PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The William Paterson 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 WP 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 experience

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. **Through the WP 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 WP 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 (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.
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]
- [TEFL/TESL]
- [Math]
- [Computer Science]
- Biology
- Chemistry, Physics or Environmental Science

Recommended courses:
- **CIED 2400 - HISTORY OF MODERN EDUCATION**
- **CIED 2120 - CHILD DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING**
- **LANG 1120 - UNDERSTANDING HUMAN LANGUAGE**
- **BIO 1200 – Human Biology**
- **MATH 1100 - CONTEMPORARY MATH**
- **CIED 2200 - GLOBALIZATION AND EDUCATION**
- **CIEE 3120 - LIT & LEARN INCLUSV CLASSRM**
- **ENG 2040 - INTRODUCTION WRITING & RHETORI**
- **ANTH 2400 Language Matters**
- **PSY 2110 Lifespan Development**
- **CIED 2050 - FOUND BILING & MULTICULTRL ED**
- **ENG 2000 Introduction to Literary Analysis**
- **CHEM1310 College Chemistry**
- **DIS 2010 Identity and Justice**
- **PSY 3540 Psych of Learning**
- **SOC 3370 Sociology of Education**

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
- [_For Civic Engagement, Internships students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

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:
- [Nursing]
- [Nutrition or Dietetics]
- [Health Education]
- [Pre-med]
- [Biology]
- [Technical Education]
- [Environmental Science

Recommended courses:
- **UCC- PHIL 1600 - ETHICAL WELL BEING**
- **UCC - PBHL 1100 - HEALTHY U**
- **UCC - PHIL 2400 - ETHICS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **UCC - PBHL 2950 - DISPARITIES IN HEALTH**
- **UCC- ENV 1100 – Environmental Sustainability**
- **ENV 4260 Pollution, Hazards, Impact & Risk**
- **UCC -ANTH 3520 - HUMAN CO-EVOL W/ PATHOGENS**
- **UCC ANTH 3710 - HEALTH AND HEALING**
- **PSY 1200 - EVIDENCE-BASED LIVING**
- **UCC- GEO 2300 - GLOBAL POPULATION ISSUES**
- **PBHL 3110 Global Health Issues**
- **PBHL 4950 Cultural Dimensions of Health**
- **PBHL 2210 Nutrition**
- **PBHL 3150 Food and Community**
- **PHIL 1310 Introduction to Philosophy and Medicine**

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 residence hall, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- For Civic Engagement and Internships, students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

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]
- [Park Administration]
- [Wildlife Biology]
- [Natural Resources or Wildlife Management]
- [Forestry]
- [Biology, Botany, or Ecology]
- [Geology]

Recommended courses:

- UCC - BIO 1300 - FIELD BIOLOGY
- BIO 1400 INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
- UCC - ENV 1100 - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- UCC - BIO 1620 - GENERAL BIOLOGY
- UCC- ANTH 3330 - ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY
- UCC - ENV 3170 - GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
- UCC - GEO 2200 - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT & HUMANS
- UCC - PHYS 3280 - GLOBAL ENERGY SCI & TECH
- BIO 1620 GENERAL BIOLOGY: EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY
- BIO 3400 ECOLOGY
- POL 3550 POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
- ENV 3500 ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY
- ENV 3600 ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY
- BIO 3650 PLANT PHYSIOLOGY
- BIO 3610 GENERAL BOTANY

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
- For Civic Engagement and Internships, students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

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.

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:
- **BIO 3610 GENERAL BOTANY**
- **[UCC - BIO 1300 - FIELD BIOLOGY**
- **UCC - ENV 1100 - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
- **UCC - BIO 1620 - GENERAL BIOLOGY**
- **[BIO 1620 GENERAL BIOLOGY: EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY**
- **BIO 3400 ECOLOGY**
- **ENV 3600 ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY**
- **BIO 3650 PLANT PHYSIOLOGY**
- **BIO 3450 CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**
- **PBHL 3150 FOOD AND COMMUNITY**
- **UCC - GEO 2200 - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT & HUMANS**
- **UCC- ANTH 3330 - ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY**
- **ECON 2300 ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT**
- **MGT 2000 PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT**
- **ECON 2020 MICROECONOMICS**

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
- For Civic Engagement and Internships, students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

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.

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

- o [Social Work]
- o [Counseling]
- o [Community Development]
- o [Developmental Psychology]
- o [Human Development]
- o [Family Studies]

Recommended courses:

- o **UCC- PSY 2520 - EVOLUTIONARY BASIS HUM BEHAV**
- o **UCC- WGS 1800 - GENDERED LIVES & SOCIETIES**
- o **UCC- ANTH 2020 - DIVERSITY & EQUITY IN SCHOOLS**
- o **UCC- AWS 2250 - RACE,GENDER & SOC JUSTICE**
- o **UCC- POL 2200 - THE GLOBAL CITIZEN**
- o **UCC- PSY 3450 - COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY**
- o **UCC- ANTH 3700 - ANTH SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**
- o **AWS 3050 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- o **SOC 2720 URBAN SOCIOLOGY**
- o **SOC 2220 PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**
- o **SOC 2030 INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN SERVICES**
- o **SOC 3700 SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY**
- o **SOC 1020 SOCIAL PROBLEMS**
- o **SOC 2310 SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY**
- o **SOC 3510 SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIALIZATION**
- o **DIS 2010 IDENTITY AND JUSTICE**
- o **ANTH 3570 KINSHIP**
- o **HIST 2540 FAMILY HISTORY**
- o **PSY 2110 LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT**

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
- For Civic Engagement and Internships, students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

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.

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:

- o **UCC- COMM 1100 - COMMUNICATION IN ACTION**
- o **UCC_ COMM 4660 - CORP SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
- o **MGT 2000 Principles of Management**
- o **UCC_ MGT 3600 - INNOV & SOCIAL ENTREPRENE**
- o *UCC-* **POL 2200 - THE GLOBAL CITIZEN**
- o **UCC- ECON 3600 - ECON GROWTH & DEV**
- o **UCC- FIN 4000 - INTERN'L FINANCIAL MGMT**
- o **UCC- MGT 3150 - HUMAN RESOURCE PLAN/DEV**
- o **UCC- COMM 4490 - PUBLIC RELATIONS WKSHOP**
- o **UCC_ MGT 3550 - VALUES,ETHICS & SUSTAINABILITY**
- o *UCC-* **COMM 4470 - STRATEGIC WRITING**
- o *UCC-* **CS 2010 - COMPUTER & INFO TECHNOLOGY**
- o *UCC-* **MGT 3050 - MGMT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
- o *UCC-* **MKT 3320 - DIGITAL MARKETING**
- o **MKT 3160 Global Marketing**
- o **MKT 2100 Principles of Marketing**
- o **MKT 3321 Social Media Marketing**
- o **RPS 3000 Global Perspectives in Sales**
- o **MGT 3090 International Management**

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

- For Civic Engagement and Internships, students will be able to find a list of related opportunities and resources on Handshake & Pioneer Life

<table>
<tr><td>**Peace Corps Tip!**</td><td>*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.*</td></tr>
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2. Foreign language skills

Requirements vary by region of interest

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 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:

You'll take at least 1 of these core introspective diversity and inclusion courses:

- UCC_ **WGS 2250** - RACE, GENDER & SOC JUSTICE
- UCC_ **PHIL 2190** - PHILOSOPHY OF JUSTICE
- [_ **ANTH 1000** - COMM & POWER: INTRO TO SJS_____]
- [_ **WGS 1800** - GENDERED LIVES & SOCIETIES_____]
- UCC-4 Diversity Justice - focusing on challenges of difference, equality and justice.

And choose 2 additional electives from the above list or these below:

- [ANTH 3100 Global transformations and human condition
- Geo1200 Human Geography
- UCC - **ANTH 1300** - ORIGIN &DIVERSITY OF HUMANKIND
- SOC 2990 Sociology of Race and Law

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  - UCC- **DIS 4090** - DISABILITY GLOBAL SOCIETY
  - HIST 4900 Race, Ethnicity and Changing City

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

Peace Corps Tip!	*Prolonged intercultural experiences completed concurrently with your undergraduate studies—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.*

4. 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 our Career Counselors through 1:1 appointment in the Career Development Center or attend Module 2 Workshop of the Career and Professional Success Badge
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** presented by Career Development Center. Students can complete Module 3 of the Career & Professional Success Badge
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. Participation in a Club or Organization through Campus Activities Service and Leadership (CASL)