PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The Purdue Peace Corps Prep Program will prepare you for international development fieldwork and a potential position with Peace Corps. 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. 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!**

> *Note: Peace Corps promotes leadership and partnership. In PC Prep, we want to model and support you in developing these skills beginning with the application process. If you learn of a course that is not listed in this Guide but would be a good fit for you in any competency area (e.g., an Honors topics course), please propose it in your application or request a substitution to your plan of study later. We will be in conversation with you to determine if you may use it.*

1. Training *and* experience in a specific work sector

3 courses + 50 hours related experience

There are six sectors in which Peace Corps Volunteers serves, Health, Environment, Agriculture, Youth in Development or Community Economic Development. For PC Prep, you need to complete at least **3 courses** (or 9 credits) that align with a specific work sector (they can but do not need to come from your academic major or minor). *Think carefully about which courses in your program of study make the best argument for your preparedness (choose upper level and seminar courses rather than lower level or survey courses); you will need to provide a justification for your choice of coursework.* You also must accumulate **at least 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in the _same_ sector** as your coursework, 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 your preference for _type_ of assignment by reading the sector-specific paragraphs delineating each sector's scope in the following pages and by checking out sector-specific job description links. Enjoy!*

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Assistance in tailoring your Purdue education to each sector follows.

> *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 (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.

A. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Education Sector:*

You may choose three 3-credit education or learning sciences courses taken as part of an approved teaching or learning sciences major at Purdue to fulfill this requirement.

Purdue has a wide variety of teacher education programs which can fit with most majors, including Health Sciences Education, English Education, Math Education, Physics Education, Technology Education, etc. Find out more at the website above.

Or you may choose three 3-credit teaching-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives.

If you are not majoring in Education but wish to volunteer in teaching-related placements, you are advised to complete the following courses:

Course	Purdue Core Requirement
EDCI 205: Exploring Teaching as a Career	Written Communication
EDCI 285: Multiculturalism & Education	Behavioral Social Science
One course from EDCI, EDPS, or SLHS	Check here

B. *Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for the Education Sector:*

Formal (e.g. classroom teaching) or informal instructional experience (coaching; tutoring) is the best preparation for volunteering in this sector.

Options for doing so include, but are not limited to:

- Purdue Oral English Proficiency Program (oepp@purdue.edu)
- Tutoring in a local area school or at Lafayette Urban Ministry
- Purdue chapter of College Mentors for Kids
- Selected Engineering Program in Community Service (EPICS) projects (which work with local schools)
- Purdue 4-H Association
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

#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.

A. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Health Sector:*

You may choose three 3-credit health-related courses taken as part of an approved health professions major, minor or "track" at Purdue, such as the following:

- o Nursing, Pharmacy, Pre-Med Track, Pre-Dental Track, Pre-Optometry Track
- o Nutrition Sciences, Food Sciences, Human Development & Family Sciences
- o Genetics, Health & Disease, Neurobiology & Physiology
- o Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences, Occupational Health
- o Applied Exercise, Sport Sciences, Kinesiology
- o Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
- o Environmental & Ecological Engineering, Healthcare Engineering
- o Agricultural & Biological Engineering
- o Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology minor
- o Disaster Restoration, Demolition and Reconstruction minor

Or you may choose three 3-credit health-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives.

If you are not pursuing a Health-related major but wish to volunteer in the Health sector, you are advised to select three of the following courses:

Course	Purdue Core Requirement
EDPS 306 Adolescent and Young Adult Development	Behavioral/Social Sciences
ANTH 20300: Biological Basis of Human Social Behavior	Behavioral/Social Sciences
HIST 31305 Medical Devices and Innovation	Humanities
SOC 37400 Medical Sociology (Fall 2021 and after only)	Behavioral/Social Sciences
PUBH 20200 Health in the Time of Pandemics	Science, Technology & Society
HSCI 201: Principles of Public Health Science	Science, Technology & Society
HSCI 202: Essentials of Env., Occ., & Radiological Health Sciences	Science, Technology & Society
SLHS 115: Intro to Communicative Disorders	Science, Technology & Society
BIOL 101: Fundamentals of Biology	Sciences
BIOL 1XX: Human Biology or Anatomy or Physiology	Sciences
NUTR 303: Essentials of Nutrition	Sciences

You may propose relevant core courses in HIST that are offered irregularly (e.g., History of Medicine and Public Health, History of Women and Health) and in PUBH.

B. ***Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for the Health Sector:***

The Peace Corps suggests that you prepare for volunteering in this sector by:

a) *gaining 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,*
b) *counseling or teaching in health subjects,*
c) *working as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor,*
d) *gaining significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design.*

Options for doing so at Purdue include, but are not limited to*:*

- Volunteer or work experience with such organizations as:
    - Purdue Timmy Global Health
    - Purdue Student Health Advocates
    - Mental Health America or a local hospital or senior center
    - Purdue Stadium Rescue Squad
    - Assistive Technology Global Engineering Design Teams
    - LGBTQ Center HIV/Aids Awareness Week Leader
    - Minority Health Coalition of Clinton County
- Counseling or teaching in health subjects in the Greater Lafayette school system
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

#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.

A. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Environment Sector:*

You may choose three 3-credit environment-related courses taken as part of an approved major or minor in one of the following disciplines*:

o   Environmental Engineering*
o   Civil Engineering*
o   Natural Resources Conservation
o   Wildlife Biology
o   Natural Resources or Wildlife Management
o   Forestry & Natural Resources

o   Biology, Botany, or Ecology
o   Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences
o   Applied Meteorology & Climatology
o   Environmental Health Sciences
o   Sustainable Food & Farming Systems

*The Civil & Environmental Engineering faculty particularly recommend the following courses:

- CE/EEE 350 Introduction to Environmental & Ecological Engineering
- CE/EEE 355 Engineering Environmental Sustainability
- CE 440 Urban Hydraulics or CE 542 Hydrology
- CE 443 Introduction to Environmental Fluid Mechanics
- CE 497-023 Wastewater Treatment Processes
- CE 597 or BIOL 595 or EEE 595 Water Supply in Developing Counties
- EEE 250 Environmental, Ecological and Engineering Systems
- EEE 300 Environmental & Ecological Systems Modeling

Or you may choose three 3-credit environment-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives:

Course	Purdue Core Requirement
POL 223: Intro to Environmental Policy	Behavioral Social Sciences
PHIL 290: Environmental Ethics	Humanities
HIST 394: Environmental History of the USA	Humanities
EAPS 113: Intro to Environmental Science	Science, Technology & Society
EAPS 225: Science of the Atmosphere	Science, Technology & Society
FNR 223: Intro to Environmental Policy	Science, Technology & Society
FNR 230: World Forests & Society	Science, Technology & Society

B. ***Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for the Environment Sector:***

The Peace Corps suggests that you prepare for volunteering in this sector by:
  a) *working to educate the public on environmental or conservations issues or working on environmental campaigns,*
  b) *conducting biological surveys of plants or animals,*
  c) *working in gardening, farming or nursery management, organic or low-input vegetable production or landscaping,*
  d) *providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management.*

Options for doing so at Purdue include, but are not limited to*:*

- Purdue Office of Sustainability Eco-Reps
- Purdue Ecology Club
- Purdue Student Farm
- Purdue Engineers for a Sustainable World
- Purdue Society of Environmental and Ecological Engineers
- Boiler Green Initiative
- Sierra Club chapters in Indiana or your home state
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

#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.

A.   *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Agriculture Sector:*

If you are majoring in Agriculture, Food Science, Nutrition, Forestry or Agricultural & Biological Engineering may complete their 3-course requirement within the major, choose from the following courses and (if necessary) the core curriculum electives cited below in Option B.

- Biochemistry: Any 3 courses.
- Entomology: Any 3 courses.
- Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences: Any 3 courses
- Forestry: Any 3 courses
- ABE 325: Soil & Water Resource Engineering
- ABE 490: Professional Practice in Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- AGEC 203: Introductory Microeconomics for Food and Agribusiness
- AGEC 204: Introduction to Resource Economics and Environmental Policy
- AGRY 105: Crop Production
- AGRY 120: Water and Food Security

- AGRY 255: Soil Science
- ANSC 101: Animal Agriculture
- ANSC 102: Introduction to Animal Agriculture
- BTNY 110/210: Introduction to Plant Science
- BTNY 201: Plants And Civilization
- HORT 101: Fundamentals of Horticulture
- HORT 201: Plant Propagation
- FS16100: Science of Food
- NUTR 105: Nutrition in the 21st Century
- NUTR 205: Food Science I

Or you may choose three 3-credit agriculture-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives.

Course	Purdue Core Requirement
AGEC 203: Intro to Microeconomics for Food and Agribusiness	Behavioral Social Science
AGEC 250: The Economic Geography of World Food Resources	Behavioral Social Science
PHIL 280: Ethics & Animals	Humanities
AGRY 295: World Crop Adaptation and Distribution	Science, Technology & Society
ANSC 102: Intro to Animal Science	Science, Technology & Society
ENTM 105: Insects, Friend and Foe	Sciences
HORT 101: Fundamentals of Horticulture	Sciences

B. ***Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for the Agriculture Sector:***

The Peace Corps suggests that you prepare for volunteering in this sector by
   a) *working with a family-run agribusiness involving vegetable gardening, farming, nursery work, tree planting or care, urban forestry, landscaping, livestock care and management, or fish cultivation and production,*
   b) *internships with businesses that provide practical hands-on experience in cropping or livestock production*
   c) *teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities,*
   d) *working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm.*

Options for doing so at Purdue include, but are not limited to*:*

- Purdue Ag Ambassadors
- Purdue Agribusiness Club
- Purdue Ag Week Task Force
- Purdue Student Farm CSA program
- Undergraduate Internship @ Center for Global Food Security
- Food Finders Bank of Greater Lafayette or ACE Student Food Pantry on campus
- Helping out at a "soup kitchen"
- Heifer International Club
- Purdue Forestry Club
- Helping Paws
- Purdue Extension Services Internship
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

#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.

A. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Youth in Development Sector:*

You may choose three 3-credit courses taken as part of an approved major in one of the following disciplines; ideally with a youth, community engagement &/or active citizenship focus to fulfill this requirement:

- o Agri Sci Educ & Comm
- o Anthropology
- o Women's Studies
- o Sociology
- o Human Development
- o Health & Kinesiology
- o Family Studies
- o Comparative Political Systems
- o Public Policy

Or you may choose three 3-credit youth in development-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives.

If you are not pursuing a youth in development-related major listed above but who wish to volunteer in the Youth in Development sector, you are advised to select three of the following courses:

Course	Purdue Core Requirement
POL 230: Intro to the Study of Peace	Behavioral Social Science
POL 235: Int'l Relations between Rich & Poor Nations	Behavioral Social Science
HIST 152: The Making of Modern Africa	Humanities
HIST 250: US Relations with the Middle East & North Africa	Humanities
HIST 300: Global Crises in the 20th Century	Upper-level Elective
SOC 338: Global Social Movements	Upper-level Elective
SOC 339: Intro to Sociology of Developing Nations	Upper-level Elective

B. ***Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for the Youth in Development Sector:***

The Peace Corps suggests that you prepare for volunteering in the Youth in Development sector by

   a) *teaching or counselling in at-risk youth programs,*
   b) *activities that involve leadership, planning, organizing and assessing community needs in areas such as education, youth development, health & HIV/AIDS prevention, the environment or business.*

Options for doing so in the Purdue & Central Indiana area include, but are not limited to:

- Purdue/Indiana 4-H "Children, Youth and Families at Risk" (CYFAR) Program
- Purdue chapter of College Mentors for Kids
- Purdue Timmy Global Health
- Participating with Purdue JR MANRRS at Felege Hiywot Center, Indianapolis
- Minority Health Coalition of Clinton County
- Undergraduate Internship @ Borlaug Center for Food Security
- Refugee Services Volunteer in Greater Lafayette, Indianapolis or Chicago
- Selected Engineering Program in Community Service (EPICS) projects (which work with local schools)
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

#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.

A. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Community Dev't Sector:*

You may choose three 3-credit courses focusing on entrepreneurship, communications, economic development, business & management or infrastructure, taken as part of an approved major in one of the following:

- o Any major from Krannert School of Management
- o Economics
- o Integrated Business & Engineering
- o Organizational Leadership
- o Computer & Information Technology

- o Media & Mass Communications
- o Hospitality & Tourism Management
- o Computer Science
- o Any Engineering major

Or you may choose and three 3-credit courses focusing on entrepreneurship, communications, economic development, business & management or infrastructure

B. *Fulfilling the 50-hour Field Experience Requirement for this Sector:*

The Peace Corps suggests that you prepare for the Community Economic Development sector by (a) working with businesses, organizations or cooperatives in accounting, microfinance, management, or marketing (e.g., job or internship), (b) starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity, (c) training others in computer literacy, maintenance and/or repair, (d) working in website design or online marketing, (e) founding or leading a community organization.

Options for doing so at Purdue include, but are not limited to*:*

- Food Finders Food Bank
- Society of Minority Managers
- Some Engineering Programs in Community Service (EPICS) & Global Design Team (GDT) projects
- Purdue Gold Standard
- Swipe Out Starvation
- The Anvil (Student start-up incubator)
- Alternatively, check out your School's "Beyond the Classroom" choices or Purdue's B-Involved Office.

2. World language skills

Requirements vary by region of interest

Working across cultural communities often entails verbal and nonverbal languages distinct from your own. PC Prep minimum requirements align with those expected of applicants by Peace Corps, and these vary by region. In instances where Spanish or French are official languages of a country, you may also need to learn a local indigenous language.

Note: If your first language, mother tongue, or national language is not English and you are a strong speaker of that language, you may substitute that competence for coursework on the Purdue PC Prep Planning Sheet. If you are not sure if you qualify, please be in conversation with PC Prep.

- *Latin America*: If you would like to work in a Spanish-speaking country, you must demonstrate strong intermediate proficiency by completing two 200-level courses or by showing that you have attained that proficiency level through another medium.*
- *West Africa:* If you would like to work in French-speaking African countries, you must demonstrate intermediate proficiency in French or in another Romance language (Purdue offers Spanish and Italian) by completing two 200-level courses or by showing that you have attained that proficiency level through another medium.*
- *Everywhere else:* Although Peace Corps has no explicit language requirements for most other countries, most Peace Corps positions entail learning a local language. The best way to prepare is to practice learning how to learn a language and/or learning about language and how it functions. For this reason, Purdue PC Prep requires the equivalent of two courses in any language, including ASL, and/or two courses in linguistics.

*Other ways of demonstrating language proficiency include using the results of a language placement exam you took on entering Purdue or successfully completing non-language courses taught in a relevant language during a semester study abroad program. If you have another way of demonstrating your language proficiency, please use the application process to discuss approval.

3. Intercultural competence

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 learning experiences** 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.

A. Core course in diversity and inclusion (Choose one)

One 3-credit course from the following list:

AGR 201: Communicating Across Cultures
ANTH 205: Human Cultural Diversity
ASEC 301: Building Intercultural Partnerships
EDCI 285: Multiculturalism and Education
EDPS 316: Collaborative Leadership: Cross-Cultural Settings
PSY 335: Stereotyping and Prejudice
PUBH 25000: Intercultural Development for Public Health and Human Sciences
SOC 220: Social Problems
SOC 310: Race and Ethnicity

B. Additional coursework and immersion experience.

Choose one of the following options:

Option 1: Semester Abroad
A semester abroad in a country or region where Peace Corps has a presence or where cultural norms are significantly different from in the US (e.g., eastern European countries as opposed to western European ones or Australia) and that involves community engagement (also called service learning) and/or a field research experience. You will be asked to choose two courses from your program to report on for the PC Prep Final Checklist.

Option 2: One course + Study Abroad/Away
a. One additional course from Section A. or from the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Course List, found here; OR a course with a Virtual Exchange component.
b. Successful completion of a Study Abroad or Study Away program for which you earned at least 1 credit. Ideally, your program will take place in a current or former Peace Corps country (https://www.peacecorps.gov/countries/) and will involve community engagement (also called service learning) and/or a field research experience. Ideas include Global Design Team, EPICS, VIP, and programs led by sector coordinators. You are welcome to propose a program that aligns with your goals and use the application process to discuss approval.

Option 3: Two courses + short-term (less than one month) immersion experience
   a.   Two additional courses from the list under A. above, the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Course List, found <u>here</u>, or a course with a Virtual Exchange component.
   b.   An immersion experience for which you earned no academic credits such as an alternative spring break service program or field research in an international setting, etc. You are welcome to propose an experience that aligns with your goals and to use the application process to discuss approval.

4. <u>Professional and leadership development</u>

Resume and interview support + Leadership experience

Effective partnerships for community engagement require a high degree of initiative, awareness of your own abilities and passions, and knowledge and confidence in how you operate as a leader. This ultimately entails a high degree of professionalism. PC Prep requires **five specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps or any other professional endeavor:

   A.   Have your **resume** reviewed during a Center for Career Opportunities (CCO) one-on-one resume review or at the Writing Center.
   B.   Participate in an **interview workshop** with the CCO or with your department.
   C.   Meet with a Peace Corps Recruiter (usually on campus 2-4 times/year) or a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer to learn about their experience and to discuss your interests.
   D.   Complete and record the results of this **leadership self-assessment.** In the application, you will be asked to reflect on yourself as a leader through this tool and through any other ways you have come to know yourself as a leader (e.g., with myStrengths, the BEVI, the IDI and IDP, a prior workshop or course, etc.).
   E.   Commit to at least one significant **leadership experience, on or off campus**. Ideally, this experience builds beyond anything you did during high school and links to your program of study in some way, e.g., by involving working across cultural differences or by connecting to your sector. Some excellent opportunities on campus are listed below, but we encourage you to propose your own.
   ● Boiler Gold Rush International Group Leader
   ● Study Abroad Ambassador
   ● Mortar Board or Iron Key
   ● Executive board of a student organization or a big campus event.
   ● Leading K-12 students in extra-curriculum activities including sports, environmental and climate change campaigns, civil rights, etc.
   ● Serving as Teaching and Research Assistants