Welcome to Cornell. My name is <NAME> and I am <TITLE>.

I am so pleased that you are able to join us today. During the next hour, I am going to introduce you to this extraordinary institution – CORNELL UNIVERSITY. I’ll talk a bit about the university’s history and its incredible array of academic and extracurricular opportunities, and I’ll provide you with some interesting---and I hope helpful---information about admissions and financial aid. Most of all, I want to make certain that all of you leave this session with your questions answered. So please feel free to ask questions during or after this presentation.

Small groups only (no more than 10 students): Before we get started, I would like each of our prospective students to introduce themselves. Please share your name, hometown, academic interest, and a few words about what brought you here today. Also, we would love to know if you have a parent or grandparent who attended Cornell. (Note: If there are alumni identified during the prospective student introductions, make sure to quietly say “Welcome Back”.)

Thank you! One quick note before we get started, if you need to leave the presentation to catch a tour or get to another appointment, please do so. (We won’t put a little “x” next to your name!)

Let me begin by sharing with you Ezra Cornell’s founding philosophy for this remarkable university:

“I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.”

This democratic spirit, which still guides Cornell to this day, was considered radical, even revolutionary, in the mid-1800s. At that time, most elite eastern universities were open only to the sons (not the daughters!) of the wealthier classes. In stark contrast, Cornell opened its doors in 1865 to any qualified person, rich or poor, regardless of gender, race, or ideology.

In addition, Ezra Cornell had a bold vision for the kind of academic programs that would be offered to undergraduates at his university: Rather than limiting students to the classical curriculum (theology, philosophy, rhetoric) found at other institutions of that era, he offered the traditional liberal arts and the practical and applied arts. Cornell was the first university in the U.S. to offer classes in electrical engineering, journalism, hotel management, and American history. As you will see, this dynamic combination of the theoretical and the practical is at the heart of Cornell’s educational mission even today.

But what do these founding philosophies mean to you as a prospective student?
Slide 3: Any person…
Today, when we speak of “any person” at Cornell, we are referring to:

- **13,600 undergraduates (freshmen and transfers)** (undergrads outnumber grad students by 2:1; the emphasis here is on undergraduate education!)
- **50 states and over 120 nations** (we have always been a university with a strong international focus)
- **50% women; 50% men**
- **30% with a multicultural background**
- **more than 30 religious-based organizations**
- **need-blind admission** (emphasizing again that Cornell is open to all who qualify academically regardless of their ability to pay)

Educating students regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status – that was Ezra’s dream and that is why today we think of Cornell as: “Elite. Not elitist.”

Slide 4: Any study…
“Any study” currently refers to the incredible depth and breadth of our academic offerings:

- **4,000 courses** (open to all students who meet course prerequisites; we have undergrads who will take grad level or business school courses here before they graduate. Our goal is not to restrict students, but to help them successfully achieve the academic challenges they wish to pursue. We let our students aim high and support them with great advising!)
- **100 academic departments**
- **90+ undergraduate majors**
- **interdisciplinary and cultural studies programs** (law and society, for example, cognitive studies, or international relations)
- **over 40 languages taught in the classroom** (and another 50 or so taught in the language lab)

*And this is important:* almost all of our major departments rank near the top nationally, meaning that if you change your major at Cornell, you move from one outstanding program to another that is equally as strong.

Slide 5: Seven Undergraduate Colleges and Schools
“Any study” also refers to the amazing constellation of undergraduate colleges – seven to be exact!

**College of Arts & Sciences**
**College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**
**College of Engineering**
**College of Human Ecology**
**School of Hotel Administration**
**School of Industrial & Labor Relations**
**College of Architecture, Art & Planning**

You will make your “academic home” in one of these seven colleges, but you will be encouraged and sometimes even required to take classes in one or more of the other six units. Or you can pursue a major in one college and a concentration (what we call a minor here) in a different college---i.e., English as a major in Arts and Sciences with a concentration in Communications in Agriculture and Life Sciences. Cornell’s undergraduate colleges and schools offer a multitude of distinctive academic programs, and many applicants have diverse intellectual interests that may be satisfied by more than one college or school. It isn’t difficult to change majors within your college. Additionally, transferring between colleges is a possibility but not a guarantee.
Slide 6: Arts & Sciences: Excellence, Innovation, & Tradition
At the heart of the undergraduate academic experience is the distinguished College of Arts & Sciences. All students at Cornell, regardless of their academic home, will take courses in the traditional liberal arts. It is:

• **one of the smallest liberal arts colleges in the Ivy League** (about 4300 students and a student:faculty ratio of 8:1)
• **over 40 majors** (41 majors is currently the exact number)
• **2,000 courses offered (over 250 new courses developed each year)**
• **Independent Majors and the College Scholars Program**
• **strong area studies programs, including Africana Studies, Asian Studies, and Latino and Latin American Studies**

The Arts College, as it is called, offers a particularly flexible approach to education. Approximately a third of the credits you’ll take there will be for distribution requirements, a third will be for your major, and a third will be electives---your choice.

Students often complete double majors in the college, and you can also put together an independent major---“Biological Illustration” or “Archaeology and Medieval Culture” are recent examples. Each spring 40 Arts and Sciences freshmen will also be accepted into the College Scholars program – a special program in which students are released from all academic requirements in the college and create their own majors with the help of faculty advisors and advising deans. College scholars write a senior thesis; recent projects include: “Race and Literature” or “Environmental Science and Sustainable Living.”

Slide 7: The Constellation of Professional Colleges

**Agriculture & Life Sciences**, (about 3100 students) originally focused solely on the science of agriculture, is now a comprehensive college of professionally-oriented programs---business to biology; the science of the Earth to the science of plants, animals, and people. CALS offers more than 24 programs that help its students to understand and apply the life sciences and the social sciences to the world’s greatest challenges:

• preserving the natural environment
• providing nutritious and plentiful food
• improving the health of all living things
• promoting strong, vibrant businesses and economies
• building community by sharing knowledge

**Engineering** (about 2800 students) In the College of Engineering, you begin by taking courses in the Common Curriculum (courses “common” to all engineers, such as calculus, chemistry, and physics) and then officially choose your major after your third semester. This allows lots of time for exploration among the 13 majors and 15 minors, so you can determine which is the best fit for you. The opportunity to work closely with faculty as an undergraduate is a hallmark of a Cornell engineering degree. The college boasts outstanding opportunities for research, and student research teams regularly win international competitions---Solar Decathlon and the Formula SAE Racing Team are great examples. They also offer CO-OP, a program that allows you to have a real-world engineering experience for a semester and a summer. You work at an engineering company and earn an engineer’s salary while you’re at it!

**Human Ecology (about 1300 students)** is the premier program in its field and has pioneered the study of contemporary human life from a scientific and social perspective. Using a blend of academic disciplines, students and faculty identify, explore, and develop solutions to problems
facing people today. For example, students in nutritional sciences combine chemistry and psychology to consider the role of biochemistry in genomics; a student in policy analysis and management could use economics and government to learn more about regulation of the telecommunications industry; a human factors/ergonomics student might consider the role of design and technology to ensure the quality and safety of indoor environments. So if contemporary human problems challenge you and you are passionate about improving the world around you, you should take a serious look at the programs in HE.

**Hotel Administration** *(about 800 students)* provides the world's finest education for the world's largest industry. Cornell's School of Hotel Administration was the first of its kind in the world and is still considered the worldwide leader in hospitality education. At its core, the curriculum is a business management program with a focus on hospitality and service industries. Hotel students study a broad range of topics including finance, marketing, strategic planning, real estate, and operations management relating to hospitality (hotels, restaurants, airlines, cruise lines, etc.). They complement their academic study with hospitality summer internships, to better prepare them for careers as managers and leaders in the industry upon graduation.

**Industrial, & Labor Relations** *(about 800 students)* is the only school in the nation devoted solely to the study of industrial and labor relations at the undergraduate level. If you are interested in the management- human resource-labor law side of business, this is the school for you. Prospective students who exhibit leadership skills in high school and who enjoy debate and conflict resolution will do well in ILR. Students and faculty are very involved at the university in investigating (and sometimes protesting about) issues of social justice, such as oversees sweatshops and, more locally, the Living Wage Initiative. Many students who graduate from ILR go on to law school.

**Architecture, Art, & Planning** *(about 500 students)* offers the Ivy League’s only five-year professional degree program in architecture. It also has a Bachelor of Fine Arts program offering concentrations in painting, sculpture, printmaking, and photography. Because this is Cornell’s smallest college, and because both of these programs are studio intensive, it’s very easy to get to know your classmates and professors in this school. “Planning” refers to the major in Urban and Regional Studies that allows students to investigate the many interconnected forces that contribute to the growth and decline of neighborhoods, cities, and regions. Green spaces, transportation systems, urban renewal---these are the kinds of issues that interest planners. (Can mention Dragon Day here if time.)

Slide 8: A World Class Faculty: Dedicated to Teaching Undergraduates
Teaching undergraduates is at the core of our mission.

- Cornell faculty teach undergraduate courses
- experts in their fields, including Nobel Prize winners, teach introductory classes (Roald Hoffman, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, regularly teaches the first year majors chem. course, and has also taught the course for non-science students)
- faculty serve as academic advisors *(every student has a faculty advisor---in their major discipline once they declare a major; from various disciplines while students are undecided)*
- they supervise independent studies and research projects *(which is a great way to get to know faculty well)*
- professors act as advisors to 800+ student organizations *(they really are involved in the lives of undergrads at all levels)*
- they live and sometimes teach in first year residence halls *(some first year students tell us that they’ve gone to class in their dorm in their pajamas!)*
Slide 9: Opportunities for Undergraduate Research
Cornell is also known internationally for its research. As an undergraduate here, you will find unparalleled opportunities to become involved in research:

- **with faculty in all 7 colleges** (most students get involved by approaching faculty and asking to participate in their research project)
- **all academic disciplines** (students work on everything from the Harlem Renaissance to the Mars landing to artificial hearts and biogenetic engineering)
- **individual and team projects**
- **undergrads publish work and present at conferences** (which looks great on your resume!)
- **formal programs include:**
  - Undergraduate Research Board (the only student-run organization in the country dedicated to fostering, encouraging, and supporting undergraduate research at a major research university. They hold a forum twice a year where students present their work; students from other universities are invited as well.)
  - Cornell Presidential Research Scholars (which I’ll talk more about later)
  - Hughes Undergraduate Research Program in Biology (there are more Hughes undergraduate fellowships at Cornell than at any other research university)

Slide 10: Adventures in Off-campus Study
Cornell also offers lots of ways to study off-campus: (Note: You don’t need to expand on each point. Just pick two or three examples to focus on.)

- **Cornell Abroad** lets you study for a semester or a year at any of the 40 Cornell-affiliated programs or other accredited abroad programs; (important: your financial aid package travels with you)
- Students participating in the **Cornell in Washington** program live and take classes from Cornell faculty in our residence hall off Dupont Circle and complete internships at places such as the Smithsonian, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Cancer Institute, etc.
- You can also live (in a CU med school res hall), take classes, and complete research and internships in New York City through the **Urban Semester Program**.
- **Shoals Marine Lab**, open only during the summer, is located on Appledore Island off the coasts of Maine and New Hampshire. You can take a full semester’s worth of courses there related to marine biology, ecology, and oceanography, including Underwater Research (for which you need Scuba Certification!).
- You can also study in the **Rome Program** (and live in a 17th century Italian Palazzo), take part in **Archaeological Digs** (locally in NYS and abroad in, say, Turkey or Central America), or do research at Cornell’s **Arecibo Observatory** in Puerto Rico.

Slide 11: Student Life: So Many Choices
Of course (!) students do more than study at Cornell – We have a long tradition of student involvement and activity:

- **800+ student organizations open to all who wish to participate** (you don’t need to be a music major to play in the Jazz Ensemble or the Symphony Orchestra; you don’t need to study Communications to write for The Cornell Daily Sun)
- **varsity sports** (36 varsity athletic teams; 18 for men and 18 for women); **intramurals** (one of the largest intramural programs in the nation and open to students, faculty, and staff); **physical education** (two courses are required: a great way to meet other students and let
off steam; everything from ballroom dancing and kickboxing to rock climbing and fly fishing; **outdoor education** (the largest program in the country, offering 60 high-adventure courses that include a leadership component—white water kayaking, spelunking, back packing, etc.)

- **a very active Public Service Center** (lots of undergrads volunteer while they’re at Cornell; often our students win awards for programs they create and administer)
- **tons of music** (much of it free), **theatre, art** (Johnson Museum right on campus), **cinema** (Cornell shows over 400 films on campus/year), **dance, lectures** (Jane Goodall, for example), **readings** (Toni Morrison), and **colloquia**
- **46 fraternities/21 sororities** (about a third of the men belong and a quarter of the women; active in volunteer efforts and the social scene; students rush after their first semester)

### Slide 12: Residence Life: The First-Year Experience

Where will you live when you get to campus? First year students are housed in the **North Campus Community**, where they quickly become part of Cornell’s new “living and learning” environment. The emphasis is on integrating what goes on inside and outside the classroom. To help facilitate this integration, you’ll find a strong Faculty-in-Residence program on North Campus, which features faculty members and their families living in apartments within the residence halls. Each residence area and community center also has Faculty Fellows to help arrange social and academic opportunities for residents (hiking in one of the gorges, for example, or going to a play or a film); in addition, during meals, Dining Discussion Faculty Fellows lead conversations about everything from world events to what’s happening on campus.

Along with traditional residence halls with singles, doubles, triples, and quads, students also choose from among Cornell’s **program houses**. Some examples are JAM (Just About Music), Ujamaa (a residential program celebrating African culture), and Ecology House. Program Houses are open to freshmen and transfers. On-Campus housing is guaranteed two years for freshman and one year for transfers.

The first-year experience also includes:

- **The Tatkon Center**, a freshman advising center that includes faculty, student mentors, and academic advisors
- **First Year Writing Seminars**: 100s of small courses limited to 17 students and taught across the curriculum that let you study writing in the context of a subject that interests you: “Writing About Rocks” is for geology-lovers; “International Justice” is for philosophy-buffs; “King Arthur’s Knights” for the medievalists among you. Freshmen take two seminars in their first year; the program has been rated “the best in the country”.
- **First Year Summer Reading project**—Cornell sends new first year students a free book to read over the summer so that they can participate in small discussion groups with faculty and other new students during Orientation. Last year, incoming first year students read F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby*.
- This year students will read *The Pickup* by Nadine Gordimer.

The North Campus Community also features **fitness centers, great food in the dining halls, and community centers**.
Slide 13: Ithaca and the Finger Lakes

Thought of as one of the most beautiful college settings in America, Ithaca, New York is a small city of 30,000 full-year residents nestled in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region. As home to an Ivy League institution, Ithaca is sometimes described as New York’s “Little Apple” because of its cultural draw and thriving music, theatre, and art scenes.

As you drive around, you may also see bumper stickers that state, “Ithaca is gorges”. With four state parks, over 100 waterfalls, and our beautiful Cayuga Lake – Ithaca is an idyllic college setting. You will experience all four seasons and the activities that accompany each: summers on the lake, fall harvest and festivals, winter skiing and ice hockey, and come spring, the blossoming of the entire valley.

The Ithaca Commons, a short walk down the hill from Cornell, and Collegetown, right next to campus, provide shops, movies, and restaurants, museums and the farmers’ markets. And for parents, be sure to note that the Finger Lakes region is the second largest wine-producing region in the country. No matter where you come from, Ithaca will be a new experience for you.

Slide 18: The Cornell Advantage-
- tremendous academic depth and breadth
- world-renowned faculty
- outstanding libraries and facilities (open to undergraduates, even the original source materials such as the Gettysburg Address)
- bright, creative, motivated students (you will learn much from your classmates while you’re in college; it helps if they are as passionate about learning as you are)
- distinguished and loyal alums (over 244,000 living Cornell graduates)
- a history of tradition and service (mention some traditions here: Cornell Hockey, the Chimes, Dragon Day, Freshmen on the Field, etc.)
- a name that opens doors for you (outstanding rates of acceptance into the top med, law, grad, business schools)

Slide 19: Make Yourself at Home

On-campus presentation: While you’re here, be sure to take full-advantage of your visit.
On-the-road presentation: If you get a chance to visit the campus, be sure to take full-advantage of your visit.
- attend admissions info sessions
- take a campus tour led by a Cornell student
- observe classes during the academic year
- eat in the dining halls
- sample student life through overnight hosting
- visit the Campus Store, the Johnson Museum of Art, the student union in Willard Straight Hall, the Plantations, the Ornithology Lab

Slide 20: Go Red!

Well, that concludes my presentation. I hope it’s given you some insight into this wonderful university. Thank you all for coming today. I’d be more than happy to answer any remaining questions you might have or to talk with you for a few minutes before you head out to explore the campus.