



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 will 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), 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](#) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve:

Westfield offers students the follow work sectors: Education, Health, Environment, Youth in Development, and Community Economic Development. **Due to a lack of appropriate courses, Westfield will not offer the Agriculture sector as an option. 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!

#1 EDUCATION



Teach lessons that last a lifetime. Education is the Peace Corp's largest program area. Volunteers play an important role in creating links among schools, parents, and communities by working in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools as math, science, conversational English, and resource teachers or as early grade reading and literacy teacher trainers. Volunteers also develop libraries and technology resource centers.

If you choose Education, take 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- Elementary, Secondary or Special Education
- English or Linguistics
- Your Liberal Studies areas

Recommended courses:

EDUCATION METHODS COURSES

EDUC 0335 LITERARY INSTRUCTION – ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

EDUC 0260 INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

EDUC 0360 SERVICE LEARNING

EDUC 0363 SHELTERED ENGLISH IMMERSION

EDUC 0370 LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION DEV AND INTERVENTION

EDUC 0380 MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

ENGL 0221 WORLD LITERATURE I

ENGL 0222 WORLD LITERATURE II

ENGL 0338 YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE IN ELA CLASS

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Teaching in one of these or a similar form: in a classroom, with a community outreach organization, or in a formal tutoring capacity
 - The subject of the teaching may be English as a Foreign/Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject

#2 HEALTH



Serve on the front lines of global health. Health Volunteers work within their communities to promote important topics such as nutrition, maternal and child health, basic hygiene, and water sanitation. Volunteers also work in HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs to train youth as peer educators, develop appropriate education strategies, provide support to children orphaned by the pandemic, and create programs that provide emotional and financial support to families and communities affected by the disease.

If you choose Health, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Biology
- Movement Science
- Nursing
- Nutrition or Dietetics
- Health Education
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Work

Recommended courses:

BIOL 0104	HUMAN BIOLOGY
BIOL 0209	MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
BIOL 0239	HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY
BIOL 0282	PARASITOLOGY
BIOL 0282	SEMINAR: FOOD, HEALTH, AGING
BIOL 0319	IMMUNOLOGY
MOVP 0100	INTRO TO EXERCISE SCIENCE
MOVP 0212	CONCEPTS OF NUTRITION
MOVP 0303	HEALTH EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NURS 0300	NURSING CARE
NURS 0310	COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING
NURS 0320	NURSING CARE
NURS 0355	NURSING LEADERSHIP
PSYC 0101	INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 0202	CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PSYC 0203	ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
PSYC 0301	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 0322	THEORIES OF COUNSELING
PSYC 0336	PSYCHOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
PSYC 0356	PSYCHOLOGY OF ILLNESS
PSYC 0357	ADULT DEV AND AGING
SOCI 0101	PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 0200	CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCI 0201	THE FAMILY
SOCI 0318	SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICAL CARE
SOCI 0319	SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES
SOCI 0331	SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS
SOCI 0337	DEATH AND DYING
SOCI 0338	FAMILIES AND DYING
SOCW 0103	INTRO TO SOCIAL WORK
SOCW 0241	HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS
SOCW 0243	SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY ANALYSIS
SOCW 0331	DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Volunteer or work experience in such areas as HIV/AIDS outreach, hospice, family planning counseling, emergency medical technician (EMT) or CPR teaching/certification, maternal health, and hands-on caregiving in a hospital, clinic, or lab technician setting
- Counseling or teaching in health subjects
- Working as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design.

#3 ENVIRONMENT



Help forge a global movement to protect our planet. Volunteers lead grassroots efforts in their communities to protect the environment and strengthen understanding of environmental issues. They teach environmental awareness in elementary and secondary schools and to youth groups and community organizations, empowering communities to make their own decisions about how to protect and conserve the local environment. Volunteers also address environmental degradation by promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

If you choose Environment, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Environmental Science or related field
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Wildlife Biology
- Natural Resources or Wildlife Management
- Forestry
- Biology, Botany, or Ecology
- Geology

Recommended courses:

BIOL 0102	ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
BIOL 0201	GENERAL ECOLOGY
BIOL 0202	CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
BIOL 0204	GIS FOR NATURAL SCIENCE
BIOL 0206	PLANTS AND HUMAN SOCIETY
BIOL 0219	AQUATIC BIOLOGY
BIOL 0279	TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: COSTA RICA
BIOL 0281	SEMINAR: TROPICAL ECOLOGY OR SEMINAR: WETLANDS
BIOL 0282	SEMINAR: ENDANGERED SPECIES
BIOL 0334	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
BIOL 0377	RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: ANIMAL BEHAVIOR METHODS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: FOREST ECOLOGY
ECON 0321	NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS
ENVS 0101	PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
ENVS 0105	NATURAL HISTORY AND FIELD TECHNIQUES

ENVS 0180	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SEMINAR
ENVS 0225	NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION MANAGEMNT
ENVS 0233	ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION
ENVS 0238	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
ENVS 0240	WRITING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
ENVS 0251	WATER RESOURCE MGMT PLANNING: WATERSHED
ENVS 0300	WETLANDS ASSESSMENT/PLANNING
ENVS 0309	WILDLIFE ECONOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
ENVS 0390	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR SEMINAR
GARP 0101	WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
GARP 0105	INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING
GARP 0106	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
GARP 0204	HOUSING IN AMERICA
GARP 0210	CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
GARP 0216	THE (UN)JUST CITY
GARP 0219	LAND USE AND RESOURCE PLANNING
GARP 0236	ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS II
GARP 0238	ENVIRONMENAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
GARP 0244	INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
GARP 0311	GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN
GARP 0325	FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING
GARP 0331	SEVERE AND UNUSUAL WEATHER
GARP 0344	ADVANCE GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
GEOL 0108	GENERAL OCEANOGRAPHY

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Educating the public on environmental or conservation issues, or working on environmental campaigns
- Conducting biological surveys of plants or animals
- Gardening, farming, nursery management, organic or low-input vegetable production, or landscaping
- Providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management

#4 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT



Empower the next generation of changemakers. Volunteers work with youth in communities on projects that promote engagement and active citizenship, including gender awareness, employability, health and HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, sporting programs, and info technology.

If you choose Youth in Development, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Communication
- Education
- Environmental Science
- Ethnic and Gender Studies
- Geography
- English
- Management
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology

Recommended courses:

- COMM 0340 ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
- EDUC 0260 INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT
- EGST 0101 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES
- EGST 0102 INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
- EGST 0213 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ISLAMIC STUDIES
- EGST 0217 CULTURE AND PERSONALITY
- EGST 0221 WOMEN IN MODERN ORGANIZATIONS
- EGST 0390 ETHNIC AND GENDER STUDIES
- ENGL 0103 SPEECH
- ENVS 0101 PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- ENVS 0233 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION
- GARP 0105 INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING
- GARP 0106 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
- MGMT 0108 SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS IN MANAGEMENT
- MGMT 0308 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOR
- MGMT 0314 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- MGMT 0342 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MGMT00346 LEADERSHIP
SOCW 0103 INTRO TO SOCIAL WORK
PSYC 0203 ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
SOCIO 0202 RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS
SOCW 0241 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS
SOCW 0243 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY ANALYSIS
SOCIO 0308 SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs
- Activities that involve planning, organizing, assessing community needs, counseling, and leadership, in areas such as education, youth development, health and HIV/AIDS, the environment, and/or business

#5 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Harness 21st-century tools to help communities lift themselves.

Volunteers work with development banks, nongovernmental organizations, and municipalities to strengthen infrastructure and encourage economic opportunities in communities. They frequently teach in classroom settings and work with entrepreneurs and business owners to develop and market their products. Some Volunteers also teach basic computer skills and help communities take advantage of technologies such as e-commerce, distance learning, and more.

If you choose Community Economic Dev., take three courses from one of the following areas:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Accounting, Finance | <input type="radio"/> English | <input type="radio"/> Management |
| <input type="radio"/> Communication | <input type="radio"/> Geography | <input type="radio"/> Philosophy |
| <input type="radio"/> Computer Science | <input type="radio"/> Graphic Design | <input type="radio"/> Political Science |

Recommended courses:

ACCT 0104	INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING I
ACCT 0105	INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING II
ART 0108	COMPUTER GRAPHICS I
CAIS 0101	COMPUTERS IN SOCIETY
COMM 0101	INTRODUCTION TO MASS COMMUNICATION
COMM 0102	INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION
COMM 0203	PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
COMM 0204	WRITING FOR THE MEDIA
COMM 0207	COMMUNICATION ETHICS
COMM 0322	PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION
ECON 0101	PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS
ECON 0102	MICROECONOMICS
ECON 0300	MONEY AND BANKING
ECON 0318	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
ECON 0321	NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS
EDUC 0260	INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

ENGL 0103	SPEECH
FINC 0207	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
GARP 0105	INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING
MGMT 0108	SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS IN MANAGEMENT
MGMT 0221	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
MGMT 0308	ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOR
MGMT 0338	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
MGMT 0314	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
MGMT 0342	ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MGMT 0344	PROJECT MANAGEMENT
MGMT00346	LEADERSHIP
MGMT 0350	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
MRKT 0231	MARKETING MANAGEMENT
MRKT 0306	LOGISTICS MANAGMENT
PHIL 0102	INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
POLS 0320	POLITICS OF BUDGET MAKING

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Working with businesses, organizations, or cooperatives in accounting, finance, microfinance, management, project management, budgeting, or marketing
- Starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity
- Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, and repair
- Website design or online marketing
- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization

**Peace
Corps**

Nearly two-thirds of Peace Corps Volunteers serve in Education or Health. Coursework and meaningful experience in one of these areas—especially teaching English as a second/foreign language—produce some of the strongest candidates.

Tip!

2. Foreign language skills

Requirements vary by

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.

Where would you like to serve? PC Prep minimum course requirements align with those needed by applicants to the Peace Corps itself, which vary by linguistic region.

- *Latin America:* Individuals wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. This typically means completing **two 200-level courses**.
- *West Africa:* Individuals 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 only 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! With Advisor approval, students might satisfy this requirement with a semester abroad in a non-English-speaking country.

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:

You'll take 1 of these core Intercultural Competence courses:

- **POLS0209
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

- **POLS 0224 POLITICS OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

And choose 2 additional electives from these below:

- ART 0357 ISLAMIC ART
- COMM 0209 GLOBAL COMMUNICATION
- COMM 0213 GLOBAL FILM STUDIES
- COMM 0222 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
- COMM 0306 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION
- COMM 0321 POLITICAL COMMUNICATION
- ECON 0318 INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
- ENGL 0327 CONTEMPORARY CROSS-CULTURAL LITERATURE
- ENGL 0240 CULTURAL STUDIES
- EGST 0102 INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
- EGST 0206 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC STUDIES
- EGST 0211 INDIAN CINEMA
- EGST 0213 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ISLAMIC STUDIES
- EGST 0217 CULTURE AND PERSONALITY
- ENGL 0221 WORLD LITERATURE I
- ENGL 0222 WORLD LITERATURE II
- ENGL 0287 WORLD DRAMA
- ENGL 0327 CONTEMPORARY CROSS-CULTURAL LITERATURE
- GARP 0101 WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
- GARP 0210 CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

- GARP 0217 GLOBAL ISSUES
- HIST 0213 WORLD HISTORY TO 16TH CENTURY
- HIST 0215 INTRODUCTION TO ASIA, AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST
- HIST 0276 LATIN AMERICA TO 1800
- HIST 0277 LATIN AMERICA SINCE 1800
- HIST 0282 TRADITIONAL AFRICA TO 1807
- HIST 0287 CONTEMPORARY FAR EAST
- LACS 0101 INTRO TO LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES
- LANG 0210 LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY
- LCUL 0201 WOMEN IN THE HISPANIC WORLD
- LCUL 0202 ENVISIONING THE AMERICAS
- LLIT 0210 STUDIES IN THE LITERATURE OF AFRICA
- LLIT 0220 STUDIES IN EUROPEAN CULTURES
- LLIT 0310 SEMINAR IN HISPANIC CIVILIZATION
- MGMT 0338 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
- MUSC 0104 WORLD MUSIC
- PHIL 0101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
- PHIL 0217 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND FILM
- PHIL 0211 ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
- POLS 0110 INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN STUDIES
- POLS 0211 COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY
- POLS 0221 LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
- POLS 0230 ASIAN POLITICS
- POLS 0323 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
IRAQ AND ISIS
PUBLIC SERVICE
- PSYC 0353 MINDFULNESS AND BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY
- PSYC 0363 CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCI 0200 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
- SOCI 0326 THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator.

Peace Corps *Prolonged intercultural experiences—such as studying or volunteering abroad, supporting new immigrants or refugees acculturate to the United States, or volunteering in diverse schools—would also strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy significantly.*

Tip!

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 someone in the Career Center
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at the Career Center
3. Engage in a professional interview with a Peace Corps representative or local returned Peace Corps volunteer.
4. 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. Other examples include:
 - Serving as a Peer Mentor for international students
 - Act as a Resident Assistant for a residence hall Living/Learning Community
 - Act as a program leader in a Diversity and Inclusion program
 - Act as a Peace Corps Preparatory program recruitment leader
 - Act as a Study Abroad Mentor
 - Act as an assistant for a global service-learning project
 - Serve on the Student Government Association
 - Serve as a student representative on a campus Governance committee
 - Serve on the Executive Board of a student organization or on the Planning Committee for a big campus event