Anitra Douglas-McCarthy, assistant dean for access and recruitment: We are beyond excited to have every single one of you here. Our sole purpose is to help students like you on your path to graduate school.

Kathryn Boor, dean of the Graduate School: As dean, it is one of my highest priorities that all students, especially those from backgrounds historically underrepresented in academia, feel welcomed and supported.

Adrian Durant, head coach of Cornell men’s cross country, track and field: Look around the room. You’re not alone. In this room we are a talented, ambitious, and motivated people who are at a crossroads just like you are.

Anitra Douglas-McCarthy: The Consider Cornell: Experience takes place on the Ithaca, New York campus over the course of two days during the fall semester. We have students come here from all over the world for face-to-face interactions with faculty, graduate students, and administrators.

Anitra Douglas-McCarthy: We have put a lot of thought into what your individual, curated experiences are going to be like. We’re going to have about 70 graduate students from your field coaching you and giving you advice. We’re going to talk about interviewing, how to pitch yourself, and writing the academic statement of purpose—basically your academic story.

Jessamyn Perlus, Ph.D., senior associate director of Cornell Career Services: I love talking to groups of folks, especially this interaction of identity, and mental health, and career outcomes, and what kind of goals do we set for ourselves, and how do we articulate what we're interested in.

Jocelyn, prospective student: I've absolutely loved the Consider Cornell program so far and I've truly enjoyed getting to meet with faculty, meeting the grad students, and having really honest conversations. They provided such incredible feedback and suggestions for me, and it's just been truly an honor to be in this space.

Milo, prospective student: After coming to the program, I'm considering different ways to search and ask questions about the pathways and programs that are offered. I'm really excited
about the academic statement of purpose feedback, excited to see what I can improve, and really work on my applications from there.

**Dana, prospective student:** We got, like, five-star treatment from them, so they've already impressed me 10 times over. I'm most excited about probably the scavenger hunt, that's gonna be fun. Oh, and the tour.

**Katherine, prospective student:** You get to meet all these amazing people. It has been a really fun, heartfelt moment.

**Katy, prospective student:** No matter what field we're in, we have a lot in common, and there's kind of a lot of instant connections and conversations.

**Brandon, prospective student:** I feel like you don't see this opportunity a lot and there's always, like, a barrier of, like, you need an application fee, or you have to have this, and this, and this qualification, so I'm super grateful and I definitely recommend this program to anybody, yeah.

**Anitra Douglas-McCarthy:** We are at your beck and call after this weekend we can continue working with you. We will coach you, we can help you navigate making connections after you leave.

**Anitra Douglas-McCarthy:** In the future we look forward to hosting new cohorts of scholars for the program, serving as a resource for them, continuing to increase access to graduate education for those who seek it.

[Music]