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. The three competencies are the following:

1. Training and experience in a specific 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.*** Refer to this when completing your Peace Corps 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!**

Please note the courses and descriptions included come from each university or college and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Peace Corps. This content is for educational purposes.

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 Peace Corps Prep program, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve your career well and prepare you for Peace Corps service.

For Peace Corps 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 work experience in that *same* sector**, preferably in teaching or outreach capacity.

When applying 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 (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 Peace Corps Prep experiential requirements!

There are six sectors (https://www.peacecorps.gov/ways-to-serve/our-work-sectors/ 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.

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
- Teaching English as a Second Language
- Math
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Any Physical or Biological Science

Recommended courses:

- EDUC 2020 (1) Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching
- EDUC 2625 (3) Teaching English as a Second Language
- EDUC 3013 (3) School and Society
- EDUC 3570 (3) Learning with Technology In and Out of School
- EDUC 4015 (3) International and Comparative Education
- EDUC 4023 (Varies) Differentiating Instruction in Diverse Classrooms

- EDUC 4222 (3) Language Study for Educators
- EDUC 4295 (Varies) Reading and Literacy in the Secondary Classroom
- EDUC 4351 (Varies) Differentiating Instruction in Diverse Elementary Classrooms
- EDUC 4425 (3) Introduction to Bilingual/Multicultural Education
- LING 1020 (Varies) Languages of the World
- LING 3545 (3) World Language Policies
- LING 3630 (3) Principles and Practices in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- LING 4610 (3) Pedagogical Grammar for TESOL
- LING 4620 (3) Teaching Second Language (L2) Oral Skills
- LING 4630 (3) TESOL and Second Language Acquisition: Principles and Practices
- LING 4910 (3) TESOL Practicum
- MATH 1110 (3) Mathematics for Elementary Educators 1
- MATH 1120 (3) Mathematics for Elementary Educators 2
- PSYC 4114 (3) Educational Psychology and Adolescent Development

*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
- For example, the teaching subject(s) might include English as a Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject
- Work as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Lab Assistant (LA) for a semester at CU Boulder
- Become a tutor through the Student Academic Success Center (SASC), The BOLD Student Success Center or similar departments

2. HEALTH

Serve on the front lines of global health. Health Volunteers work with clinics and healthcare providers in their communities to develop strategies to promote nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, water and sanitation, malaria prevention, and HIV/AIDS education.

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

- Nursing
- Nutrition or Dietetics
- Health Education
- Pre-Med
- Biology
- Technical Education
- Environmental or Sanitary Engineering

Recommended courses:

- ANTH 4060 (3) Nutrition and Anthropology
- COEN 2500 (1) Industry 101: Technical Career and Professional Development
- CVEN/EVEN 4434 (4) Environmental Engineering Design
- CVEN/EVEN 4969 (Varies) Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries
- GEOG 3692 (3) Intro to Global Public Health
- GEOG 4852 (3) Health and Medical Geography
- IPHY 2420 (3) Nutrition for Health and Performance
- IPHY 2500 (1) Perspectives in Health and Medicine
- IPHY 3440 (3) Clinical Nutrition
- IPHY 3490 (3) Intro to Epidemiology
- MCEN 4428 (3) Special Topics in Mechanical Engineering: Materials and Devices
- SOCY 3052 (3) Medical Sociology
- SOCY 4007 (3) Global Human Ecology
- SOCY 4052 (3) Social Inequalities in Health

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

- Volunteer or work experience in such areas as health outreach, hospice, nutrition counseling, emergency medical technician (EMT) or CPR teaching/certification, maternal health, or 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 peer health counselor
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design
- Internships through IPHY with affiliated organizations (Boulder Community Health, CU Anschutz, Children's Hospital, etc.)
- Leadership involvement with health-related student groups (i.e. Global Medical Brigades, GlobeMed, American Medical Student Association, etc.)
- Experience within relevant research projects at CU Boulder

3. ENVIRONMENT

Create a more sustainable world. Volunteers promote efforts to protect natural resources at the local level and strengthen understanding of environmental and sustainability issues.

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

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

Recommended courses:

- ANTH 1135 (Varies) Exploring Cultural Diversity: Culture and Environment
- COMM 2270 (3) Environmental Communication
- CVEN (1) Introduction to Civil and Environmental Engineering
- EBIO 1030 (3) Biology: A Human Approach 1
- EBIO 1040 (3) Biology: A Human Approach 2
- EBIO 2040 (4) Principles of Ecology
- EBIO 3010 (1-2) Teaching Biology: Wildlife Nutrition
- EBIO/ENVS 3040 (Varies) Conservation Biology
- EBIO 4070 (Varies) DNA Methods in Ecology and Biology
- ECON 3535 (3) Natural Resource Economics
- ECON 3545 (3) Environmental Economics
- ENVD 4363 (3) Special Topics: Physical Factors in Environmental Design: Conservation and Recreation
- ENVS 1001 (Varies) Introduction to Developing Environmental Solutions
- ENVS 3140 (3) Environmental Ethics
- ENVS 3173 (3) Creative Climate Communication
- ENVS 4969 (Varies) Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries
- GEOG 1972 (Varies) Environment-Society Geography
- GEOG 3511 (Varies) Introduction to Hydrology
- GEOG 3520 (3) Energy and Climate Change: An Interdisciplinary Approach
- GEOL 4215 (3) Geochronology and Thermochronology
- PHYS 3070 (3) Energy and the Environment

*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
- Work or internships at environmentally focused organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Eco-Cycle, City of Boulder Parks and Recreation, etc.
- Leadership and/or work involvement at the Environmental Center on campus
- Leadership involvement in Environmental student groups such as ENVS Club, Student to Farm Club, Take Back the Tap, etc.
- Participation on the Environmental Board of CU Student Government
- Experience within relevant research projects at CU Boulder

4. AGRICULTURE

Strengthen food security. Agriculture Volunteers work with farmers to support programs in food security, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods.

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

- Agronomy
- Horticulture
- Botany
- Entomology
- Agricultural Science
- Agribusiness
- Agricultural Economics
- Business or Economics
- Biology

Recommended courses:

- BUSM 3001 (3) Managing Innovation in Organizations
- CVEN 4969 (Varies) Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries
- EBIO/ENVS 3040 (Varies) Conservation Biology
- EBIO 4030 (3) Limnology
- EBIO 4070 (Varies) DNA Methods in Ecology and Biology
- EBIO 4140 (3) Plant Ecology
- EBIO 4155 (2) Ecosystem Ecology

- EBIO 4410 (Varies) Biometry
- EBIO 4660 (4) Insect Biology
- EMEN 3100 (3) Introduction to Engineering Management
- EMEN 4030 (3) Project Management Systems
- ENVS 1001 (Varies) Introduction to Developing Environmental Solutions
- GEOG 1001 (Varies) Environmental Systems: Climate and Vegetation
- GEOG 1972 (Varies) Environment-Society Geography
- INBU 3300 (3) International Business and Management
- IPHY 2420 (3) Nutrition for Health and Performance
- IPHY 2500 (1) Perspectives in Health and Medicine
- IPHY 3440 (3) Clinical Nutrition
- MGMT 3100 (3) Operations Management

*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
- Leadership involvement in Environmental student groups such as ENVS Club, Student to Farm Club, Take Back the Tap, etc.
- Significant experience through WWOOF (WorldWide Opportunities on Organic Farms)
- Experience landscaping within Facilities Management
- Experience within relevant research projects at CU Boulder

5. YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

Empower the next generation. Volunteers work with youth in communities to increase youth community engagement and strengthen leadership, life, and employability skills, guiding young people to realize their social, economic, and civic potential.

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

- Social Work
- Counseling

- Community Development
- Developmental Psychology
- Human Development
- Family Studies

Recommended courses:

- CESR 3040 (3) Fundamentals of Socially Responsible Leadership
- COMM 3510 (3) Family Communication
- EDUC 1500 (1) Success Strategies in Higher Education
- EDUC 2625 (3) Teaching English as a Second Language
- EDUC 3013 (3) School and Society
- EDUC 3570 (3) Learning with Technology In and Out of School
- EDUC 4015 (3) International and Comparative Education
- EDUC 4023 (Varies) Differentiating Instruction in Diverse Classrooms
- EDUC 4112/PSYC 4114 (3) Educational Psychology and Adolescent Development
- EDUC 4222 (3) Language Study for Educators
- EDUC 4295 (Varies) Reading and Literacy in the Secondary Classroom
- EDUC 4351 (Varies) Differentiating Instruction in Diverse Elementary Classrooms
- EDUC 4411 (Varies) Educational Psychology for Elementary Schools
- EDUC 4425 (3) Introduction to Bilingual/Multicultural Education
- ENVD 4361 (3) Special Topics: Social Factors Design: Community Engagement
- LING 4620 (3) Teaching Second Language (L2) Oral Skills
- SEWL 2020 (1) Civic Engagement
- THTR 4029 (Varies) Performance and Community
- WGST 3302 (3) Facilitating Peaceful Community Change

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

- Teaching or counseling in youth programs
- Activities that involve planning, organizing, assessing community needs, counseling, and leadership, in areas such as education, youth development, health, the environment, and/or business
- Experience within relevant research projects at CU Boulder
- Work at local summer camps, youth education organizations, and schools
- Work within CU Science Discovery programs
- Education outreach through campus offices like Gender and Sexuality, Women's Resource Center, Cultural, Unity and Engagement (CUE) office

6. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cultivate and grow local economic opportunities. Volunteers work to strengthen economic infrastructure through urban planning or supporting entrepreneurs and business owners.

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

- o Business or Public Administration
- o Nonprofit Management
- o Accounting, Banking or Finance
- o Computer Science and related majors
- o Graphic Design
- o Mass Communications
- o International Business

Recommended courses:

- ATLS 2000 (3) The Meaning of Information Technology
- ATLS 3173 (3) Creative Climate Communications
- ACCT 3320 (3) Cost Management
- APRD 3112 (3) International Public Relations
- BCOR 1015 (3) The World of Business
- BCOR 1025 (3) Data analysis in Business
- BCOR 2002 (3) Principles of Accounting and Finance
- BUSM 3002 (3) Business and Financial Analytics
- COMM 2600 (3) Organizational Communication
- CSCI 1000 (1) Computer Science as a Field of Work and Study
- CSCI 3312 (1-3) Human-Centered Computing Professional Development
- CSCI 4229 (3) Computer Graphics
- ECON 3403 (Varies) International Economics and Policy
- ECON 4423 (3) International Finance
- EMEN (3) Engineering and Entrepreneurship for the Developing World
- ENVD 3152 (3) Introduction to Computer Graphics Applications: Geographic Info Systems
- FNCE 2820 (3) Introduction to Personal Financial Planning
- GEEN 2400 (Varies) Engineering Projects for the Community
- GEOG 3682 (3) Geography of International Development
- INBU 3300 (3) International Business and Management
- MKTG 2150 (3) Sales Management, Leadership and Organization Development

- PHYS 3000 (3) Science and Public Policy
- PSCI 2012 (Varies) Introduction to Comparative Politics
- PSCI 3206 (3) The Environment and Public Policy
- PSCI 4012 (3) Global Development

*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
- Work with local organizations that support businesses and startups such as Boulder Chamber, Spark Boulder, The Hub, Galvanize, Boomtown, etc.
- Engagement with entrepreneurial programming on campus such as the Deming Center, CESR, Catalyze CU, Hack CU, Global Entrepreneurs in Residence, the New Venture Challenge, and the Research and Innovation Office
- Certificate in Social Innovation

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 language—produce some of the strongest candidates.

2. Intercultural Competence

Approved courses *or* a substantive intercultural experience or foreign language skills or any combination of all three

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. With this learning objective, you will deepen your cultural agility - by taking three intercultural courses that provide opportunities to learn about others while reflecting upon your own self in relation to others. The goal is for you to build your capacity to understand multiple cultures and build intercultural competence.

Intercultural Courses

Students will deepen cultural agility through **a mix of three self-reflective courses focused on global perspectives.**

You'll take at least 3 of these intercultural courses:

- ANTH 1135 (Varies) Exploring Cultural Diversity: Culture and the Environment
- ETHN 2001 (3) Foundations of Comparative Ethnic Studies: Race, Gender and Cultures
- PACS 2500 (3) Introduction to Peace, Conflict, and Security Studies
- WGST 2600 (3) Gender, Race, and Class in a Global Context
- COMM 3410 (3) Intercultural Communication
- ENES 3360 (3) Gaining a Global State of Mind for Effective Engineering Practice
- ETHN 2304 (3-4) Introduction to Social Justice
- ETHN 3314 (3) Violence Against Women and Girls
- HONR 1810 (3) Honors Diversity Seminar
- LING 2400 (Varies) Language, Gender and Sexuality
- LGBT 2000 (3) Intro to LGBT Studies
- PSCI 3193 (3) International Behavior
- PHIL 1200 (Varies) Contemporary Social Problems
- SOCY 1016 (Varies) Sex, Gender, and Society 1
- SOCY 1021 (Varies) United States Race and Ethnic Relations
- SOCY 2031 (Varies) Social Problems
- SOCY 3171 (3) Whiteness Studies
- SOCY 4007 (3) Global Human Ecology

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

Substitution Option:
A maximum of two courses can be substituted with an Intercultural Experience or Foreign Language Course/Proficiency

Intercultural Experience – Engage in an intercultural experience—including studying, volunteering and/or teaching abroad or in a different cultural context from your own in the United States (including U.S. territories).

Select from these intercultural experiences:

- Any CU Boulder approved Education Abroad program

- Recent long-term volunteering abroad experience
- Recent teaching abroad or in the U.S.
- Other significant global experience

Foreign Language Skills – Develop language skills by taking courses in a foreign language or American Sign Language. Please note that sign language or native/fluent experience with more than one language can also satisfy this requirement. All are encouraged to hone their capacity to interact professionally in more than one language.

Select from these language courses:

- Any approved CU Boulder 1000, 2000, 3000 or 4000 level language courses

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. Peace Corps Prep requires **the following activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (and other professional endeavors):

1. Have your **resume** critiqued by someone in Career Services.

2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** or participate in a mock interview at Career Services.

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.

4. Connect with a **Peace Corps Recruiter, Strategic Campus Recruiter, or Returned Peace Corps Voluntee**r about volunteer service, the application process and benefits of service. All Peace Corps Prep participants interested in applying for Peace Corps should complete this online form at Peace Corps Prep Connect to connect with Peace Corps recruiters.