Chapter 4

Welcome to Ithaca!
The first few months of graduate school can be a major transition. In addition to an academic experience different from your undergraduate experience, you are probably also in a new place. Ithaca is student friendly, but you may still need some help finding your way for the first few weeks. The purpose of this chapter is to tell you what you need to know to survive in Ithaca. We begin by addressing the most pressing subject of all: how to get a roof over your head. After that we’ll look at shopping, transportation, and health care in Ithaca and finally at other lifestyle topics which may impact some graduate students.

Despite our best efforts, this chapter may not answer all of your questions about living in Ithaca. If you have questions, ask! Other graduate students probably remember getting started in a new place, and they will be happy to help you. In addition, Cornell professors and staff are eager to see your graduate career started on the right foot. If you think your question is one that should be answered by a future handbook, then please email egsa@cornell.edu. Best of luck in making Ithaca your home!

4.1 Housing

4.1.1 Finding a Place to Live

If you’re lucky, you already have a place to stay for the year. However, it seems almost never too early to start looking for next year. Some people start their housing searches as early as January or February for leases starting in August. What follows is a survey of local housing options, as well as other considerations in finding a place to live.

In general, the Ithaca housing market is unusually difficult for a small town, although those coming from large cities may find it relatively sympathetic. Most leases turn over on either June 1 or August 1, and it can seem as though the whole town is moving on those dates. Private leases tend to be for a full twelve months, but the University offers ten-month leases in some of its units. If you need housing for just one semester, or some other period less than a full year, your best bet is to look for a sublet.

Several agencies and services exist to help you find housing. Many local landlords maintain rental offices and will be happy to show their apartments to you. Some openings will be listed in the classified ads of the Ithaca Journal. Others may be found online on the cornell.marketplace newsgroup. The Cornell Housing Office maintains a listing of apartments available for rent that can be sorted according to several different categories. You can access this list at the following website <http://campuslife.cornell.edu/housing_residential/offcampus.asp>. They also have a list of local apartment complexes (includes price, distance to campus and other info) which you can pick up at their office in 201 Robert Purcell Campus Center (E1). Finally, Housing Solutions in Collegetown will help you to find your ideal living space, for a small fee.

A small number of graduate students decide to take the plunge and become homeowners during their stay here. While this approach has its attractions, market fluctuations and other factors can be dangerous. Think carefully before considering this seriously: people have gotten burned in the past.

4.1.2 Housing Options

The University offers several housing alternatives, including some designed with families in mind. Hasbrouck (F1) and Maplewood (F7) apartments are self-contained living units with kitchens, living rooms, and private bedrooms. Thurston Hall (B2) has smaller one- and two-person units with kitchens. Schuyler House (A7) offers a more dorm-like setting, with communal recreation and cooking areas. Although there are some advantages to University housing, a determined renter can usually find a larger apartment for the same amount of money on the private market. Thus many graduate students who live in these units during their first year do not renew their leases.

On the private market, the area closest to the engineering quad is Collegetown. Although there are exceptions to the rule, housing here tends to be expensive, small, and populated by undergraduates. On
weekend nights the streets can be filled with noisy bar-hoppers spilling out of the local cantinas. If you can afford the rent, there are a few luxury apartment complexes that have recently gone up along College Avenue and Dryden Road. These offer amenities at a steep price. Alternatively, there are a few bargains to be found in lower Collegetown, where some undergraduates opt out of the market. Below Stewart Avenue towards downtown, some of the housing can be quite nice.

Many graduate students choose to live in one of the large apartment complexes north and east of campus. These vary to some degree, but many are two- or three-story townhouse style units. Parking is generally plentiful, which is good because the journey to campus is sometimes a relatively long one. For those without cars, there is bus service to these areas, but it only runs about once an hour.

Downtown Ithaca is another area where grad students go to flee the high rents of Collegetown. Both good and bad deals can be found here, so look around before you decide. Many amenities are within walking distance. In the summer, the Cascadilla gorge trail provides a scenic route up to campus, but the trail is closed when winter snows set in. There are also many bus routes that run between the University and downtown. A few apartment complexes sit partway up the hill below west campus, for those who don’t fancy hiking up the entire way every morning.

Various other areas have their own distinct character. South Hill has an active housing market that caters mostly to the Ithaca College student crowd. Cayuga Heights is mainly the realm of stately manors owned by senior Cornell faculty, but there are a few affordable apartment complexes as well. The Snyder Hill area has a number of duplex houses for rent, and a bus line serving them. West Hill, across the lake from campus, has some nice apartment complexes, although the commute is fairly long. Some students choose to live in outlying towns where the rent is cheapest. Rumor has it that one enterprising student even built himself a tree-house in a sheep field. Whatever the option, somebody has probably tried it before.

4.1.3 Housing Considerations

One of the main things to consider when looking for a place to live is the distance to campus. Prices of accommodation tend to decrease with increasing distance from the University, leading to a classic tradeoff between convenience and price. Complicating the picture is the University’s parking fee structure, which can make it expensive to drive to school. A seemingly moderately-priced apartment located far from the campus may become more expensive when transportation costs are taken into account. Luckily, the local bus system (TCAT) provides coverage to nearly all residential areas, giving another option to those thrifty enough to take public transportation. (See section 4.5.1 for more details on TCAT.) If you have a car, make sure to check the availability and price of parking when making your housing decision. If parking is available it can range from free to $1000 a year. Be wary of a landlord’s promise of “plentiful on-street parking”. Also, be aware of the number of spots allocated to each apartment in a complex. A promise of “parking provided” might actually mean “each apartment has one spot” – even if it’s a four-bedroom apartment!

Another important consideration is who will be in charge of maintenance in your apartment. Ithaca has many old houses and apartment complexes, which may require regular upkeep. Many landlords will keep their own maintenance staff on hand, or sub-contract the maintenance work to independent agencies: usually, this arrangement works fairly well. However, be wary of landlords who claim that they will do all the repair work themselves, especially if they are responsible for multiple houses. In such situations, it may take a while for the landlord to handle any repairs, should the need arise – and you definitely do not want to wait an extra day if your thermostat starts malfunctioning in the middle of winter! So, before renting be sure to inquire who handles the maintenance, and what is their policy for responding to maintenance requests. If possible, speak with the prior tenants: ask them how often does the place need repairs, and how good are the response times. Also, find out who is responsible for grounds-keeping work, such as snow removal – it may be you!
Furthermore, be sure to find out who pays for utilities in the apartment. Utility costs in Ithaca can be quite high. This is especially true of heating costs, as it is usually necessary to run the thermostat for six months out of the year, from mid-October through mid-April. During the cold winter months (December through February), heating costs could be especially high.

On a related note, it is important to find out who controls the temperature of the apartment/room. There are places where the temperature is set by the landlord. Also, in some apartment complexes the heat is not turned on before a set day of the year. This is mostly a problem for students from warmer climates whose idea of a “comfortable” temperature may not be the same as their landlord’s.

A good way to determine if a complex is right for you is to figure out who else lives there. If you’re the quiet, studious type, you might not want to rent an apartment in a complex that caters primarily to undergraduates. Ask the landlord if the complex houses primarily undergraduates, graduates, or those who aren’t in school.

4.2 Utilities and Amenities

Once you have found a place to live, you will need to ensure that all the basic utilities are hooked up. The major utility companies in Ithaca are:

- Electric, Gas: NYSEG (1-800-572-1111)
- Cable TV, Cable Modem: Time Warner (272-3456)
- Phone, DSL: Verizon (890-7100)

4.2.1 Electric and Gas

NYSEG is the area provider of gas and electricity. Unless you choose to live in University housing or your landlord takes care of these utilities for you, NYSEG is probably the first company you will want to contact. If possible, try to contact the previous tenant and have the service transferred to your name: doing so may be less expensive than signing up as a new customer.

4.2.2 Phone

Verizon is major area provider of phone service. However, local telephone service is now competitive in New York State. Many of the major long distance carriers (AT&T, MCI, etc.) also have local calling plans for the Ithaca area. In addition, those seeking high speed Internet access via DSL may find that they are forced to choose a specific local phone company. If you decide to shop around for local phone service, be sure to find out how much the company charges to establish new service. Verizon charges about $35 to setup new service; some companies have been known to charge as much as $150.

As elsewhere in the United States, tele-marketers can become a major annoyance to anyone with a phone service. Fortunately, the state of New York has set up a “No Call” registry, and enacted legislature forbidding commercial tele-marketers from making unsolicited calls to any phone number listed in that registry. The registry is free, available online, and is highly effective in eliminating unwanted tele-marketing calls. Visit <http://www.nynocall.com> to learn more.

Finally, over the past few years, cell phone service has been greatly improved in the Ithaca area. Whereas in the year 2000 the only local cell phone carrier was Singular Wireless, currently virtually every major provider (e.g. Verizon, At&T, Sprint) offers service in Ithaca. There are many competitive service plans available, including those that offer a large amount of free minutes or free use of the cell phone on nights and weekends. In light of this, many students supplement their regular service with cell phones, or even forgo standard phone service altogether.
4.2.3 Internet

Up until spring of 2003, one of the cheapest ways to get dial-up Internet access was through Cornell’s EZ-Remote. The service features a flat monthly fee, as well as access to Cornell’s online databases and publications. Unfortunately, due to financial difficulties, the service is likely to undergo changes in the cost structure, or be eliminated entirely. You can find out more <http://www.cit.cornell.edu/ezremote>.

If you want high speed Internet access, you have several options in Ithaca. Time Warner cable offers high speed access via cable modem. DSL Internet service is also available in much of the Ithaca area, from such providers as Verizon.

4.2.4 Trash and Recycling

Trash and recycling services are taken care of if you choose dorm-style accommodations or an apartment complex with a dumpster. Those with apartments in smaller buildings will need to buy trash tags to put on their cans for curbside pickup. Trash is picked up once a week, and each can or bag must be marked with one or more tags (based on weight) bought at local grocery stores and various other locations. Ithaca also has a successful recycling program, taking paper products, newspaper, glass, and many plastics. Recycling pickup takes place every other week. Don’t forget to recycle: it’s the environmentally friendly way to save money on trash tags!

4.3 Shopping and Services

4.3.1 Malls and Districts

Ithaca is no big city, and its shopping reflects this. That said, however, Ithaca sports more shops and shopping centers than one would expect for a city its size. Most of the shopping is, as expected, divided into different regions, located throughout the city.

The shopping district closest to Cornell is called Collegetown, and it is located just across the Cascadilla gorge/bridge from the Engineering Quad. The area has a number of small restaurants and also a few stores that sell records, CDs, books, cards, stationary, Cornell paraphernalia, shoes, bicycles (plus supplies and repair), in addition to a few small convenience grocery stores, a liquor store, and a drug store.

The main shopping downtown is in a paved pedestrian mall called Ithaca Commons, or just “the Commons”. Located on the blocks between Green/Seneca and Aurora/Cayuga streets, the Commons has a number of craft stores, several used/vintage clothing stores, two outdoor/camping stores, several new and used book stores, a kitchen store, a record store, and much more. In addition, there is a small mall called Center Ithaca located on the Commons that features a food court, public restaurants, an entrance to Cinemapolis (the downtown movie theater), and more shops. Although most of the shopping in the downtown core is on the paved pedestrian area, there are also a number of shops and restaurants along the surrounding blocks, so it is worth poking around to check them out. If you drive to the Commons, you will find lots of metered on-street parking and two public parking garages, all of which have nominal fees during the week, but are free on evenings and weekends. Additionally, all Ithaca municipal parking lots offer two hour free parking every day. Be careful, though – some lots that look like municipal lots are not, and do not offer two hour free parking (if this is the case, the lot will usually have a sign to that effect posted somewhere).

If you are looking for a mall, however, you will need to drive (or take the bus — see the TCAT bus schedule for more information) to the mall area of Ithaca, at the intersection of Triphammer Road and Route 13. There are three malls at this intersection, the Triphammer and Cayuga Malls, both of which are in strip mall format, and the Pyramid Mall, which is more of a true “mall” (in the great American sense of the word.) The Triphammer Mall is located on Triphammer Road on the side of Route 13 closest to Cornell, and contains a drug store, several small restaurants/take-out places, a crafts store, a toy store,
and a laundromat, among other things. There is plenty of parking in the lots around the mall. Across Route 13, but still on Triphammer Road, is the Cayuga Mall. Neighbored by a Mobil gas station and a Friendly’s restaurant, the Cayuga Mall has a P&C grocery store, a drug store, a Marshall’s clothing store, a video store, a pet store, a few take-out restaurants, and others.

The Pyramid Mall is located across Triphammer Road (on the far side of Route 13) from the Cayuga Mall, behind the Ramada Inn. It has parking lots both in front of and behind the mall. Although its small size and lack of selection is often much lamented, the Pyramid Mall does have anchor department stores such as Sears, the Bon Ton, and Target; clothing stores such as the Gap, Old Navy, Eddie Bauer, Lerner’s, and American Eagle; several shoe stores; three sporting-goods stores (including Dick’s, a national chain); a record store; a pet store; a food court; a Borders bookstore; a Best Buy electronics store; and a number of other gift and novelty shops. Additionally, a Hollywood Video store and several restaurants can be found on Catherwood Road right before the mall. The largest cinema multiplex is also here (see section 7.4) and is best served by the rear parking lots.

If you are looking for “big box” retailers, there aren’t many in Ithaca. Most of the ones that do exist, however, are located along Route 13 just south of downtown. There you will find K-Mart, Staples, OfficeMax, Rite-Aid, CVS, Eckerd, and Hollywood Video, and a Barnes & Noble bookstore. Also along Route 13 are many grocery stores, automobile dealers, repair shops, oil change shops, tire places, and car washes. Developers are currently fighting to bring more large retail chains to this strip along Route 13, but this has raised the ire of many Ithaca citizens and the results of these efforts are, as yet, unknown.

Although most of the shopping in Ithaca is in these districts, there are also a number of stores scattered throughout the city, especially downtown. For larger malls, however, you will have to travel farther afield to Syracuse, Horseheads, or Waterloo. The Carousel Mall in Syracuse is located on the north side of the city and is about an hour away (take Route 13 north to Route 81 north toward and through the city and look for signs). Slightly closer than the Carousel Mall is the Arnot Mall in Horseheads which is only about 45 minutes away (take Route 13 south). The Arnot Mall is smaller than the Carousel Mall, but both are substantially larger than Ithaca’s own Pyramid Mall. Located about one hour north in Waterloo (off Route 318), the Fingerlakes Outlet Mall boasts a huge number of factory outlet stores with discount prices, on everything from clothing to books to housewares to toys. If you are looking for chain outlet stores, you can try Elmira (about 30 minutes south of Ithaca on Rt. 13) or Cortland (about 30 minutes north of Ithaca on Rt. 13). And if you are a real shopping aficionado and have some time to spare, try Rochester, Buffalo, Toronto, or New York City!

4.3.2 Grocery Stores

Ithaca has been blessed with a plethora of grocery stores, from super large ones that require their own zip-code to small, organic ones, and everything in between. To cover them all, let us start with the largest on the hierarchy of size and work our way down.

Wegman’s is the most prominent grocery store in Ithaca, as a result of its size, selection, and usually reasonable prices. Located on Route 13 south, it spans a huge block. Because of this size, Wegman’s maintains an immense selection — simply put, if you can’t find it at Wegman’s, it may not be in Ithaca. But, if you are navigationally challenged, then be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to shop, since the store can be somewhat overwhelming. Wegman’s boasts a large produce section (with organic fruits and veggies too), a health food section, a deli, a sushi bar, a reasonably good International food section, a cafe, a video store, a pet store, a garden store, and even a section like a mini K Mart, all under one roof — giving new meaning to the concept of one-stop shopping!

Those who like a slightly more intimate setting without sacrificing selection might want to try Tops instead. There is one located right next door to Wegman’s and one next to Pyramid Mall (on Triphammer Road). The Tops next to Wegman’s is slightly larger and features a reasonably good produce section, a fabulous, money-saving, bulk food section (with everything from baking supplies to pasta to dried fruits
to candy), and the strongest international section of the large grocery stores in Ithaca.

For an even better selection of international foods, especially Asian cuisine, check out one of the couple of specialty shops in Ithaca. One, Universal Deli and Grocery, is located on Eddy Street in Collegetown at the top of Buffalo Street, and the other, Win Li Supermarket (277-6790), is on Route 13 south on the way to Buttermilk Falls. Another one, Ithaca Tofu (266-0336), is located in the Small Mall (next to Triphammer Mall). If you’re willing to drive a little farther afield, try the bulk foods store on Rt. 13 in Dryden. The selection isn’t fantastic, but it’s got a neat atmosphere, and the prices are reasonable.

A slightly smaller grocery store than Tops or Wegman’s is P&C Foods. There are three P&C’s in Ithaca: one in the East Hill Plaza complex; one in the Cayuga Mall (see Section 4.3.1); and one near downtown in the Fall Creek neighborhood. They vary in size, with the Fall Creek store being the smallest, but all of them have reasonable produce sections and a fairly good selection of food. The East Hill Plaza store was recently remodeled to expand its space and selections.

If you’re really looking to save money on basic staple foods, check out ALDI on Rt. 13. They offer a pretty decent selection of basic foods like cereal, bread, eggs, etc., at very low prices (where else can you find a 39 cent loaf of bread?). They also have occasional special buys of name-brand groceries at reduced prices. A few notes if you plan to shop here: 1) they don’t accept credit cards or checks, only cash, ATM/debit cards, and food stamps; 2) there is a charge for shopping bags (5 cents for paper, 10 cents for plastic), so bring your own or use a box from the store; and 3) bring a quarter with you – the shopping carts are locked together with coin-return locks. In order to get one, you insert a quarter into the lock; you get the quarter back when you return the cart.

Of course, Ithaca wouldn’t be Ithaca without its share of organic/health food stores and co-ops. The largest of these is the GreenStar Co-op, which is located on the corner of Buffalo and Fulton Street (Route 13 south) downtown. Entirely member run, GreenStar features a vast selection of organic foods and produce, natural and health foods, many vegetarian and vegan specialties, and bulk spices and foods. Although membership is not required to shop at the store, it does give you a discount on groceries and a voice in store politics and decisions. For even greater savings and participation, you can volunteer to be a working member, a job which entails working the registers or stocking the shelves several hours a month. Another health food store is the Oasis, located in the Dewitt Mall, one block north of the eastern end of the Commons. Although much smaller than GreenStar, the Oasis is packed with a wide selection of natural and health foods, bulk items, organic produce, and vegetarian and vegan cookbooks in a convenient downtown location. Perhaps the least well-known local, natural grocery store is Ludgate Farms, located on Hanshaw Road near Sapsucker Woods. An overgrown farm stand, Ludgate’s features locally grown produce, many natural and organic foods, and vegan and vegetarian specialty items. With its bare wood beams and gravel floor, Ludgate’s is the closest thing Ithaca has to an indoor farmer’s market — and it’s open year round.

Which brings us to the farmer’s market... Yes, indeed, Ithaca does have a farmer’s market. It is located in Steamboat Landing, just off of Route 13 near the Sciencenter, and is open from March to December. Although the local produce is most available during the summer and early fall, the farmer’s market does sell local crafts at all times of year that it is open, offers takeout food, and often features music from local musicians to enhance the shopping experience. The hours of the farmer’s market are from 9 to 2 on Saturdays and 9 to 1 on Sundays. Be aware, though: especially during the peak season (June-August), parking at the farmer’s market can be a real hassle. There is a TCAT bus route that runs directly to it, however. In addition, there is a smaller version of the farmer’s market located in DeWitt Park, one block from the Commons, on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 1.

Regardless of where you shop, you will not go hungry in Ithaca!
4.3.3 Banks

There are a number of bank options, the most popular of which are summarized below:

Cornell Fingerlakes Credit Union (257-8500)

- Branch office in Bailey Hall (D4)
- ATM’s throughout Ithaca
- NOTE: To join the Cornell FingerLakes Credit Union, you must be an employee of Cornell. (Research and teaching assistantships qualify you for membership, fellowships may not; take a pay stub with you when you go to join.)

M&T Bank (<http://www.mandtbank.com>, 1-800-724-2440)

- Branch office in Willard Straight Hall (B5)
- ATM’s in Willard Straight Hall (B5), Collegetown, and downtown, as well as many other locations in Ithaca

The Tompkins Trust Company (<http://www.tompkinstrust.com>, 273-3210)

- Has a branch in the campus store
- ATM machine in Collegetown and numerous branches and machines throughout the Ithaca area.
- Internet banking available

Fleet Bank (<http://www.fleet.com>)

- Has a branch in the Commons
- ATM machine in Collegetown, in the Commons, and in other locations throughout Ithaca.
- Internet banking available
- Branches throughout the eastern United States.

There are a few other options that are not as convenient in terms of ATM placement but may be desirable for other reasons. Of particular note is the Alternatives Federal Credit Union, located downtown, which specializes in making loans to local poor and needy causes. As a rule of thumb, small and local banks usually offer better interest rates and lower cost than do larger ones. Check the Yellow Pages for other local and regional banks. In addition, for CDs and money market accounts, Smith Barney (downtown) often has better deals than the banks do.

Graduate students who receive stipend checks from Cornell may be interested in Cornell’s direct deposit program. See section 3.3.2 for more information. In addition, most utility and phone companies offer electronic funds transfer payments, and will simply take the money for bills out of your account each month.
4.3.4 Pharmacies

There are quite a few pharmacies throughout Ithaca. Perhaps the most convenient one is Hill Drug Store, located on College Avenue in Collegetown. Its close proximity to campus makes Hill Drug Store a popular choice among Cornell students. The pharmacy itself is well-stocked, and they are usually able to fill a prescription in a short amount of time.

Among other options are the Eckerd and Rite Aid pharmacies, both with locations around East Hill Plaza, Triphammer mall, and in downtown Ithaca. Downtown is also home to the CVS and K-Mart pharmacies. Wegmans, too, has a pharmacy; however, unlike the rest of the store, the pharmacy does not remain open for 24 hours.

It is worth pointing out that, as of last verification, all pharmacies in Ithaca close by 10:00 p.m. at the latest, so make sure to fill your prescriptions earlier during the day. If you are in an emergency need of prescription medication in the middle of the night, contact the Cayuga Medical Center at 274-4411.

4.3.5 Bookstores

Ithaca is a book lover’s dream. The large chain bookstores are just beginning to gain a foothold in town, so the market is dominated by small, independent stores. In addition, the semiannual Friends of the Library book sale is among the largest of its kind. Prices drop throughout the sale as the selection decreases, so it is worth going more than once. For the dates of the sale and more information, see <http://www.BookSale.org>.

The greatest concentration of bookstores is downtown around the Commons area. Offerings here include two used book stores, a comic book store, and a children’s book store, as well as several general-purpose stores selling new books. In general, they can order anything in print that they don’t have in stock. Some run discount programs for dedicated customers.

The primary location for purchasing books for your classes is the Campus Store (C5), located near the clock tower, across from Willard Straight Hall. This store carries all the textbooks for the classes offered in the engineering college, provided that they are in stock. The campus bookstore also carries a wide variety of general books, office supplies, snack foods, computer hardware and software, and Cornell souvenirs (see section 3.2.1).

If you are looking for alternative sources for your textbooks or if you need a book that you can’t get at one of Ithaca’s smaller bookstores, the world wide web is another source for books. Some of the better known online bookstores are amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, borders.com, ecampus.com, and fatbrain.com. Processing times for your order can vary and should be taken into account if you choose this means of textbook purchase. Also, don’t forget to include in your calculations the cost of shipping and handling, which might make the discounted book less attractive.

Books may be found in other areas around Ithaca as well. The stores seem to come and go, so you may see another open while you’re in Ithaca.

4.3.6 Barber Shops and Beauty Salons

From the men we spoke with about barber shops in the Ithaca area, two shops were recommended.

- University Barber Shop, 111 Dryden Road 277-2509

- Cornell Barber Shop (downtown) 224 E. State St. 273-6022

The women we spoke to were more generous with their recommendations. The name in parenthesis is a particular stylist who was recommended.

- Transformations Hair Studio (Debbie), 431 N. Cayuga 277-3943
- Innovations Beauty Salon, 114 N. Cayuga 273-5008
- Resistance Salon (Sean), The Commons 272-5532
- Renaissance Hairstyles (Stella), 210A Dryden Rd. 273-1337
- A Personal Touch Hair Salon (Kim and Kara), Triphammer Mall 257-6098
- Changes Cutting Studio (Kim), 120 N Aurora 272-0090

### 4.3.7 Mail and Package Services

There are two post office branches on the Cornell campus: one in Kennedy Hall (D5) and one in Ives Hall (D5). The downtown branch office, formerly the main office, shares the grand old building on the corner of Buffalo and Tioga streets with the Ithaca Town Hall. The main post office for the Ithaca area moved several years ago to its current location off Warren Road near the airport, much to the regret of downtown residents.

Several delivery services also have offices near the airport. Both Federal Express and UPS have walk-in services during the day at these locations. FedEx and other overnight delivery services will pick up on campus during the day. When having packages delivered, it is often a good idea to give your campus address rather than your home address in case a signature is required, though you should check if you are permitted to have personal mail sent to your department, as not all allow this.

A recent addition to the commons is Mailboxes Etc., which provides a range of shipping and packaging services. You can purchase all of your shipping supplies right in the store, and you can even rent a post office box from them.

### 4.3.8 Online Marketplaces

If you’re looking to furnish your apartment or office, but don’t have a lot of money to spend (not an infrequent occurrence!), check out the Ithaca Marketplace (ithaca.marketplace) newsgroup. This newsgroup is essentially a place for Ithacans to advertise items for sale (or items that they are looking to buy). You can usually find just about anything that you need here (from textbooks to cookware to couches to apartments!), and the listings change every day. Be especially sure to check frequently during peak move-out times (December/January, May/June, and August/September), since this is when everyone is moving out and is trying to get rid of their stuff cheap. You can access this newsgroup via the Cornell news server, or via the Google archive at <http://groups.google.com/groups?group=ithaca.marketplace>. Also, be sure to check out the Cornell Marketplace (cornell.marketplace) newsgroup, that serves the same purpose as ithaca.marketplace, but is targeted more narrowly at the Cornell community.

### 4.4 Owning a Car in Ithaca

#### 4.4.1 To Drive or Not to Drive

Owning a car in Ithaca has both its advantages and its drawbacks. Before plunging into the details of car ownership, consider some of the following thoughts on whether it is worth having a car during your graduate study in Cornell in the first place.

On the one hand, having a car will greatly extend your freedom of movement. Ithaca is a relatively small town with few traffic problems, so driving around is easy. During after hours, having a car becomes especially advantageous, since public transportation during that time is at best spotty and often non-existent. By car, the Cornell campus is no more than 10 minutes away from virtually anywhere in Ithaca. Grocery shopping is far more convenient if you have a car, especially if you tend to buy a lot during
individual trips, or only have time to go shopping during after hours. On nights and weekends, parking is free in most lots on Cornell campus and in downtown Ithaca, making it especially easy drive just about everywhere within the town. Finally, having a car will make it much easier to get out of Ithaca once in a while: places like New York City, Washington DC., Montreal and the Niagara falls are a few hundred miles away from Ithaca, and are reachable by car in several hours.

On the other hand, owning a car in Ithaca can entail considerable costs and hassles. First there is the mandatory auto insurance. The costs vary widely in New York state, but depending on your age, gender, type of car, and the kind of coverage you choose, you could be paying between $500 and $1200 (or more!) a year. Then there are the maintenance costs. Ithaca’s uneven topography, cold snowy winters, and weather-beaten roads will take their toll on your car, so if you own or plan to buy an older model, be prepared to spend a few hundred dollars per year for repairs. Furthermore, you will likely incur additional parking costs. All Cornell housing parking lots, and many of the private apartment complex lots require parking permits, which may cost between $100 and $600 for a year. You will also need to buy an additional permit if you want to park on campus during the day. With all these costs adding up, owning a car in Ithaca can become quite expensive.

It is also worth considering that, despite some obvious advantages, owning a car is not necessary for a typical Cornell graduate student. Ithaca’s layout is very accommodating to alternate modes of travel. Walking and bicycling are very common in Ithaca, and are a good way to get some exercise while traveling from point A to point B. Those not so fond of walking, or living too far off-campus, will find that the local bus service (TCAT) covers nearly all residential and shopping areas. Long-range busses can provide coverage to cities like New York, Washington, etc., although the trip times will be longer due to stop-overs and transfers. And if you find that you really need a car, you can always rent one for a few days at fairly reasonable rates. Therefore many grad students, even those who had cars before starting Cornell, find that life in Ithaca without a car is still quite comfortable.

In short, there are good reasons to own and not to own a car while in Ithaca. Your particular situation will likely dictate your choice: however, if you do not have a car, do not feel pressured to rush out and buy one - it is not a necessity by far. If you already have a car, or are interested in acquiring one once you get to Ithaca, read on! Otherwise, you may want to skip to the section 4.5.

4.4.2 Acquiring a Car
So, you have decided that you want to have a car in Ithaca after all? If you don’t already have a car, or intend to leave your current car behind when you come to Ithaca, then this section is for you!

Since Ithaca is a college town, people come and leave here quite frequently. Upon leaving Ithaca, car owners often decide to sell their cars, either because they no longer need the vehicles, or because they are relocating to a completely different part of the world. Thus, with a bit of luck, the astute buyer can find a fairly good bargain on a used car. Perhaps the first place to look for such a bargain are the ithaca.marketplace and cornell.marketplace newsgroups (see section 4.3.8 for more details). In addition, you will want to check out the classified ads in publications such as the Ithaca Journal (see section 4.10.3). Finally, you may want to check with the local car dealerships, which offer new and used cars for sale. Buying a car at a dealership is generally more costly, but you can obtain a warranty that will cover some of the subsequent repair costs, should they arise.

4.4.3 License and Registration
In order to legally drive in New York state, you will need a valid driver’s license, and your car must be registered. Usually, this entails obtaining a NY state driver’s license and vehicle registration. If you already have a driver’s license from any US state, you can simply trade it in: otherwise, you will need to pass a driver’s test to obtain the license. A typical NY state driver’s license is issued for a period of six years, and costs about $40.
In order to obtain a New York state vehicle registration, you will need to first acquire an NY driver’s license. You will also need to have auto insurance (see the next section), and your car will need to pass a New York state inspection. Registration in New York state costs about $40 for a period of two years for an average car. Vehicle inspection must be conducted on an annual basis: it can be done at just about any local mechanic’s shop, and usually costs about $10.

If you bring your car with you from another US state, and choose to remain a resident of that state, then you may opt to keep your current license and registration (assuming, of course, that they are valid, and that you renew them as necessary). You may still consider re-registering your car in New York, however. For one, it might be cheaper, both in terms of registration fees, and, more significantly, insurance costs. Also, it would help you avoid unneeded hassles, such as having to travel to your home state for vehicle inspection. Finally, it is important to note that you can only keep your out-of-state registration if you are non-resident of New York state. If you do become a resident, you will have 30 days to register your car in NY.

You must obtain your license and registration through the New York State Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The Ithaca DMV branch is located at 301 Third Street. Their phone number is (607) 273-7187. You can also find more information about licenses, registration, and other issues of car ownership in NY at the DMV website <http://www.nysdmv.com/information.htm>.

4.4.4 Car Insurance

New York state law requires that you all drivers in New York state must be covered by liability insurance. Insurance prices in upstate NY are not low, though they can be considerably lower than those in other states. Insurance costs will depend on many factors, such as age, gender, previous driving record, the type of car you drive, e.t.c. Even basic liability insurance costs may be hefty: you can easily find yourself paying over $1000 a year! The actual costs will vary widely from company to company, so it is important to shop around. Based on a narrow survey of graduate students, one recommended company is Progressive Auto Insurance (<www.progressive.com>). Progressive offers competitive rates, good customer service, and generally responds to claims quickly. Furthermore, you can quickly obtain insurance quotes and buy a policy over the web. Other possible insurers are Geico Direct (<www.geico.com>), All State (<www.allstate.com>), State Farm (<www.statefarm.com>), e.t.c. You can obtain quotes and find the offices of their local underwriters through their websites. In general, it is advisable to obtain quotes from as many insurers as possible, as it is often hard to predict who will have the best rates. You may also want to check out section 5.5.2 for additional information about buying car insurance.

4.4.5 Parking on Campus

Parking on campus during the day is expensive (though many lots are free, with or without a parking permit, after 5:00 PM and on weekends). The closer you want to be to main campus, the more expensive it gets. However, there are buses that run from the more distant lots to central campus, so you may want to consider getting a permit for such a lot and taking the bus to your office (check a map before you buy a parking pass – it may turn out that the only lot you can afford is farther from campus than your apartment or house!) The various options are available at the above website. One option to consider is a parking permit for B lot (which is out by the Vet school) that comes with an “OmniRide” pass, that enables you to ride any TCAT bus (that is, any public bus in Tompkins County) for free. There are also many parking options near campus for those who don’t mind parallel parking and/or taking a risk on having to walk. For example, Buffalo St., Stewart Ave., University Ave., and many of the roads in Collegetown offer unmetered on-street parking every day, but you might have difficulty finding a spot if you come in later in the day.

Everyone who intends to park on campus at any time (even if only “after hours”) should register their car with Cornell, even if they do not intend to buy a parking permit. Note that you can reg-
ister your car for free without purchasing a parking permit. You can download the format <http://www.transportation.cornell.edu/Commuter_and_Parking_Services/tms3_gradoption.html>

This web page also contains extensive information about transportation options for graduate students at Cornell, including information about buses, biking, and parking. Note that bicycles must also be registered with the Transportation department.

If you do park on campus, be sure to check the posted parking limitations on the lot you choose. Cornell public safety is notorious for giving parking tickets. Although many lots are free after 5 PM and on weekends, there are several that are restricted to permit holders almost all the time.

4.4.6 Car Services

When we polled grad students about car repair places, they recommended the following:

- Dodge Sales and Services, 304 S. Cayuga St 272-8822
- Meineke Discount Mufflers, 736 S Meadow 273-9999
- Monro Muffler/Brake & Service, 338 Elmira Rd 273-8600
- Patterson’s Service Station of Ithaca Inc, 221 N Aurora 273-0322
- Varna Auto Service, 933 Dryden Rd 273-3776

4.5 Transportation

4.5.1 Buses

Information and schedules for buses throughout Tompkins County (including Cornell) are available at <http://www.tcatbus.com>. Some routes only run during the day, but others run fairly late into the night (such as the Blue Light Buses, section 3.5.2). Weekend bus schedules differ from weekday schedules, with relatively few buses running on Sundays. However, there is fairly extensive coverage, with local buses (costing $1) ranging over campus, Collegetown, downtown, Ithaca College, and further away to some stops on Rt. 13 and near the mall. There are also routes that go farther afield, though the price goes up to $2. “OmniRide” Bus passes good for one semester or one academic year are available through the Cornell Transportation office.

4.5.2 Transportation to/from Ithaca

If you want to go outside the immediate Ithaca vicinity, it’s often easiest to drive, and even if you don’t have a car it is sometimes most cost-efficient to rent a car. However, there are major bus companies that have stops at the downtown bus stop in Ithaca on the corner of Seneca and Rt. 13 S. The companies that stop there are Greyhound (272-7930), Shortline (277-8800), and Trailways (800-295-5555). Shortline in particular provides frequent daily service to New York City, with many routes including pick-ups in Collegetown and North Campus. See their website, <http://www.shortlinebus.com>, for schedules and fare information.

If you want to fly out of Ithaca, the closest airport is the Ithaca-Tompkins Regional Airport, only a ten minute drive from downtown Ithaca. There are only a few flights in and out of this airport each day, with its only airline being USAirways. However, the location makes it very convenient. The airport limousine from the airport is convenient, though slow, and they always stay open until the last plane of the night lands, even if it arrives late.
If you want to fly on a different airline, or are willing to drive a little to get a cheaper ticket, the Syracuse Airport is larger and has more options. You may also find, if you are going to fly overseas, that it is worthwhile to fly out of New York City or Philadelphia and drive or take a bus there.

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4.6 Health

4.6.1 Gannett Health Center

Cornell University Health Services is in the Gannett Health Center (B5). Gannett provides medical care for registered full-time undergraduate and graduate students, student spouses, same-sex partners and children over 14, and extramural students, postdoctoral fellows and out-of-town visitors. Staff and faculty members can receive episodic medical services at Gannett to supplement those offered by their primary care providers. In addition, registered full-time undergraduates and graduate students can receive counseling, psychological services and health education at Gannett. Medical care and counseling at Gannett are confidential; your records will be kept separate from your academic records.

In the case of a health emergency requiring immediate attention, call 911 anywhere in Cornell or Ithaca or use a campus Blue Light phone to get emergency assistance, rather than calling the health center. Non-urgent problems or regular appointments should be scheduled in advance. Advance scheduling may need to be done days or weeks in advance depending on time of year and type of appointment. In the case of illness or injury that cannot wait for a regular appointment, you can schedule a same day appointment.

Patients at Gannett are assigned a medical “team” that consists of M.D.s, R.N.s and other health professionals. Once you have been assigned a team, appointments should be made through the contact phone number for that team. It is not necessary to be assigned a team in advance; if you have not yet been assigned a team and want to make an appointment, call the team/provider information number (255-5155). You will be assigned a team at that time.

Fees are charged for most services provided at Gannett; whether these charges are covered by medical insurance will vary by insurer. There is a $10-$20 charge for all clinician and therapist visits; this charge is not covered by Cornell health insurance and may not be covered by other insurers. The following services are offered free of charge: consultation with a nurse about the need for an appointment, visits to the sex counselor, HIV antibody testing and counseling, health education services, and group counseling. Every full-time registered student must have health insurance (see Section 4.6.5).

The services available through Cornell Health Service include allergy shots, general medicine, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, immunizations, physical therapy, sexuality services, sports medicine, travel medicine, referrals for other medical services, drug dispensary, health education, counseling and psychological services, and nutrition counseling.

There is a patient advocate who is available to discuss concerns about care and counseling received through Cornell Health Services. There are also student volunteer opportunities for those who wish to get involved in delivery of health care and health education.

For more information, see the Student Health Services web page at <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu>.

Hours at Gannett:
- Fall and Spring semesters:
  - 8:30 AM – 5 PM Mon–Fri,
  - 10 AM – 4 PM Sat
- January winter session:
  - 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Mon–Fri
- Summer:
  - 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Mon–Fri
For all inquiries and appointments in Gannet, call 255-5155. For expediency, some additional phone numbers are listed below:

- Physical Therapy, 255-7217
- Billing information, 255-7492
- Counseling and Psychological Services, 255-5208
- Medical Records, 255-4082
- Patient Advocate, 255-3564
- Student Insurance, 255-6363

4.6.2 Local Hospitals

Cayuga Medical Center

Tompkins Community Hospital; Emergency Room Phone: 274-4411. You should contact this hospital for emergency service or for urgent treatment on weekends.

Convenient Care Center

For outpatient services, the wait at the Convenient Care Center might be shorter. It’s located off Warren Road at 10 Arrowwood Drive. Their phone is 274-4150.

4.6.3 Dental Services

There are a large number of dentists practicing in the Ithaca area. A complete list is available at Gannett. Officially Gannett will not recommend a dentist; if you ask nicely, though, some of the nurses will circle a few names for you.

A survey of engineering graduate students produced the following list of recommendations:

- Fall Creek Family Dentistry (272-8118)
- Dr. James Fey (272-7200)
- Dr. Richard Gardner (272-9264)
- Dr. Marc Purdy (272-2040)
- Dr. Matthew Thompson (272-0901)

Prices for dental work vary widely. Be sure to ask about the price of a cleaning when you call. Many places give discounts to Cornell Students, so be sure to ask.

If you are looking for the least expensive option and are willing to drive to the Binghamton area, then Broome County Community College has a dental hygiene program. For $10 one of the trainees will clean your teeth and take X-rays. They take their time and do a very careful job, we’ve heard, and they will give you copies of your X-rays to take to another dentist.

If you are in pain, you may be able to get Gannett to do something for you until you are able to see a dentist, depending on what the problem turns out to be.

As a side note, Ithaca, unlike almost every other city in the US, does not put fluoride in the water. This surprises many people. If you go to a dentist outside the Ithaca area, you might want to mention this fact. Many dentists do not give fluoride treatments as a matter of course but will do so if you are not getting fluoride in your water.

4.6.4 Counseling Services

Psychological counseling is available from the following organizations:
Cornell Health Services

Psychological Services of Gannett Clinic (B5) is open to students registered at Cornell. Services provided include short-term psychotherapy, crisis intervention, group therapy, and short-term hospitalization (overnight). Psychological services is staffed by psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric social workers. Appointments can be made in person or by phone (255-5208).

EARS (Empathy Assistance Referral Service)

Phone: 255-3277
Information: 211 Willard Straight Hall, 255-7243
EARS operates only during the academic year.

Mental Health Association of Tompkins County

Phone: 273-9250
Address: Henry St. John’s Building
301 S. Geneva St., Suite G8
Hours: M–F 8:30–4:30
Available services include information and referral service, educational presentations, and training. They sponsor Aurora St. Friends, a program that matches community volunteers with former mental health patients. They also publish the “States of Mind” newsletter, the “Pieces of the Puzzle” manual for parents of children with social/emotional/behavioral problems, a Therapist Guide, a Private Practice Guide, and a Support Group Directory.

Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service

Phone: 272-1616
Services provided include 24-hour crisis line, counseling, and referral, SIPS (Sexual Identity and Peer Support), and after hours mental health referral.

Family and Children’s Service

Phone: 273-7494
Address: 204 N. Cayuga Street
Hours: M–F 8:00–9:00
Services provided include family and marital counseling, youth services, home health care, community services, and other counseling. Fees are charged on a sliding scale. Cornell has a contract with Family and Children’s Services through their Employee Assistance services, giving Cornell employees psychological services as part of their benefit package.

Alpha House Outreach Center

Contact: Joe Montaro, Exec. Director 273-5500
Address: 102 The Commons
Hours: M 8:00–5:00, T 9:00–6:00, W 9:00–7:00, R 8:00–6:00, F 9:00–5:00
Substance abuse services, nine full time counselors, educational and assessment services, individual or group counseling, and licensed medical ambulatory service are provided. Third Party Reimbursement Insurance is accepted and they operate on a sliding fee scale. They also have an outpatient clinic in Groton.
4.6.5 Health Insurance

All registered full-time students must have health insurance while enrolled at Cornell. Furthermore, all graduate students must enroll in Cornell’s student Health Insurance Plan with the Aetna Chickering Group. Students will be automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) each fall. The upside of this is that the Graduate School will cover the cost of SHIP for all graduate students registered with the Graduate School who are receiving full tuition and a full stipend (at or above assistantship level) from or through Cornell. If you do not fall into this category the cost of SHIP will be billed directly to your bursar bill.

Cornell health insurance can cover care received outside of Gannett Health Center. All emergency care is usually fully covered by SHIP; however, for full reimbursement make sure to notify the Chickering Group as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours of receiving care. For non-emergency care outside Gannett in the Ithaca area (e.g. to see a specialist, or to receive physical therapy) you must first obtain a referral from Gannett. With a referral, a visit to a health care provider in the Ithaca area will usually be fully covered, beyond an $20 co-pay. Without such a referral, at most 70 percent of your medical bill will be covered by SHIP, and you will be responsible for the rest.

Outside of Ithaca, the situation is somewhat different for non-emergency care. (Emergency care is still fully covered, though you will need to notify the Chickering group ASAP.) If you are away from Ithaca for a prolonged period of time and are in need of medical care, you will not need a referral. However, there are a couple of limitations. First, in order to reduce your medical costs, it is preferable to go to an Aetna “in-network provider”. To find a list of such providers in your area, go to <http://www.aetna.com/docfind>, enter your geographic information, and specify “OpenChoice PPO” as your health plan. Usually, the list of Aetna in-network providers is rather extensive, so finding one near you is likely to be quite easy. However, out-of-area care is not fully covered by SHIP – in most cases, you will be responsible for 20 percent of the bill. Since medical costs in the US tend to be very high, 20 percent can quickly translate into a significant amount. So if you need to receive non-emergency medical care outside of the Ithaca area, be sure check with your provider and find out the cost of their services.

The SHIP health insurance plan also covers prescription drugs. As with health care providers, in order to receive full benefits from SHIP, your pharmacy must be in the Aetna network. Fortunately, virtually all pharmacies in Ithaca are “in-network”, as are most major pharmacy chains throughout the United States. (See section 4.3.4 for more information on Ithaca pharmacies.) There is no difference in cost between filling your prescription in and out of the Ithaca area, so you can fill them from anywhere you go, as long as you have your insurance card with you. The co-pays for filling your prescription are $25 for brand-name drugs, and $10 generic drugs. Since the difference in co-pays is rather large, make sure to ask your provider if any generic alternatives are available when they prescribe brand-name drugs.

For more information about health insurance, visit <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/Student_Insurance>. Be sure to read the SHIP brochure, as it describes in detail the situations under which you are covered by SHIP, as well as the type of coverage you have. If you have any questions, you can contact the Cornell Insurance Office at 255-6363.

4.7 Religious Life

There is ample support for religious life in Ithaca, be it traditional or alternative. Anabel Taylor Hall (B6) serves as a center for religious groups on campus, and is a good place to start looking for information. There are many places of worship in the city of Ithaca, most of which are listed in the Yellow Pages. Weekly services are listed in the Ithaca Journal on Saturdays.

CURW coordinates nineteen member groups and administers both Anabel Taylor Hall and Sage Chapel. Weekly worship services, special lectures, social fellowship, personal counseling, and work/study encounters
are just some of the opportunities sponsored by CURW.

A fairly complete list of religious services held in Ithaca is posted at <http://www.sas.cornell.edu/curw/Services.htm>. A more up-to-date version is available from CURW in Anabel Taylor Hall. They can also give you current contact information for all of the religious student groups on campus.

### 4.8 Childcare

See the excellent essay in Section 9.7 for a parent’s perspective.

The Ithaca area has excellent schools, with modern facilities, experienced and motivated staff, and strong community support. Over 90% of students go on to college. The School District places emphasis on family and community involvement and seeks participation in many aspects of school life. There are many outstanding private schools at all levels.

Childcare is of concern to many families, and the area is fortunate to have many programs and services. Complete information is available from the Day Care and Child Development Council. Contact information is also provided for on-campus childcare.

**Day Care and Child Development Council of Tompkins County, Inc.**

609 West Clinton Street
Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 273-0259
fax (607)272-4711
Hours: 9:00–4:30 weekdays
<http://www.daycarecouncil.org>

**University Cooperative Nursery School**

Robert Purcell Community Center, Room 214 (E1)
255-6342
Registrar: Kathy Notch

**HDFS Nursery School**

Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, EG04 MVR (DE4)
255-3074
Director: Elizabeth Stilwell

### 4.9 Legal Advice

Most graduate students never need legal services. At some point during your graduate career, however, you may find that you are in need of an attorney. Perhaps you believe that your landlord is treating you unfairly or perhaps you are involved in an accident and find yourself named in a lawsuit. Or maybe you just need a will or some other legal document. In any case, if you are in need of legal advice, you’re probably looking to find it quickly. Here are some resources to help.

Most of the graduate students we asked had never used a lawyer — in the Ithaca area or otherwise. One graduate student, though, highly recommended William Seldin (273-8410).

You may also want to check out <http://www.lawyers.com>. This site is operated by the publishers of The Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. The site provides free access to profiles of hundreds of thousands of attorneys and firms worldwide. In addition, the site includes a good collection of essays to help you understand the law, decide whether or not you need legal representation, and find a lawyer who can help you.
4.10 Media

4.10.1 Television

Due to the very hilly nature of the Ithaca area, it is nearly impossible to receive any television stations through an antenna. The one exception, depending on your location in Ithaca, is FOX-68 from Syracuse, NY. Most people who want to enjoy television subscribe to Time Warner Cable's basic cable service. The basic service stations are listed below. You can also sign up for more extensive cable service through Time Warner to receive sports, movie, and other specialty channels.

**Television Stations (Basic service)**

1. TV Guide Channel
2. E! Entertainment
3. WSTM-3 (NBC Syracuse)
4. WCNY-24 (PBS Syracuse)
5. WTVH-5 (CBS Syracuse)
6. WSKG-46 (PBS Binghamton)
7. NewsCenter 7 & Marketplace
8. WSYT-68 (FOX Syracuse)
9. WIXT-9 (ABC Syracuse)
10. News 10
11. WNYS-43 (WB Syracuse)
12. WBNG-12 (CBS Binghamton)
13. Local Access
14. C-Span: Government Channel
15. Government/Educational Access
16. Educational Access
17. TBS
18. QVC
19. WENY-36 (ABC Elmira)
20. Shop NBC
21. C-SPAN2
22. Shop at Home/Leased Access
23. National Geographic Channel
24. Educational Access/SCOLA
25. Local/Leased Access
26. Local Access 2

4.10.2 Radio

Ithaca has several radio stations that provide many of the basic types of music people like to listen to now. The glaring omission is a Hip-Hop/R&B station, although WICB (91.7) has a hip-hop program one night a week. Some of the stations from further away are hard to receive in certain parts of Ithaca, and many die out entirely as one leaves the general Ithaca vicinity. The following list is a few of the stations that come in fairly consistently throughout Ithaca.

**Radio Stations (FM only)**

90.9 WSQG — Classical, NPR (from Ithaca, repeats WSKG from Binghamton)
91.3 WCNY — Classical, NPR (from Syracuse)
91.7 WICB — Ithaca College Radio, Modern Rock (from Ithaca)
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93.5 & 105.5 WVBR — New and classic rock (from Ithaca)
95.5 & 97.3 WYXL — Lite [sic] rock and pop (from Ithaca,
    97.3 is the main station, 95.5 is in downtown Ithaca)
98.3 & 106.9 WHCD — More rock (98.3 from downtown
    Ithaca, repeats 106.9 from Auburn, NY)
99.9 & 100.3 WIII — Classic rock (from Ithaca & Cortland)
103.7 WQNY — Country (from Ithaca)

4.10.3 Publications

There are a large number of community and student produced publications that you can find around Ithaca
and Cornell. This section contains descriptions of major publications of interest to engineering graduate
students.

Cornell Chronicle
Contacts: Simeon Moss, Editor 255-3630
News Service: 255-4206
Address: Surge 3, 324 Judd Falls Road
Hours: M–F 8–5 PM

Cornell’s “official” newspaper, the Chronicle is published every Thursday (every other Thursday in the
summer), 40 weeks of the year. Special issues are published for Commencement and Reunions. The Cornell
Chronicle includes a calendar of weekly events, lectures, and movies. It is available for free throughout
the campus, including at student unions, IRC, residence halls, academic and administrative buildings and
mailrooms.

Cornell Daily Sun
Phone: 273-3606
Address: 119 S. Cayuga Street
<http://www.cornelldailysun.com>

Independent daily student newspaper funded by ads and subscriptions. The Daily Sun focuses on matters
affecting undergraduate life at Cornell, but it is often an interesting read for graduate students as well.

Cornell Engineering Magazine
Phone: 255-6095
Address: 258 Carpenter Hall (C6)

Cornell Engineering Magazine is published three times a year by the College of Engineering. It features
articles about students, faculty members, and research projects in the College of Engineering.

The Cornellian
The annual Cornell yearbook.

Ithaca Journal
Editor: Ted Haider
Phone: 272-2329
Address: 123 W. State Street
<http://www.ithacajournal.com>

Ithaca town newspaper, sold at many locations, or available with delivery by subscription. Published daily
Monday–Saturday.

Ithaca Times
Editor: Jay Wrolstad
4.11 Weather in Ithaca

Upstate New York is in the middle of the temperate zone and thus has a distinct autumn, winter, spring, and summer. Summertime temperatures can rise into the 90’s (30+ degrees Celsius), while cold snaps in winter can reach the single digits (−15 degrees Celsius). Ithaca does not suffer lake-effect snow, unlike the neighboring cities of Syracuse and Rochester, but does usually receive several substantial snowfalls each winter.

Ithaca has gained itself a reputation for having a gray, rainy climate and long, harsh winters. While the winters can bring large snowstorms and bitter cold, and the springs are characterized by bouts of gray skies and persistent drizzle, the region also enjoys stretches of dry, clear weather. Grads’ perceptions of the weather seem to be largely relative to the weather they are used to from their home city — some find it dreary and gloomy while others find the weather normal, if not pleasant.

The most important thing to keep in mind about Ithaca weather is that it does reach very low temperatures during the winter, particularly at night. Frostbite can be a serious concern, but only if you don’t dress appropriately. You will need to have a heavy winter coat, good boots, a hat (or hood), and gloves. It’s worth investing in a good all-weather winter jacket (if the lining zips out, it can also be used as a raincoat in warmer weather). Sturdy, waterproof footwear is also not a bad idea, both for navigating the local hills and for keeping your feet dry in snow and rain.

See the essay in section 9.6 on surviving an Ithaca winter.

4.12 Other Universities

Though certainly the largest, Cornell is not the only university in town. Situated atop South Hill, Ithaca College (or IC for short) comprises a population of about 5500 undergraduates, with well-rated programs in the arts and communications. With a main base in Dryden, Tompkins-Cortland Community College (TC3) offers associate degrees and continuing education. Going farther afield, the State University of New York (SUNY) has campuses in Binghamton, Oneonta, and Cortland. Finally, those hungering for some serious college sports action may want to pay a visit to Syracuse University, about an hour’s drive to the north.