and even disciplines. It's possible for a student in the field of economics to include faculty on his or special committee from industrial and labor relations, civil and environmental engineering, and sociology, along with the more traditional economics and management.

See the fields of study webpage (https://gradschool.cornell.edu/academic-progress/degrees-fields/cugradfos/) or download a PDF of the fields of study from that page for more information on the degree programs offered. See the Graduation Requirements tab for requirements that span all of the research degrees.

Research Degrees

Master's degree programs are designed for those who wish to obtain further education in a selected field and to develop their ability for critical inquiry, independent scholarship, and teaching.

Doctoral programs are designed for individuals who demonstrate the potential to perform original research under guidance, with a view to various careers, including those in research and teaching.

- M.S. (Master of Science)
- M.A. (Master of Arts)
- M.A./Ph.D. or M.S./Ph.D. (joint Master's/Doctor of Philosophy)
- Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)

Research degrees with an original thesis or dissertation as part of the degree requirements.

- D.M.A. (Doctor of Musical Arts), typically 3 or more years
- J.S.D. (Doctor of Science of Law)
- M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts), typically 2 years
  - Creative Writing

Professional Degrees

Professional degrees prepare students to practice their profession at an advanced level, to teach the subject matter of their profession, or to pursue original investigations into its functions, administration, history, and progress.

- M.F.S. (Master of Food Science), 1 year
- M.I.L.R. (Master of Industrial and Labor Relations), 2 years
- M.L.A. (Master of Landscape Architecture), 3 years
  - M.P.H. (Master of Public Health), 1-2 years; part-time option
  - M.P.S. (Master of Professional Studies), typically 1 year
  - Agriculture and Life Sciences (Master of Professional Studies Program)
    - Animal Science
    - Biological and Environmental Engineering
    - Integrative Plant Science
    - Global Development
    - Landscape Architecture
    - Natural Resources
  - Applied Economics and Management
  - Applied Statistics
  - Human Ecology
    - Fiber Science & Apparel Design
  - Industrial and Labor Relations
    - Human Resources
    - Industrial and Labor Relations

- Information Science
- Real Estate
- Veterinary Medical Sciences, 12 months
- M.R.P. (Master of Regional Planning), 2 years

Note: The following professional degrees are administered outside of the Graduate School, but prospective students will use the Graduate School application.

- M.Arch degree administered by the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, 3.5 years
- M.Eng degree administered by the College of Engineering, typically 1 year
- M.M.H. degree administered by the College of Business, 3 semesters
- M.P.S. degree administered by the College of Business, typically 1 year
- M.S.L.S. degree administered by the Law School, 20 months, part-time

Graduation Requirements
Research Degrees

The Graduate School's degree requirements are kept to a minimum in order to give the graduate fields, and for research students, the special committee the freedom to determine appropriate degree requirements and to define a program of study best suited to the student's particular goals.

Although the Graduate School does not set specific course requirements for earning a degree, credit toward a graduate degree shall be earned only through work designed expressly for graduate students (courses at the 5000-level or above). Graduate students may enroll in 1000 to 4000-level courses but these shall not count towards the degree requirement. Full-time graduate students are required to enroll in at least 12 credits per semester.

All research doctoral and master's graduate students are automatically enrolled in GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research, GRAD 9011 Doctoral Dissertation Research, or GRAD 9012 Master's Thesis Research for 12 credits each academic semester. The credit hours for Graduate School research courses will be automatically adjusted after the drop deadline of the semester to bring total credits to 12, based on other course enrollments. Students requiring registration during the summer must enroll in GRAD 9016 Summer Graduate-Level Research.

A close working relationship between the student and faculty members is essential to the graduate program at Cornell. For research degrees, the student is guided by, and works with, at least two or three members of the graduate faculty chosen by the student to represent his or her major and minor subjects on the special committee. The major subject representative is the chair of the special committee, who usually has the primary responsibility for directing the student's thesis or dissertation research.

For the Ph.D., M.A., and M.S. degree programs there are several requirements imposed by the Graduate School, including:

- Maintaining full-time enrollment status
- Formation of a special committee (GSC)
- Completion of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training
- Completion of an annual Student Progress Review (SPR)
- Creating an Open researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID

- Timely completion of A (PhD), M (MS/MA), and/or B (PhD) exams
- Submission of an approved dissertation (PhD) or thesis (MS/MA)

The graduate fields and special committees may set additional requirements. Please check with the individual field for more specific field-related information. Students in the M.S Design Technology- Studio track complete a capstone project in their final semester in place of the M exam and thesis submission.

Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 6 semesters of full-time enrollment. Master's students must complete a minimum of 2 semesters of full-time enrollment.

Professional Degrees

To view degree requirements for each professional degree, please see the appropriate degree under 'programs'.

Programs

Aerospace Engineering

- Aerospace Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/aerospace-engineering-phd/)
- Robotics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/robotics-phd/)

Africana Studies

- Africana Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/africana-studies-phd/)

Animal Science

- Animal Science (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/animal-science-mps/)
- Animal Science (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/animal-science-ms/)
- Animal Science (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/animal-science-phd/)

Anthropology

- Anthropology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/anthropology-phd/)

Applied Economics and Management

- Applied Economics and Management (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-economics-management-ms/)
- Applied Economics and Management (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-economics-management-phd/)

Applied Information Systems

- Information Systems (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/information-systems-ms/)

Applied Mathematics

- Applied Mathematics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-mathematics-phd/)

Applied Physics

- Applied Physics (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-physics-ms/)

- Applied Physics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-physics-phd/)

Archaeology

- Archaeology (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/archaeology-ma/)

Architecture

- Architectural Science - Matter Design Computation (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/architecture-ms-mdc/)
- Design Technology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/design-technology-ms/)
- Design Technology: Studio (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/design-technology-studio-ms/)
- History of Architecture and Urban Development (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/history-architecture-urban-development-phd/)

Asian Literature, Religion and Culture

- Asian Literature, Religion and Culture (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/asian-literature-religion-culture-phd/)

Asian Studies

- Asian Studies (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/asian-studies-ma/)

Astronomy and Space Sciences

- Astronomy and Space Sciences (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/astronomy-space-sciences-phd/)

Atmospheric Science

- Atmospheric Sciences (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/atmospheric-science-ms/)
- Atmospheric Sciences (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/atmospheric-science-phd/)

Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology

- Biochemistry (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biochemistry-phd/)
- Molecular and Cell Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/molecular-cell-biology-phd/)

Biological and Environmental Engineering

- Agriculture and Life Sciences (Biological and Environmental Engineering) (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/agriculture-life-sciences-biological-environmental-engineering-mps/)
- Biological and Environmental Engineering (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biological-environmental-engineering-ms/)
- Biological and Environmental Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biological-environmental-engineering-phd/)

Biomedical and Biological Sciences

- Biomedical and Biological Sciences (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biomedical-sciences-phd/)

Biomedical Engineering

- Biomedical Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biomedical-engineering-phd/)

Biophysics

- Biophysics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/biophysics-phd/)

Chemical Engineering

- Chemical Engineering (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/chemical-engineering-ms/)
- Chemical Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/chemical-engineering-phd/)

Chemistry and Chemical Biology

- Chemistry (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/chemistry-chemical-biology-ms/)
- Chemistry and Chemical Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/chemistry-chemical-biology-phd/)

City and Regional Planning

- City & Regional Planning (MRP) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/city-regional-planning-mrp/)
- City and Regional Planning (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/city-regional-planning-phd/)
- Historic Preservation Planning (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/historic-preservation-planning-ma/)

Civil and Environmental Engineering

- Civil and Environmental Engineering (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/civil-environmental-engineering-ms/)
- Civil and Environmental Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/civil-environmental-engineering-phd/)

Classics

- Classics (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/classics-ma/)
- Classics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/classics-phd/)

Communication

- Communication (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/communication-phd/)

Comparative Biomedical Sciences

- Veterinary Parasitology (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/veterinary-medical-sciences-mps/)

Comparative Literature

- Comparative Literature (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/comparative-literature-phd/)

Computational Biology

- Computational Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/computational-biology-phd/)

Computer Science

- Computer Science (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/computer-science-ms/)
- Computer Science (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/computer-science-phd/)
- Robotics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/robotics-phd/)

Design and Environmental Analysis

- Design (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/design-ma/)
- Human Behavior and Design (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/human-behavior-design-phd/)
- Human-Environment Relations (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/human-environment-relations-ms/)

Development Studies

- Development Sociology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/development-sociology-phd/)

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

- Ecology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/ecology-ms/)
- Ecology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/ecology-phd/)
- Evolutionary Biology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/evolutionary-biology-ms/)
- Evolutionary Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/evolutionary-biology-phd/)

Economics

- Economics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/economics-phd/)

Electrical and Computer Engineering

- Electrical and Computer Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/electrical-computer-engineering-phd/)
- Robotics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/robotics-phd/)

English Language and Literature

- Creative Writing (MFA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/creative-writing-mfa/)
- English Language and Literature (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/english-language-literature-phd/)

Entomology

- Entomology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/entomology-ms/)
- Entomology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/entomology-phd/)

Fiber Science and Apparel Design

- Apparel Design (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/apparel-design-ma/)
- Apparel Design (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/apparel-design-phd/)
- Fiber Science (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/fiber-science-ms/)
- Fiber Science (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/fiber-science-phd/)
- Human Ecology (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/human-ecology-mps/)

Food Science and Technology

- Food Science (MFS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/food-science-technology-mfs/)
- Food Science and Technology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/food-science-technology-ms/)
- Food Science and Technology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/food-science-technology-phd/)

Genetics, Genomics and Development

- Genetics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/genetics-phd/)

Geological Sciences

- Geological Sciences (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/geological-sciences-ms/)
- Geological Sciences (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/geological-sciences-phd/)

Germanic Studies

- Germanic Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/germanic-studies-phd/)

Global Development

- Global Development (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/global-development-mps/)

Government

- Government (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/government-phd/)

History

- History (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/history-phd/)

History of Art, Archaeology, and Visual Studies

- History of Art and Archaeology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/history-art-archaeology-visual-studies-phd/)

Horticulture

- Horticultural Biology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/horticultural-biology-ms/)
- Horticultural Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/horticultural-biology-phd/)

Hotel Administration

- Hotel Administration (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/hotel-administration-ms/)
- Hotel Administration (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/hotel-administration-phd/)

Industrial and Labor Relations

- Human Resources (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/executive-master-hr-management-mps-hr/)
- Industrial and Labor Relations (MILR) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/industrial-labor-relations-milr/)
- Industrial and Labor Relations (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/industrial-labor-relations-mps/)
- Industrial and Labor Relations (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/industrial-labor-relations-ms/)
- Industrial and Labor Relations (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/industrial-labor-relations-phd/)

Information Science

- Information Science (ISCI-MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/information-science-isci-mps/)
- Information Science (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/information-science-phd/)

Integrative Plant Science

- Integrative Plant Science (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/integrative-plant-science-mps/)

Landscape Architecture

- Landscape Architecture (MLA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/landscape-architecture-mla/)
- Landscape Architecture (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/landscape-architecture-mps/)
- Landscape Architecture - Advanced Degree (MLA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/landscape-architecture-mla-adv-deg/)

Law

- Law (JSD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/law-jsd/)

Linguistics

- Linguistics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/linguistics-phd/)

Management

- Management (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/management-phd/)

Materials Science and Engineering

- Materials Science and Engineering (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/materials-science-engineering-ms/)
- Materials Science and Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/materials-science-engineering-phd/)

Mathematics

- Mathematics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/mathematics-phd/)

Mechanical Engineering

- Mechanical Engineering (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/mechanical-engineering-ms/)
- Mechanical Engineering (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/mechanical-engineering-phd/)
- Robotics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/robotics-phd/)

Medieval Studies

- Medieval Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/medieval-studies-phd/)

Microbiology

- Microbiology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/microbiology-phd/)

Music

- Music (DMA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/music-dma/)
- Music (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/music-phd/)

Natural Resources and the Environment

- Natural Resources (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/natural-resources-ms/)
- Natural Resources (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/natural-resources-phd/)
- Natural Resources and the Environment (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/natural-resources-mps/)

Near Eastern Studies

- Near Eastern Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/near-eastern-studies-phd/)

Neurobiology and Behavior

- Behavior Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/behavior-biology-phd/)
- Neurobiology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/neurobiology-phd/)

Nutrition

- Nutrition (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/nutrition-ms/)
- Nutrition (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/nutrition-phd/)

Operations Research and Information Engineering

- Operations Research (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/operations-research-phd/)

Performing and Media Arts

- Performing and Media Arts (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/performing-media-arts-phd/)

Philosophy

- Philosophy (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/philosophy-phd/)

Physics

- Physics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/physics-phd/)

Plant Biology

- Plant Biology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/plant-biology-phd/)

Plant Breeding

- Plant Breeding (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/plant-breeding-ms/)
- Plant Breeding (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/plant-breeding-phd/)

Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

- Plant Pathology (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/plant-pathology-ms/)
- Plant Pathology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/plant-pathology-phd/)

Psychological Sciences and Human Development

- Developmental Psychology (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/developmental-psychology-ma/)
- Developmental Psychology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/developmental-psychology-phd/)
- Human Development (MA) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/human-development-family-studies-ma/)
- Human Development and Family Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/human-development-family-studies-phd/)
- Psychology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/psychology-phd/)

Public Affairs
Public Health and Planetary Health

- Public Health (MPH) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/public-health-mph/)

Public Policy

- Public Policy (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/public-policy-phd/)

Real Estate
Regional Science

- Regional Science (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/regional-science-ms/)
- Regional Science (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/regional-science-phd/)

Romance Studies

- Romance Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/romance-studies-phd/)

Science and Technology Studies

- Science and Technology Studies (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/science-technology-studies-phd/)

Sociology

- Sociology (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/sociology-phd/)

Soil and Crop Science

- Soil and Crop Sciences (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/soil-crop-science-ms/)
- Soil and Crop Sciences (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/soil-crop-science-phd/)

Statistics

- Applied Statistics (MPS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/applied-statistics-mps-as/)
- Statistics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/statistics-phd/)

Systems Engineering

- Systems (MS) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/systems-ms/)
- Systems (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/systems-phd/)

Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

- Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (PhD) (https://catalog.cornell.edu/programs/theoretical-applied-mechanics-phd/)

Policies and Procedures

Academic Structure

Fields of Study

At Cornell, graduate study is organized using a field structure. Fields are composed of faculty members from a number of departments who come together around a shared intellectual interest and may draw from different campuses or colleges. Graduate students are admitted to fields of study. Within each field, they select major and minor subjects, which are research interests or concentrations.

Majors and Minors

At Cornell, students are accepted into fields of study. Within each field are major subjects and areas of concentration. A major, like its undergraduate cousin, is a focused subject area where a student will conduct his or her research or scholarship. Concentrations are a subset within the major subject. Minor subjects are secondary areas of research. Some fields offer minor subjects only.

Determining Your Major and Minor Subject Requirements

Master's degree students choose one major and one minor subject. Doctoral candidates choose one major and two minor subjects of study, although some fields have permission from the General Committee to require only one major and one minor subject. Faculty members are picked from these approved subjects to form a "special committee."

Special Committees

If you are in a research-based degree program, you will select a special committee chair and additional faculty members to create a special committee.

The special committee is responsible for helping you develop your research and academic program. The Graduate School imposes no requirements for courses or grades; your special committee will ensure you make appropriate progress and achievement.

The timeline and process for composing special committees may vary by field. Your DGS and GFA can clarify the process for your field of study.

To choose or change an advisor, you may submit a request online from the "Advisor" section of your Student Center (http://www.studentcenter.cornell.edu/).

Academic Standing

Students are considered in good academic standing by meeting graduate school milestones, and program specific requirements and GPA thresholds. Please see the specific program for program specific requirements. Below are graduate school requirements for research degrees. Please note that these deadlines are graduate school deadlines. Fields may set earlier deadlines but not later ones. Please check the field handbook for field specific information and deadlines.

Doctoral Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training (RCR): By end of 2nd Semester
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): By end of 2nd Semester
- Special Committee Formation: By end of 3rd Semester
- Student Progress Review: By end of 2nd Spring Semester
- Admission to Candidacy Exam (A-exam): Before the start of 7th Semester
- Final Defense (B-exam): Before the end of 14th Semester
- Dissertation Submission to ProQuest: No later than 60 days after the date of the final defense

Research Master's Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training (RCR): By end of 2nd Semester
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): By end of 2nd Semester
- Special Committee Formation: By end of 2nd Semester
- Student Progress Review: By end of 2nd Spring Semester
- Final Defense (M-exam): By end of 8th Semester
- Thesis Submission to ProQuest: No later than 60 days after the date of the final defense

Students who do not meet these milestones by the deadlines are not considered to be in good academic standing and may have a hold placed on their account, or withdrawn from their program. Students may petition for an extension with documented extenuating circumstances, subject to approval by their field and the graduate school, but it does not change academic standing until the milestone has been completed.

  Detailed information and timeline planning can be found at https://gradschool.cornell.edu/academic-progress/degrees-fields/research-degree-requirements/.