



Applicant Newsletter

Prerequisite Courses

Issue V (Fall 2015)



Prerequisite Courses

For a list of prerequisite courses, general course descriptions, and the prerequisite substitution form visit our web site.

Minimum C- Grades

A letter grade of C- or better is required for all prerequisite courses for regular Fall applicants. Early Acceptance Program applicants will need to show a B or better for all their prerequisite courses.

AP Credit

Advanced Placement credits with a grade of 4 or 5 are accepted for Physics and General Chemistry only. If a student receives credit for a prerequisite course other than Physics or General Chemistry (for example English or Biology), it is expected that an upper level course or courses will be taken in the same subject area to fulfill the requirement.

Note: Prerequisites listed as a 'full year' would be 2 semesters or 3 quarters of course work (and labs if required).

10 Year Preference

We prefer your science coursework to be recent. Working in a related field to the science coursework often satisfies this preference. Science courses taken more than 10 years ago are acceptable, but not preferred. However, this preference does not apply to Physics and Inorganic Chemistry.

12 Credit's in Progress

You may apply with up to 12 prerequisite credits in progress at the time of application, with at least one semester of any two-semester series underway. We must see grades for all other prerequisite courses, including at least one grade in Organic Chemistry on your initial transcript.



Biochemistry Credits

Some colleges offer Biochemistry for 3 semester credits only. If you have more than 3 semester credits of Organic Chemistry, we will substitute one (only) of those Organic Chemistry credits for Biochemistry. If you are on the quarter system and your course is worth 4.5 quarter credits, we can use 1.5 quarter credits from organic chemistry (if you have minimally 6 quarter credits of organic chemistry). This is automatic, without completing this form.

Pass/Satisfactory Grades

Pass/fail grades are not accepted, as we cannot accurately compare your course achievements with those of other applicants. You may submit a letter from your registrar stating that your Pass/Satisfactory mark is worth at least a C-. Keep in mind that we would then convert your mark to a C- when calculating your GPA. You may also substitute a course with a letter grade using the above procedures.

Narrative Grades

These are not accepted for prerequisite courses, as we cannot compare your course achievements with those of other applicants.

Distance Education

Cornell prefers prerequisite science courses to be completed in real classroom setting. A few Distance Education courses are acceptable although laboratories must be completed in an on-campus laboratory (no virtual laboratory or home lab kits). The following courses may be acceptable via distance learn at an accredited college or university: Biochemistry, English Composition/Writing Intensive courses and organic chemistry and advanced life sciences course. If you have questions about completing pre-requisites through Distance Education, please contact us at vet_admissions@cornell.edu.

Prerequisite Courses

English Composition or Writing Intensive Courses

Full year. Minimum credits: 6 semester credits; 9 quarter credits.

Biological Science with Labs

Full year of biology with labs; if waived out of general or introductory biology, then a full year of upper level biology with labs can be used. Minimum credits: 6 semester credits; 9 quarter credits.

General or Inorganic Chemistry with Labs

Full year of chemistry with labs; if waived out of general or introductory chemistry, then a full year of upper level biology with labs can be used. AP chemistry with a score of 4 or higher can also satisfy this requirement. Minimum credits: 6 semester credits; 9 quarter credits.

Organic Chemistry

*One Semester; lab recommended
Minimum credits: 3 semester credits; 4.5 quarter credits.*

Advanced Life Sciences Course

Lab recommended. 3 semester credits minimally or 4.5 quarter credits.

Biochemistry

Can also be offered under the title of physiological chemistry or biological chemistry. Lab recommended. Minimum credits: 4 semester credits; 6 quarter credits.

Physics with Labs

Full year of physics with labs; if waived out of general or introductory physics, a full year of upper level physics with labs can be used. AP physics with a score of 4 or higher can also satisfy part or this entire requirement. Minimum credits: 6 semester credits; 9 quarter credits.

For a detailed list of prerequisite courses go to the following link:

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/Admissions/applicants/CA/TranscriptsPrereqs.cfm>