

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 three core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These three competencies are the following:

1. Training and experience in a work sector
2. Intercultural competence
3. 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 plan of study worksheet with your PC Prep Advisor, where you'll 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 experience

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](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/) (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve—detailed below. **Choose one sector to focus on** then complete at least 3 courses + 50 hours of related experience in that sector.

#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.

Recommended courses:

- CSC 286. Introduction to the Global Impact of STEAM Education // CSC 486 Global Impact of STEAM Education
- PSY 205. Psychology of Learning
- PSY 250. Child and Adolescent Psychology
- EDUC 201. The Learning and Developing Child I – The Holistic Child // EDUC 202. The Learning and Developing Child II – The Holistic Child
- EDUC 220. Foundations of Education
- EDUC 256. Adolescent Health & Development
- EDUC. 311 The Learning Environment I – The Holistic Child // EDUC 313. The Learning Environment – The Holistic Child
- EDUC 315. Curriculum Planning – The Holistic Child
- EDUC 357. Psychology of Learning
- EDUC 403. Connecting, Homes, School and Community

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

- Teaching 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
- Participate in:
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in Jordan**
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in Mexico**
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in South Korea**
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in Colombia**
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in France**
 - ❖ **Mercer On Mission in Georgia**

#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.

Recommended courses:

- AFR 370. Health in Africa
- ANT 310. Medical Anthropology
- GHS 101. Nutrition (3 hours)
- GHS 200. Introduction to Global Health
- GHS 300. Global Health Challenges (3 hours)
- GHS 320. Environmental Health (3 hours)
- GHS 330. Epidemiology (3 hours)
- GHS 350. Global Health Policy and Diplomacy (3 hours)
- GHS 365. International Public Health Interventions (3 hours)
- PHI 293. Bioethics
- PSY 221. Health Psychology
- PSY 321. Health Behaviors Laboratory
- REL 352. Health and Healing Across Religions
- SOC 323. Medical Sociology
- SOC 324. Health Disparities
- WGS 345. Health and Gender
- WGS 375. Maternal and Child Health
- ECV 484. Public Health
- ECV 489. Environmental Toxicology
- ISE 468. Healthcare Process Improvement
- HETE 333. Sexual Health
- NUR 307. Care of the Older Adult
- NUR 405. Care of the Infant and Child
- NUR 408. Adult Health II
- NUR 409. Population Health Nursing
- PBH 101 Systems and Services of Public Health (3 hours)
- PBH 105 Population Health and the Environment (3 hours)
- PBH 301 Dissemination of Public Health Information (3 hours)
- PBH 305. Epidemiology
- PBH 307. Health Behavior (3 hours)
- PBH 402. Public Health Across the Life Span (3 hours)
- PBH 404. Population Health and Diversity (3 hours)
- PBH 405. Health Programming (3 hours)
- PBH 406. Community & Public Health Nutrition
- PBH 409. Climate Change & Health

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
- Participate in:
 - ❖ ***Mercer On Mission in India***
 - ❖ ***Mercer On Mission in Honduras***
 - ❖ ***Mercer On Mission in Vietnam***

#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.

Recommended courses:

- BIO 171. Introduction to Biology I // BIO 172. Introduction to Biology II
- BIO 205. Introduction to Biology for Biomedical Engineers
- BIO 370. Principles of Ecology
- BIO 381. Urban Ecosystems
- BIO 480. Conservation Biology
- CHM 111 General Chemistry I // CHM. 112 General Chemistry II
- CHM 221. Organic Chemistry I // CHM 321. Organic Chemistry II
- ENB 150. Introduction to Environmental Science
- GDS 303. Resources, Climate Change, and Development
- PHI 296. Environmental Ethics
- POL 365 Environmental Politics and Policy
- SOC 325. Urban Ecology
- SOC 360. Environmental Sociology
- ECN 452. Environmental Economics
- ECV 290. Introduction to Environmental Engineering
- ECV 310. Water and Wastewater Treatment Design
- ECV 406. Design and Analysis of Water Systems
- ECV 412. Green Engineering
- ECV 420. Solid Waste Management
- ECV 430. Bioremediation
- ECV 489. Environmental Toxicology
- PBH 105. Population Health and the Environment
- PBH 409. Climate Change & Health

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
- Participate in:
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Costa Rica***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Dominican Republic***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Kenya***

#4 AGRICULTURE



Lead grassroots efforts to fight hunger in a changing world. Agricultural Volunteers work with small-scale farmers and families to increase food security and production and adapt to climate change while promoting environmental conservation practices. They introduce farmers to techniques that prevent soil erosion, reduce the use of harmful pesticides, and replenish the soil. They work alongside farmers on integrated projects that often combine vegetable gardening, livestock management, agroforestry, and nutrition education.

Recommended courses:

- BIO 171. Introduction to Biology I // BIO 172. Introduction to Biology II
- BIO 260. Plant and Animal Physiology
- BIO 280. Genetics
- BIO 300. Invertebrate Zoology
- BIO 301. Vertebrate Zoology
- BIO 302. Plant Biology
- BIO 325 Comparative Animal Physiology
- BIO 330. Vertebrate Histology
- BIO 340. Parasitology
- BIO 370. Principles of Ecology
- BIO 440. Aquatic Biology
- BIO 450. Development
- BIO 480. Conservation Biology
- CHM 111. General Chemistry I // CHM 112. General Chemistry II
- CHM 221. Organic Chemistry I // CHM 321. Organic Chemistry II
- ENB 150. Introduction to Environmental Science
- GDS 303. Resources, Climate Change, and Development
- GDS 305. Sustainable Development
- PHI 293. Bioethics
- POL 365. Environmental Politics and Policy
- SOC 360. Environmental Sociology
- ECN 150. Principles of Microeconomics
- ECN 348. Seminar in Economic Growth
- ECN 443. Labor Economics
- ECN 452. Environmental Economics
- EGR 312. Engineering Economy

- ECV 345. Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering
- ECV 384. Engineering Hydraulics
- ECV 385. Engineering Hydrology
- ECV 489. Environmental Hydrology
- MAE 437. Internal Combustion Engines

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

- Working with a large-scale or family-run business involving vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting or care, urban forestry, landscaping, livestock care and management, or fish cultivation and production
- Teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm
- Participate in:
 - ❖ **Mercer on Mission in Mexico**

#5 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.

Recommended courses:

- COM 200. Introduction to Communication
- COM 220. Group Communication
- COM 370. Communication and Family Systems
- CRJ 362. Juvenile Delinquency
- GHS 101. Nutrition
- GHS 325. Mental Health and the World
- PHI 233. Contemporary Issues and Media
- PSY 205. Psychology of Learning
- PSY 245. Lifespan Development
- PSY 250. Child and Adolescent Psychology
- SOC 101. Introductory Sociology
- SOC 210. Social Problems
- SOC 334. Marriage and Family
- SOC 387. Communities and Crime
- WGS 375. Maternal and Child Health
- MGT 320. Event Management
- MGT 328. Leadership
- SBM 320. Facilities Management
- EDUC 201. The Learning and Developing Child I – The Holistic Child // EDUC 202. The Learning and Developing Child II – The Holistic Child
- EDUC 256. Adolescent Health and Development
- EDUC 356. Psychology & Development of the Adolescent Learner
- EDUC 357. Psychology of Learning

- EDUC 403. Connecting Homes, School, and Community
- HETE 341. Risky Behaviors
- PETE 249. Adventure and Outdoor Recreation Education
- PETE 288. Teaching Individual and Dual Sports
- PETE 289. Teaching Invasion Sports II
- NUR 316. Mental Health
- NUR 405. Care of the Infant and Child
- KIN 203. Motor Development and Learning

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
- Volunteer with Mercer's "Lights on Afterschool" program through the Center for Community Engagement
- Participate in:
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Colombia***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in France***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Georgia***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Jordan***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Mexico***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in South Korea***
 - ❖ ***Mercer on Mission in Tanzania***

#6 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.

Recommended courses:

- ANT 320. Economic Anthropology
- ANT 330. Anthropology of Development
- COM 220. Group Communication
- COM 340. Organizational Communication
- GDS 301. Poverty Alleviation Models and Practices
- GDS 306. NGOs, Aid, and Advocacy in Action
- POL 312. Politics of Developing Nations
- ACC 204. Introductory Financial Accounting
- ACC 333. Accounting Information Systems
- ACC 411. Governmental and Not-For-Profit Accounting

- ECN 150. Principles of Microeconomics
- ECN 151. Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECN 338. Public Finance
- ECN 341. International Economics
- ECN 432. Urban and Regional Economics
- ECN 445. Industrial Organization
- ECN 450. The Economic and Moral Foundations of Capitalism
- FIN 421. Corporate Risk Management
- FIN 451. International Finance
- MGT 263. Principles of Management
- MGT 315. Global Operations Management
- MGT 327. Entrepreneurship
- MGT 337. New Venture Creation
- MGT 372. International Management and Marketing
- MGT 457. Entrepreneurial Innovation in Society
- MKT 261. Principles of Marketing
- MKT 337. Social Media Marketing

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
- Participate in:
 - ❖ **Mercer on Mission in Mexico**
 - ❖ **Mercer on Mission in Rwanda**
 - ❖ **Mercer on Mission in South Africa**

***Peace
Corps
Tip!***

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.

2. Intercultural competence

3 approved courses or 1-2 courses + substantive intercultural experience

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:

For this competency, we require **that all students take three courses: one core course in Diversity and Inclusion and two relevant electives.**

Core Diversity and Inclusion Courses (you will need to take one):

- **INT 101. Understanding Self and Others (4 hours)**
- **COM 230. Intercultural Communication (3 hours)**
- **ENB 150. Introduction to Environmental Science (4 hours)**
- **GHS 200. Introduction to Global Health (3 hours)**
- **GBK 101. Understanding Self and Others (4 hours)**
- **IAF/POL 253. Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)**
- **EGR 251. Introduction to Professional Ethics (1-0-1)**
- **ECV 290. Introduction to Environmental Engineering (3-0-3)**
- **EDUC 220. Foundations of Education (3 hours)**
- **PBH 101. Systems and Services of Public Health (3 hours)**

Relevant Electives:

- Select two electives from the list of Mercer courses that meet the PC Prep Program's Intercultural Competency requirements from the course list in appendix E.
- **Optional: Intercultural experience in place of elective(s).** You may substitute one or both of your electives with an intercultural experience. Here are the guidelines:
 - **Studying or volunteering abroad**
 - **Other intercultural experiences**, such as helping new immigrants/refugees acculturate to the U.S. or volunteering in diverse schools, may also count.

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

***Peace
Corps
Tip!***

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.

3. Professional and leadership development

Resume and interview support + Leadership experience

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 Mercer’s Center for Career and Professional Development.
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** with Mercer’s Center for Career and Professional Development
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.
 - a. The following student leadership opportunities are available at Mercer:
 1. Minority Mentors
 2. Residence Life:
 - a. Senior Resident Assistants
 - b. Resident Assistants
 3. Quadworks (Student Programming Board)
 4. Student Government Association (SGA)
 5. AWARE Student Wellness Group (Mercer Peer Educators)
 6. Greek Life:
 - a. NPHC Council
 - b. Panhellenic Council
 - c. IFC Council
 - d. Individual Chapter Officers
 7. Student Judicial Education:
 - a. Chief Student Justice
 - b. Associate Chief Student Justice
 - c. Student Justices
 8. SHAPE Student Board Members
 9. Academic Leadership Opportunities
 - a. Honor Council
 - b. Mercer Service Scholars
 - c. Supplemental Instruction
 - d. Orientation Leadership Team
 - e. Peer Advisors
 - f. Mercer Ambassadors
 - g. Admission Leadership Staff

10. Athletic Leadership Opportunities

- a. Athletic Advisory Board
- b. Intramural Sports Leadership (Referees, Managers, etc.)
- c. Club Sport Officers
- d. University Center Bear Force Student Leadership