

A Research on How to Effectively Utilize Academic and Social Resources in Universities and Colleges for New Students

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1 Introduction

Universities offer abundant resources for students to ensure their better life. It's important to learn how to comprehensively investigate and master useful information. As senior students of the class of 2023 are graduating and beginning their college life this year, they want to quickly adapt to a new life and effectively cope with coming, challenging problems in life to become better while they are studying their four years of undergraduate programs. Our group is investigating effective methods for prospective students to conduct research on utilizing academic and even social resources from different aspects at universities, on campus or on websites. Therefore, this report would be able to show the results of our group that we focus on researching and summarizing practical methods and tips for fully exploiting existing resources at schools, either on campus or through online websites, and taking one of the most famous universities as an example.

2 Procedure

First of all, we confirm our overall research topic, then we learn about relevant fundamental knowledge about effective research methods and useful data collection tools online and visit the websites of universities to figure out homogeneity and differences in academics like curriculum, facilities and faculty research/projects and social resources like public engagements, advisors and career development assistance. Then, we take the universities/colleges, Cornell University as an example to specifically illustrate what are Academic/Social resources and how to collect that information for first-year students. After collecting all the required information, we start to write a complete outline of the paper and add information we've researched into different categories to show tips we summarized.

3 Research and Summary

Academic Resources

3.1 Fields of Study / Curriculum

An educational program is one of the numerous ways for information organized and made significant for and by understudies. The overarching objectives are to direct all understudies to construct their capacities to memorize autonomously, be able to utilize diverse ways of learning and develop different learning in understanding their interface, needs, and capacities. Learning about how to choose appropriate but challenging courses helps students develop better, and the decision of curriculum should base on personal interests and future prospects after visiting the website to learn about the introduction of each course and the teacher.

For example, “Cornell offers nearly 80 formal major fields, listed below, as well as challenging dual-degree programs and a score of interdisciplinary majors that cross traditional departmental boundaries. It is home to eight undergraduate colleges and schools that offer more than 4,000 courses across 100 academic departments.” [4] Cornell students here can choose the direction they intend to study and select their own courses based on requirements and interests after communicating with advisors and teachers. Then, students can select and arrange their own schedules on the student website to confirm the final version.

3.2 Library/Laboratory Facilities

Libraries and laboratories are main resources and places for conducting academic research and study. Libraries provide access to information through online research databases and library catalogs, e-books and e-journals, and Internet resources, as well as traditional print resources. Various types of study spaces can often be found here, including individual study cubicles, collaborative areas intended for group work, and silent zones where complete silence is expected, which students can incorporate into their habitual study area. In the laboratory, students can conduct experiments, analyze data, and develop new products or processes, or to test and measure the quality of materials, products, and processes in different subject fields. Additionally, laboratories are used to train personnel in the use of scientific equipment and techniques. When conducting a research project, the library and laboratory also serve as a comprehensive resource hub that provides access to a wide variety of materials.

For example, “Cornell University Library is at the center of Cornell’s vibrant intellectual life. On campus, there are dozens of library Expert librarians available in person—and online 24/7—to help navigate our world-class collections and assist with papers, exam prep, and research projects.” [3] Students can book places online or visit physically for solo study and high-tech, flexible spaces for group work. In addition, facilities at Cornell is abundant, with many special laboratories with cutting-edge equipment open for students from different programs. Students need to book the time

online in advance, get permission from certain faculties and supervision from professional faculties or professors.

3.3 Faculty Research

Many university faculty members engage in research, thereby contributing to the knowledge base of the discipline or academic field. Research commonly is associated with conducting empirical studies, whether confirmatory or exploratory, but in some academic disciplines research also encompasses highly theoretical work. Student affairs professionals have placed greater focus on out-of-classroom learning opportunities, to create a more well-rounded study environment and they are encouraged to explore certain collaborative research experience besides their in-class projects.

For example, “From the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside and from cultural evolution to concepts in sustainability, our researchers and scholars are translating discovery into meaningful, measurable impact that is changing the world for the better.” [6] Cornell University offers students a wide range of research opportunities for various subjects in colleges. Supported by organizations, students are able to experience “Multidisciplinary Partnerships” with faculties like professors, researchers and scholars to convert promising ideas and innovations into results that truly matter. Students can directly visit the Faculty Research, Center, Institute, Lab or Program website to learn about directions students are interested in, figure out the innovative founded projects and try to contact the relevant faculties/authorities to enroll in and get permission.

Social Resources

3.4 Public Engagement

Public engagement is a process or a practice that involves the public in the activities and benefits of different sectors, such as policy development, higher education, and research, which can help solve real problems or make important decisions. Public engagement activities can serve university students by inspiring, consulting and collaborating, and it’s a good interaction with other students to bring about positive social change and mutual benefits. It helps to instill knowledge, skills and ways of thinking, share ideas and inspire creativity by volunteering in the community by using tools and processes. This could be a mindset that recognizes the public’s stake and intelligence within the work of colleges. To have an effective and useful public participation experience for all involved, the leader must design the experience with intention. 1. Be clear on the goals and reasons for engaging the public 2. Align the tool or process with the identified goals.

For example “Public engagement is foundational to everything we do as an institution. By contributing to this deep-rooted university commitment, our students, faculty, staff and alumni — Engaged Cornell — are forging community partnerships, solving local and global challenges and creating knowledge to benefit humanity.” [5] Visiting the Public Engagement website online, students at Cornell University can have access to diverse cooperative public engagement founded by

student groups or social organizations to enrich their study-work experience and apply knowledge. Students can also connect their project plans made in class in real practice.

3.5 Advisor

Achieving a perfect balance between academic pursuits, personal life experience and the endeavor of career planning is challenging. The collaboration between students and advisor is to assist students in developing meaningful educational goals and making appropriate decisions that are consistent with personal interests, values and abilities. Advisors' responsibility is to help students utilize the extensive network of academic support services available on campus and empowers the student to realize the full undergraduate experience.

For example, "In Advisor Center, advisors and graduate committee members can access a variety of tools to review an advisor's historical record, current schedule, requirements, and future academic planning." [2] At Cornell, during one's initial year as a university student, it is feasible for students to arrange an appointment with an academic advisor for a personalized consultation regarding individual interests and objectives. Advisors can help foster a campus community that promotes student success, provide the resources and professional development necessary for academic advising, and seek input when considering and implementing policy, requirement, and curricular change at school.

3.6 Career Center

The career center of one's educational institution is an invaluable resource that exists to assist in this undertaking. The primary aim of the educational institution is to facilitate the students in achieving their career goals and thus availing themselves of these resources could be beneficial for their success. Therefore, it is recommended that students utilize the services offered by the educational institution to enhance their academic performance and proficiency.

For example, "Cornell is among the largest employers in New York State with nearly 18,000 employees between our campuses in Ithaca, Geneva and NYC. We are committed to creating a diverse, inclusive and egalitarian community and have been nationally recognized for our health, well-being, sustainability, and diversity initiatives." [1] At the Career Success Center or on the websites, students enjoy free services to help prepare for their college life. Here, many professional counselors can conduct workshops in which advisors divulge their most valuable insights on specific subject matters, such as obtaining a prominent internship position. Additionally, the organization arranges simulations of job interviews, revises curriculum vitae documents, composes cover letters, and oversees social gatherings for networking purposes featuring prosperous alumni. It's important for students to be active to utilize resources as they can organize their own path early and make individual schedules in the long term.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

From what has been shown above, we have summarized several important points for prospective college students to conduct research on utilizing academic, including Curriculum, Library and laboratory, Faculty Research and even social resources like Public Engagement, Advisor and Career Center at universities. By learning these effective tips and methods, students can better adapt to university life and easily achieve a good balance in their study life and realize better plan for future development.

References

- [1] Career services — student campus life — cornell university.
- [2] Faculty center and advisor center — cornell university registrar.
- [3] Home page — facilities and campus services.
- [4] Office of Web Communications, Cornell University. Academics — cornell university.
- [5] Office of Web Communications, Cornell University. Public engagement — cornell.
- [6] Office of Web Communications, Cornell University. Research — cornell university.