Goals for a Shared Experience for New Undergraduate Students at Cornell University:
New Student Orientation and the First-Year Experience

Themes
Academic/Intellectual
Community Principles
Diversity and Inclusiveness
Ethical Judgment and Action
Health, Well-Being, and Development
Cornell Traditions and History

I. Academic/Intellectual
• Introduce students to the academic environment and available resources.
• Provide academic support and promote academic skills for success.
• Introduce students to and impart the importance of academic integrity principles.
• Foster intellectual curiosity, exploration, and growth.
• Foster critical and creative thinking.
• Foster academic excellence.
• Foster a love of learning and knowledge.
• Foster intellectual initiative and risk-taking.
• Foster an interest in and introduce skills for research.
• Foster an interest in inter-disciplinary inquiry.
• Foster an interest and instill the capacity for success in a global community.
• Instill the capacity for leadership.

II. Community Principles
Instill the principles contained in “The Cornell University Mission.” (See Appendix A.)

III. Diversity and Inclusiveness
Instill the principles contained in “Cornell’s Statement on Diversity.” (See Appendix B.)
IV. Ethical Judgment and Action
- Introduce students to the ethical expectations of the Cornell community.
- Foster integrity, honesty, and respect for intellectual ideas.
- Foster respect for and appreciation of different cultures and diversity.
- Foster a commitment to equity, freedom, and reason. (See Cornell’s Statement on Diversity.)
- Foster an understanding of the relationship between personal behavior and community.
- Foster the development of one’s own ethical/moral system.
- Instill the capacity for ethical/moral decision-making, action, and leadership and a commitment to moral reflection.

V. Health, Well-Being, and Development
- Instill the importance of all dimensions of personal and community health in sustaining learning and social environments that enhance student academic success and create a caring community. These dimensions include: physical, emotional, intellectual, vocational, social, and spiritual health.
- Foster developmental goals such as self-awareness, self-acceptance, and self-care.
- Introduce students to and provide resources, support services, and educational opportunities to address individual health needs and become members of a caring community.
- Encourage social activities that promote healthy social pursuits and safe environments, develop interpersonal skills, foster connectedness, and develop a strong sense of community.
- Help students develop skills to navigate developmental transitions (social, moral, emotional, etc.) from late adolescence to young adulthood.
- Help students with the process of developing and achieving strong identities within a diverse community.

VI. Cornell Traditions and History
- Foster class affiliation.
- Instill school spirit and pride.
- Instill a desire for life-long learning.
- Introduce and instill an appreciation for Cornell’s history and traditions.
- Introduce the idea of a life-long relation to the University after graduation.
Appendix A

The Cornell University Mission

“In keeping with the founding vision of Ezra Cornell, our community fosters personal discovery and growth, nurtures scholarship and creativity across a broad range of common knowledge, and engages men and women from every segment of society in this quest. We pursue understanding beyond the limitations of existing knowledge, ideology, and disciplinary structure. We affirm the value to individuals and society of cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit.

Our faculty, students, alumni, and staff strive toward these objectives in a context of freedom with responsibility. We foster initiative, integrity, and excellence, in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. As the land-grant university for the state of New York, we apply the results of our endeavors in service to our alumni, the community, the state, the nation, and the world.”

"I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." -- Ezra Cornell, 1865
Appendix B

Cornell’s Statement on Diversity

Open Doors

“I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.” This statement, made by Ezra Cornell in 1865, proclaims Cornell University’s enduring commitment to inclusion and opportunity, which is rooted in the shared democratic values envisioned by its founders. We honor this legacy of diversity and inclusion and welcome all individuals, including those from groups that have been historically marginalized and previously excluded from equal access to opportunity.

Open Hearts

Cornell’s mission is to foster personal discovery and growth, nurture scholarship and creativity across a broad range of common knowledge, and affirm the value to individuals and society of the cultivation of the human mind and spirit. Our legacy is reflected in the diverse composition of our community, the breadth of our curriculum, the strength of our public service, and the depth of our commitment to freedom, equity, and reason. Each member of the Cornell community has a responsibility to honor this legacy and to support a more diverse and inclusive campus in which to work, study, teach, research, and serve.

Open Minds

Free expression is essential to this mission, and provocative ideas lawfully presented are an expected result. An enlightened academic community, however, connects freedom with responsibility. Cornell stands for civil discourse, reasoned thought, sustained discussion, and constructive engagement without degrading, abusing, harassing, or silencing others. Cornell is committed to act responsibly and forthrightly to maintain an environment that opens doors, opens hearts, and opens minds.”