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 a 3 or lower on the AP exam and credit is granted at the undergraduate institution, the student would need to do additional credits in that area to fulfill the requirement. The same is true if AP credits are earned for a basic prerequisite course other than Physics or General Chemistry. It is expected that a more advanced course in the same subject will be listed with a college grade in fulfillment of our requirement. Other prerequisite courses are now eligible to be substituted (for example Biochemistry cannot be substituted for another prerequisite). We must see grades for all prerequisites.

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 a real laboratory, not a virtual laboratory or home lab kit. Since a Distance Education course may not have a real laboratory associated with it, our two prerequisites that do not require a laboratory (Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry and English Composition or writing intensive courses) are good candidates for Distance Education. If you have questions about completing pre-requisites through Distance Education, please contact us at vet_admissions@cornell.edu.
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 credits only. If you have more than 6 semester credits of Organic Chemistry, we will substitute one (only) of those Organic Chemistry credits for Biochemistry. This is automatic, without completing this form. Students must have a minimum total of 16 chemistry credits (6 credits of General Chemistry, 6 credits of Organic Chemistry, and 4 credits of Biochemistry).

Prerequisite Substitutions
If you believe a course you have taken or will take is very similar to one of our course requirements (described on the generic prerequisite courses page), yet your course title is not similar to our prerequisite course title, you should complete this form. You do not need to complete this form for AP credit approval or for course titles that are very similar.

Note: The list of required courses represents minimum requirements. Many applicants will have taken more coursework under these topics than is minimally required. The Admissions Committee will consider this extra work when making decisions regarding advanced and extra-credit coursework during the selection process.