



# PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The Peace Corps Prep program will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you'll build four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These four competencies are the following:

1. Training and experience in a work sector
2. Foreign language skills
3. Intercultural competence
4. Professional and leadership development

This document explains each of these requirements in detail. *Use this guide to map out your Peace Corps Prep course of study.* In particular, refer to this when completing your PC Prep application, where you'll need to document how you plan to fulfill each requirement. **This guide aligns point-by-point with each section of the application!**

## **1. Training *and* experience in a specific work sector**

### **3 courses + 50 hours related**

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Through this PC Prep program, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve your career well whether or not you become a Peace Corps Volunteer.

For PC Prep, you need to complete at least **3 courses** that align with a specific work sector (they can but do not need to come from your academic major or minor). You also must accumulate a **minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that *same* sector**, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.

### **Peace Corps Tip!**

*If you intend to apply to the Peace Corps, the best way to assure that you will be a strong candidate is to explore Peace Corps' openings and identify the [type of assignments](#) in which you'd like to serve ([www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/volunteer-openings](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/volunteer-openings)), then review the positions' required and desired qualifications and build them up accordingly. In the process, you should fulfill these PC Prep experiential requirements!*

There are **six sectors** ([www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/)) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve (refer to sector guides on <https://www.peacecorps.arizona.edu/student-guide>).

**Choose one sector to focus on** then complete at least 3 courses + 50 hours of related experience in that sector.

*Note: Actual Peace Corps assignments are based on local needs, and thus may or may not align seamlessly with your qualifications. Flexibility is central to the Peace Corps experience!*

## 2. Foreign language skills

### Requirements vary by region of

Most students must hone their capacity to interact professionally using a non-English language. Minimum course requirements vary by desired placement region.

- ❑ **Latin America**: Students indicating an intention to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must build strong intermediate proficiency, having completed two 200-level courses or learned Spanish through another medium.
- ❑ **West Africa**: Students indicating an intention to serve in French-speaking African countries must build proficiency in French or another Romance language, having completed one 200-level course or learned the language through another medium.
- ❑ **Everywhere else**: Students indicating an intention to serve anywhere else do not have explicit language requirements to complete the Program, but they should still be encouraged to study a foreign language.

*Note: If you are a strong native speaker and hope to serve in a country that speaks your same language, you can skip this requirement!*

## 3. Intercultural competence

### 3 approved courses *or* 1-2 courses + substantive intercultural

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. With this learning objective, you will deepen your cultural agility through **a mix of three introspective courses** in which you learn about others while reflecting upon your own self in relation to others. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences. Some example courses:

- Africana Studies (AFAS) 208: History of Africa
- Africana Studies (AFAS) 329: Cultures and Societies of Africa
- Africana Studies / Humanities (AFAS/HUMS) 376: Global Soccer
- American Indian Studies (AIS) 225: Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Mainstream and Indigenous
- American Indian Studies (AIS) 403: Globalization and Indigenous People
- Anthropology (ANTH) 170 C 1: The Nature of Humans
- Anthropology (ANTH) 195 B: Cultural Anthropology
- Anthropology (ANTH) 202: Apply Anthropology in a Global Context
- Anthropology (ANTH) 310: Culture and the Individual
- Anthropology (ANTH) 315: World Ethnography
- Care, Health & Society (CHS) 350: Environment, Health, and Society

- Care, Health & Society (CHS) 437: Health of Indigenous Populations
- Communication (COMM) 117: Culture and Communication
- East Asian Studies (EAS) 160A5: Languages and Cultures of East Asia
- East Asian Studies (EAS) 280: Gender, Sexuality, and Asia
- eSociety (ESOC) 300: Digital Storytelling and Culture
- Geography (GEOG) 210: The Political and Cultural Geography of Globalization
- Geography (GEOG) 252: Global Borders, Migration and Refugees
- Geography (GEOG) 370: Geography of International Development
- Geography (GEOG) 374: Geography, Social Justice and the Environment
- Geography (GEOG) 378: Global Human Rights
- Studies of Global Media (GLO) 301: Media, Culture and Societies
- Global Studies (GLS) 250: Dimensions of Globalization: States, Societies, and Institutions
- Global Studies (GLS) 251: Dimensions of Globalization: Language, Literature and Culture
- Government and Public Service (GPSV) 341: International Organizations
- Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) 150B1: Gender and Contemporary Society
- Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) 240: Gender in a Transnational World
- History (HIST) 206: Introduction to Central American Studies: History, Culture, and Languages
- Honors (NRS) 295G-001: Global Diversity and Voices
- Human Rights Practice (HRTS) 200: Introduction to Human Rights
- Human Rights Practice (HRTS) 250: Current Issues in Human Rights
- Human Services (HUSV) 310: Identity, Positionality, & Cultural Humility
- Latin American Studies (LAS) 384: Latin America, Globalization, and Development
- Linguistics (LING) 150A1: Language in the World
- Political Science (POL) 202: International Relations
- Political Science / Latin American Studies (POL/LAS) 204: Comparative Politics in the Age of Globalization
- Political Science (POL) 209: Diversity and Politics in a Changing World
- Public and Applied Humanities (PAH) 220: Collaboration: A Humanities Perspective
- Public and Applied Humanities (PAH) 371: Intercultural Competence: Culture and Identity
- Public and Applied Humanities (PAH) 372: Intercultural Competence: Culture, Identity, Adaptation, and Intercultural Relations
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) 302: Foundations of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Tch, Lrn, & Sociocultural Stdy (TLS) 386: Global Citizenship: Reading the World and the Word
- Tch, Lrn, & Sociocultural Stdy (TLS) 387: Introduction to Global Education

**Note: If there is another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement, please discuss it with the Prep Program Coordinator.**

- **Studying or volunteering abroad** may count *if* the student is in a country that has at some point hosted Peace Corps Volunteers (see the list of current and past countries [www.peacecorps.gov/countries](http://www.peacecorps.gov/countries)).
  - Studying/volunteering abroad in these countries from one week to a summer may substitute for one course.
  - Experiences that last a full semester may substitute for both electives.
- **Other intercultural experiences** such as volunteering or interning with refugee / immigrant organizations or diverse schools may also count. Such experiences should involve a minimum of 40 hours of service. These experiences may also count toward a sector specific requirement when applicable. Please contact the Prep Program Coordinator to discuss this option and get approval.

## 4. Professional and leadership development

### Resume and interview support + leadership

Peace Corps service and similar international development work opportunities are highly professional and selective. PC Prep requires **three specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

1. Have your resume critiqued by the Peace Corps Campus Recruiter or Student Engagement and Career Development (SECD).
2. Work with the Peace Corps Campus Recruiter, Prep Program Coordinator, and/or SECD to prepare for your Peace Corps interview.
3. Develop at least one significant leadership experience and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully. For example, organizing a campus event; leading a work or volunteer project; or serving on the executive board of a student organization.

## 5. Prep Program Administrative Requirements

In addition to the course requirements, volunteer hours, leadership activities, and professional development activities, enrolled Prep Students will be required to complete the following:

### Event Attendance

The Prep Program hosts several events throughout the year. Prep students are strongly encouraged to attend as many of these events as possible. Events are organized to provide students exposure to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, networking opportunities among their peers, and more knowledge about Peace Corps Service. If you are an online student, you are encouraged to find local events which you could attend and/or virtual events hosted by PC Prep Program or Peace Corps.

### Yearly Check-Ins

Students are required to check in each Fall with the Program Coordinator. Students will be reminded of this requirement and are asked to set up a meeting either virtual, on the phone, or in person.

### Semesterly Reporting in BOX

Each student, once enrolled, is set up with a BOX account and a template for reporting their progress within the program. The student is expected to report within 2 weeks of the end of each semester until completing all program requirements and submitting their Exit Checklist. **If no requirements were completed during the semester, the student will indicate that in BOX.**

**The semester report contains the following elements:**

- 1) **REQUIRED COURSES:** Report each semester on progress with required course completion
- 2) **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Report if professional development activities were completed during the semester
- 3) **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:** Describe any leadership experience completed during the semester

**4) SECTOR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Report volunteer hours by date/hours worked for the semester and the location(s) where volunteer hours were completed; Please note that these hours should be directly related to the same Peace Corps sector as required courses

**5) PEACE CORPS APPLICATION ACTIVITY:** If you apply for Peace Corps service during a semester, report it

**6) OTHER:** Opportunity to report any additional noteworthy activities, such as volunteer work outside of the Peace Corps sector, awards, honors, study abroad experiences, etc.

### **Changes to Courses**

If at any time, the student wishes to make changes to their selected courses, they need to contact the Program Coordinator to discuss the changes and receive approval.