PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Peace Corps Prep program prepares undergraduates for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. Students admitted to the program build four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support.

Training and Experience in a Work Sector

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.

• Complete three courses that align with one of the following specific work sectors: Education, Health, Environment, Agriculture, Youth in Development, and Community Economic Development. These courses can but do not need to come from your academic major or minor.
• Accumulate 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that same work sector, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.
• See website for a full description of specific work sector requirements.

Foreign Language Skills (Requirements Vary by Linguistic Region)

Working across cultures often entails verbal and nonverbal languages distinct from your own. Building foreign language skills is thus a second key component of the PC Prep curriculum.

• Latin America: Students wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. This typically means completing two 200-level courses.
• West Africa: Students wanting to serve in French-speaking African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Romance Language) usually through one 200-level course.
• Everywhere else: The Peace Corps has no explicit language requirements for individuals applying to serve in most other countries. However, you will still likely learn and utilize another language during service, so it is helpful to have taken at least one foreign language class.
• 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.

Intercultural Competence

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, one core course in Diversity and Inclusion and two relevant electives. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences.

- Students will take at least one of these core courses:
  
  Humanities (HUMS) 372: Intercultural Competence: Culture, Identity, Adaptation, and Intercultural Relations

- Additionally, students will choose two electives from the above list of core courses or these below:
  
  Global Studies (GLS) 250: Dimensions of Globalization: States, Societies and Institutions
  Anthropology (ANTH) 170 C 1: Human Variation in the Modern World
  Anthropology (ANTH) 195 B: Cultural Anthropology
  Anthropology (ANTH) 310: Culture and the Individual
  Geography (GEOG) 210: The Political and Cultural Geography of Globalization
  Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS) 240: Gender in a Transnational World

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

Professional and Leadership Development

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):

- Have your resume critiqued by someone in UA’s Student Engagement & Career Development Center.
- Attend a workshop or class on interview skills at UA’s Student Engagement & Career Development Center.
- 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.

Upon Completion of the Peace Corps Prep Program

- Submit a completed Exit Checklist to the Peace Corps Prep Program Coordinator when you have completed all program requirements.
Note: Peace Corps Prep students who apply for Peace Corps service should scan and attach the signed Exit Checklist to their Peace Corps application with the name “PC Prep Checklist.” If you apply to Peace Corps before completing a requirement, you should still submit a signed Exit Checklist – write “[Activity]: planned [month/year]” for any incomplete requirement.