



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 four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These four competencies, or "learning objectives," 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!**

General information for all students

- We recommend that you speak with the Peace Corps Prep Program Coordinator **BEFORE** you engage in any activity you intend to count towards a Peace Corps Prep requirement, including classes or extracurricular experiences. Use this guide as a starting point; however, we are interested in hearing from YOU about additional classes or experiences that would be a positive addition to this program.
- To find appropriate field experience placements, please speak with your faculty advisor, VKSU, Career Services Center, and/or the Office of Community Engagement to best utilize their resources, contacts, and connections.
- Education majors should go through the Center for Educational Placements and Partnerships. A link can be found here: <http://bagwell.kennesaw.edu/centers/cepp>
- In order to ensure verification of field experience, all field experiences should be coordinated through VKSU, which is located at the Carmichael Student Center <http://vksu.kennesaw.edu>
- There are routinely study abroad opportunities that integrate significant elements of language learning, service learning and/or community engagement, and intercultural experiences. It may be possible to use these opportunities to fulfill more than one requirement; however, you must consult with the Peace Corps Prep Program Coordinator and have it **PRE-APPROVED** if you intend to count it towards your Intercultural Competence and/or Field Experience Requirements. An update date list of study abroad experiences can be found here: http://dga.kennesaw.edu/content/education_abroad

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 identify the type of assignments in which you'd like to serve through this [interactive tool](http://www.peacecorps.gov/openings) (www.peacecorps.gov/openings), then review the positions' 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—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

***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.

#1 **EDUCATION** (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/edu_youth/assignments/)



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

- Early Childhood (ECE)
- Elementary or Secondary (EDU)
- Middle Grades Education (EDMG)
- Special Education (INED)
- English Education (ENED)
- Foreign Language Education (FLED)
- Math (MAT)
- Biology (BIOL)
- Computer Science (CS)
- Engineering (All majors in College of Engineering & Engineering Technology)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves and completing all pre-requisites and requirements for the courses in their area.

Some recommended courses include

- ASIA 4001 – Teaching English in Asia
- EDUC 2110 - Investigating Critical and Contemporary Issues in Education
- EDUC 2120 – Sociocultural Influences on Teaching and Learning
- EDUC 2130 – Exploring Teaching and Learning
- EDUC 3310 - Multicultural Perspectives in Teaching and Learning
- INED 3304 – Education of Exceptional Students
- ENED 4000 – Service Learning in English Education
- ENED 4414 - Teaching of English/Language Arts

*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, or a STEM subject.

#2 **HEALTH** (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/health/assignments/)



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 (NURS)
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- Exercise Science (ES)
- Biology (BIOL) if in Pre-Professional track like Pre-Med or Pre-Physicians Assistant
- Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality (CSH)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves and completing all pre-requisites and requirements for the courses in their area.

Some recommended courses include

- PSYC 3410 – Health Psychology
- HPE 3850 – Health Promotion and Program Planning
- HPE 3250 – Family Health and Sexuality
- HPE 4200 – Introduction to Community and Worksite Health
- PAX 3400 – Peace Ethics
- PAX 3600 – Theories of Non-violence
- PHE 4300 – Environmental Health Issues
- ANTH 3345 – Food and Culture
- SOCI 3380 – Society, Community, & 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
- Working as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor

#3 **ENVIRONMENT** (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/env/assignments/)



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 Studies (ENVS)
- Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality (CSH)
- Biology (BIOL) if focus in Botany or Ecology
- Geography (GEOG)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves and completing all pre-requisites and requirements for the courses in their area.

Some recommended courses include

- ENVS 3720 – Sustainability at KSU (cross-listed with BIOL 3720)
- ENVS 3730 – Natural Resource Management
- ENVS 3398 – Internship
- ENVS 4300 – Environmental Ethics
- GEOG 3340 - Cultural Geography
- GEOG 3700 – Introduction to Environmental Studies
- GEOG 3710 – Local & Global Sustainability
- GEOG 3800 – Climatology
- GEOG 3900 – Biogeography
- PAX 3300 – Peace and the Environment
- PAX 3500 – Theories of Peace
- POLS 4456 – International Environmental Policy

*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
 - Students interested in this concentration may be especially interested in opportunities to volunteer on the KSU Farms (Hickory Grove, Harmony Hill, and Apple Springs)
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- <http://dining.kennesawstateauxiliary.com/sustainability/farm-to-campus/>. These opportunities can be explored through VKSU <http://vksu.kennesaw.edu>

#4 **AGRICULTURE** (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/agr/assignments/)



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:

- Biology (BIOL) if focus in Botany or Ecology
- Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality (CSH)
- Geography (GEO)
- Environmental Studies (ENVS)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves and completing all pre-requisites and requirements for the courses in their area.

Some recommended courses include

- ANTH 3345 – Food and Culture
- CSH 2200 – World Cuisines and Culture
- CSH 3500 – Organic Agriculture and Beginning Apiary Studies
- ENVS 3730 – Natural Resource Management
- PAX 3300 – Peace and the Environment
- GEOG 3900 – Biogeography

*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, 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
- Students interested in this concentration may be especially interested in opportunities to volunteer on the KSU Farms (Hickory Grove, Harmony Hill, and Apple Springs) <http://dining.kennesawstateauxiliary.com/sustainability/farm-to-campus/>. These opportunities can be explored through VKSU <http://vksu.kennesaw.edu>

#5 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

(www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/youth/assignments/)



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:

- Human Services (HS)
- Psychology (PSYC)
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Gender & Women's Studies (GWST)
- Peace Studies (PAX)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves and completing all pre-requisites and requirements for the courses in their area.

Some recommended courses include

- ECE 3350 - Child Development and Early Learning
- ECE 3410 - Human Reproduction, Perinatal Development, Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- GWST 3080 - Masculinity Studies
- PSYC 3305 - Life-Span Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 3340 - Psychology of Family Interaction
- HPE 3600 - Child and Adolescent Health Issues
- HS 2233 - Overview of Human Services
- HS 2240 - Fundamentals of Nonprofit Organizations
- HS 2250 - Cultural Competence in the Human Services
- HS 2260 - Interviewing Skills for the Helping Professions
- HS4415 - Child Welfare

*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

#6 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/busdev_01/assignments/)



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:

- Business Administration (BA)
- Accounting (ACCT)
- Finance (FIN)
- Management (MGT)
- International Affairs (POLS) with International Business, Economics, & Policy concentration

Some recommended courses include

- ACCT 4600 - Governmental and Not-for Profit Accounting
- ECON 4310 - Economic Development in Global Perspective
- FIN 4420 - International Financial Management
- GEOG 3330 - Economic Geography
- GWST 3060 - Gender in the Workplace
- GWST 3070 - Gender and Social Justice
- MGT 4125 - International Entrepreneurship
- MGT 4190 - International Management
- MGT 4476 - Contemporary Global Business Practices
- POLS 4438 - Politics of International Economic Relations

*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
- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization

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 2000-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 2000-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 want to serve in a country that speaks your same language, you can skip this requirement!

Language courses at Kennesaw State are offered by the Department of Foreign Languages <http://foreignlanguages.hss.kennesaw.edu>

Please refer to their website and catalog for the most to date information and course forecasts. Language courses most frequently taught at the 2001 & 2002 levels include:

- Spanish (SPAN) 2001 & 2002
- French (FREN) 2001 & 2002
- German (GRMN) 2001 & 2002
- Italian (ITAL) 2001 & 2002
- Chinese (CHNS) 2001 & 2002
- Japanese (JPN) 2001 & 2002
- Korean (KOR) 2001 & 2002
- Portuguese (PORT) 2001 & 2002
- Russian (RUSS) 2001 & 2001

Occasionally languages are taught at the 2001 & 2002 level through the Critical Languages Program (CLP) and have included Arabic, Hindi, Turkish, & Hebrew. For more information see this link: <http://foreignlanguages.hss.kennesaw.edu/programs/clp/> and contact the Director of that program for more information.

3. Intercultural competence

3 approved

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 courses:

- PAX 1102 – Understanding to Peace and Conflict
- AMST 1102 – American Identities
- COM 1109 - Human Communication

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

- AADS 3780 - Trends in African and African Diaspora Studies
- AMST 3710 - U.S. in the World
- ANTH 3340 - Religion, Magic, and Culture
- ANTH 3345 - Food and Culture
- ASIA 3309 - Survey of Chinese Literature and Culture
- ASIA 3355 - Cultures and Capitalisms in Asia
- FL 2209 - World Languages and Cultures
- GWST 2050 - Global Perspectives on Gender
- GWST 3060 - Gender in the Workplace
- GWST 3070 - Gender and Social Justice
- GWST 3090 - Transnational Feminisms
- PAX 3100 – Peace and Religion
- PAX 3400 – Peace Ethics
- PAX 3600 – Theories of Non-violence
- PHIL 2110 – Religions of the World
- POLS 4438 - Politics of International Economic Relations
- POLS 4452 - Politics of the Pacific Rim
- POLS 4453 - Latin America: Democracy and Development
- POLS 4454 - Politics of the Middle East
- POLS 4455 - International Relations of Africa
- POLS 4457 - South Asian Politics: A Comparative Perspective
- PSYC 3355 – Cross-Cultural Psychology
- SOCI 3380 - Society, Community, & Health
- SOCI 3350 - Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender
- SOCI 3314 - Race and Ethnicity

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*
Tip! *volunteering in diverse schools—would also strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy significantly*

(Continues on next page)

- Kennesaw State offers a wide-variety of study abroad opportunities, many of which integrate a significant element of service learning and/or community engagement. A

current list of study abroad experiences can be found here:

[http://dga.kennesaw.edu/content/education abroad](http://dga.kennesaw.edu/content/education_abroad)

- There are also a large number of community-based experiences in Metro Atlanta that will help students get exposure to globally diverse populations such as volunteering with refugee resettlement agencies, teaching ESL classes, and other opportunities. VKSU is the best resource for these opportunities <http://vksu.kennesaw.edu>
- Please consult with the Peace Corps Prep Program Coordinator when considering a study abroad or field experience and have it **PRE-APPROVED** if you intend to count it towards your Intercultural Competence OR Field Experience requirements.

4. Professional and leadership development

Resume and interview support + Leadership

International development is a highly professional sector. It is difficult to break into and demands great initiative and leadership to advance professionally within the field. 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 Services Center.
 2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at The Career Services Center.
 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.
- Students should familiarize themselves with the resources from the Career Services Center <https://careerctr.kennesaw.edu>, especially those related to internships, resumes, and interviews. Students are **required** to meet with Career Services to complete their Professional Development requirements.
 - The Center for Student Leadership (CSL) offers a wide variety of opportunities for students to gain valuable leadership experiences that may fulfill Peace Corps Prep requirements, including Presidents' Emerging Global Scholars (PEGS), Domestic Leadership Exchange, and others. See their website and contact them for more details. <http://www.kennesaw.edu/csl/>

