

Other Academic Units

For administrative, teaching, and research programs, the university maintains a number of centers, institutes, programs, laboratories, and facilities. Each has a director, affiliated faculty members, and, in some cases, an executive or governing board.

Centers and Institutes

Centers and institutes are established principally to foster and administer interdisciplinary studies and research that extend across the boundaries of two or more colleges.

The Africana Studies and Research Center was created in 1969 in response to a need for a new approach to the African American experience in American education. Its faculty, through a director, is responsible directly to the provost of the university. Courses are approved for credit by the College of Arts and Sciences and lead to a degree granted by that college.

The Society for the Humanities was established at Cornell University in 1966 to support research and encourage imaginative teaching in the humanities. It is intended to be a research institute, a stimulus to educational innovation, and a continuing society of scholars. The Society's aim is to support and encourage creative research in the humanities, especially investigations that deal with essential humanistic concepts; stress the methods common to the several branches of the humanities; or explore the role that the humanities may have in the solution of human problems. It encourages serious and sustained discussion between teachers and learners at all levels of maturity, and seeks to make the outcome of such discussion widely available through its seminars, conferences, lectures, and publications. The Society for the Humanities awards six to eight fellowships each year to scholars from outside Cornell, four fellowships to Cornell faculty members, and two fellowships to Cornell graduate students. Each Fellow must be working on some aspect of a general "focal theme," which changes annually.

Programs

Programs organize coherent plans of study around some central focus and bring together faculty members with appropriate talents and interests.

Laboratories

Laboratories are organizations of faculty and staff members, often in a single college or school, which provide facilities for and administer rather large research programs.

Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML), a summer program operated jointly by Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire since 1966, offers 30 college-credit courses in introductory biology, marine science, ecology, behavior, archaeology, oceanography, botany, and zoology. These courses are open to qualified undergraduates at any university. SML courses fulfill specific degree requirements for many Cornell majors as well as distribution requirements for non-science majors. Annually, SML enrolls more undergraduates in courses than any other marine laboratory in North America. Many students rate SML a life-changing experience because of its “total immersion” approach to learning side-by-side with faculty. SML is situated on 95-acre Appledore Island, one of the Isles of Shoals in the southern Gulf of Maine, six miles off the Maine and New Hampshire coast. Its housing, teaching, and research facilities accommodate up to 100 students, faculty and staff members. SML also offers internship programs in field science, conservation, and sustainable engineering. Adult and family education programs, tours of Celia Thaxter’s historic garden, and partnerships with researchers ensure a rich and creative environment on Appledore Island.

Facilities

Facilities are formed when faculty members join together and find support for the establishment of sizeable arrays of research equipment, data or sample collections with broad applicability to families of research problems. The administration of a facility normally falls within a single college or division.