Agenda

- Presentation (20 min)
  - Curriculum
  - Expectations
  - Keys to Success
  - Role of Parents/Family
- Question & Answer with Panelists (40 min)
Goals of the First Year

- Become part of the Cornell community
- Establish math/science foundation
- Learn about engineering
- Explore different majors
- Learn to ask for help
- Become a sophomore
## Engineering Generic Four-Year Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First-Year</th>
<th>Second-Year</th>
<th>Third-Year</th>
<th>Fourth-Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Major Requirements: 48 credit minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Core Courses + Electives + Engineering Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to Engineering or Intro to Computing</td>
<td>Intro to Computing or Intro to Engineering</td>
<td>Engineering Distribution</td>
<td>Advisor-Approved Elective</td>
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<td>First-Year Writing Seminar</td>
<td>First-Year Writing Seminar</td>
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<td>Advisor-Approved Elective</td>
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<td>Engineering Advising Seminar</td>
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<td>Liberal Studies</td>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>Liberal Studies</td>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional (AEWs, etc.)</td>
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<td>Liberal Studies</td>
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</tbody>
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AP/GCE/IB Credit

- AP/GCE/IB credit means added flexibility
- May choose to use or not use this credit
- Math is special! Greatest predictor of engineering success.
- Work with faculty advisor
  - Assess confidence level with the material
  - Cornell Advanced Standing Exam (CASE)
    - Math, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics (if no AP score)
    - Use to assess preparation and whether to accept AP credit
“Affiliation” with a Major

• By start of the fifth semester
• Preparation and planning now
• Exploration encouraged
  • Intro to Engineering (ENGRI) courses
  • ENGRG 1050 – required to go to 2 major information sessions
• Uncertainty about a major is common and expected
What do faculty expect?

• Come to class prepared
• Complete work on time
• Ask questions in class
• Comment if course pace not OK
• Follow Code of Academic Integrity
• Students will talk with them if they have questions, concerns or problems.

In other words, students will take initiative.
Academic Integrity

All freshman required to watch a short film, “Cheating” (in the To Do List).

The Essential Student Guide distributed electronically, discussed during ENGRG 1050.

“A Cornell student’s submission of work for academic credit indicates that the work is the student’s own. All outside assistance should be acknowledged, and the student’s academic position truthfully reported at all times. In addition, Cornell students have a right to expect academic integrity from each of their peers.”
What can students expect?

- Workload may feel reasonable at first
- Increased load over time
- Mental stretch
- First exams (called “Prelims”)
- Wake up call
Early Intervention

• Safety net
• Faculty in core courses send grades to Advising
• Advising staff contact students with C or below in core courses
• Advising staff offer assistance and provide resources
What can families expect?

Initially
• Love most of my classes
• Homework is easy
• Less work than I thought

As time goes by
• This is really hard
• Not sure I made the right choice
• I don’t know if I belong here

As more time goes by
• I’m doing this really cool project ...
Coping with Many Changes

- Environment
  - Urban to rural
  - Small to large school
- Homesickness
  - Want a home cooked meal
  - Miss you and/or siblings
- Social Setting: A more (or less) diverse community
- Residence Hall Life: Sharing space
- Added layer of a global pandemic
Keys to Success

• Ask for help

“If you learn anything at Cornell, please learn to ask for help. It is a sign of wisdom and strength.” – David Skorton, former Cornell President

• Keep up with the work

• Seek out resources
  • Engineering Advising
  • Diversity Programs in Engineering (DPE)
  • Engineering Learning Initiatives (ELI)
  • Learning Strategies Center (LSC)
Advising

- Faculty Advisors
  - Curriculum requirements
  - Guidance re: majors, graduate study and career planning

- Engineering Advising (professional staff)
  - Supplement faculty advising
  - Emphasis on first and second year students
  - Advise on common core requirements, affiliation planning, pre-health, and study abroad

- Peer Advisors
  - Course enrollment
  - Student Life
  - Role Models
Cornell = Opportunity

- Student Project Teams
- Undergraduate Research
- Leadership Opportunities
- Community Service
- Student Organizations
- Athletics/Club Sports/Intramurals
- Social Life

Can create challenges in decision making
The Role of Parents/Families

• Role in transition
  • Influence, not control
  • Can’t regulate their lives
  • Listen, raise questions, put them in touch with resources

• Become their mentor
  • Help your student explore alternatives
  • Student takes responsibility for finding solutions

• Be supportive
  • Actively listen, ask open ended questions
  • “Oh Zone”: Oh that sounds like a difficult situation; how will you handle that?
  • Trust in your student’s decision making
  • Student is CEO of their own college experience
  • Help guide toward resources
  • Send care packages
Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Students have the right to:
  - Inspect records
  - Challenge incorrect information
  - Keep records private (e.g., instructor names, course schedules, grades)

- Treated as legal adults

- Parents/legal Guardians may be notified when it is in the best interest of the student
  - Withdrawals
  - Good standing is at issue
  - Disciplinary probation

- If health or well-being is at risk, and known to us, you will be notified.
Summary

• Big adjustment
• Curriculum challenging/stimulating
• Students should get involved but be selective
• Tons of resources and support
• Students need to be proactive

Your support helps your student thrive!
Panelists

• Christa Downey, Director, Career Center
• Liane Fitzgerald, Director, Engineering Advising
• José Martínez, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Nozomi Nishimura, Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering
• Nadine Porter, Associate Director, Diversity Programs in Engineering
• Ronin Sharma, Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Chloe Washabaugh, Student, Engineering Physics

Cornell Engineering
Still have questions?

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