



## 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 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!**

### 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](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 PC Prep experiential requirements!*

There are [six sectors](#) ([www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/](http://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 three courses from one of the following areas (consult a PCPrep advisor):**

- Computer Science (and Management Information Systems)
- Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education (Teacher Education)
- Engineering
- English or Linguistics
- Math
- Physical or Biological Sciences
- TEFL/TESL

### **Recommended Courses:**

- CUIN 3300 Educational Foundations
- CUIN 3301 Educational Psychology
- HKIN 4306 Adapted Physical Activities
- HKIN 3303 Movement Activities for Elementary Children
- HKIN 4307 Secondary Kinesiology
- ECED 3300 Introduction to Early Childhood
- ECED 3301 Health/Motor/Physical Development
- ECED 4301 Young Child/Cognitive Development
- ECED 4311 Instructional Strategies
- SPED 3300 Introduction to Exceptional Children
- ENGL 2311 Technical and Business Writing
- ENGL 2314 Advanced Composition
- ENGL 2331 Survey of World Literature
- ENGL 2334 Studies in Literature
- ENGL 3302 Creative Writing Processes
- ENGL 3304 Professional Writing for the Electronic Media
- MATH 1314 College Algebra
- MATH 1325 Calculus for Business, Life, and Social Sciences
- MATH 1316 Trigonometry
- MATH 1332 Contemporary College Algebra
- MATH 2316 Structure of Number System
- MATH 2413 Calculus I
- MATH 3300 Math in Elementary Schools
- MATH 4305 Mathematics Teaching Capstone Course
- BIOL 1308 Biology for Non-Science Major I
- BIOL 1309 Biology for Non-Science Majors II
- BIOL 2306 Healthcare in Minority Communities
- BIOL 1411 Botany
- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
- CHEM 1303 General Inorganic Chemistry

- CHEM 1306      Introductory Chemistry I
- CHEM 1311      General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1303      General Inorganic Chemistry:
- CHEM 1403      Chemistry for Engineers
- CHEM 2303      General Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 2304      General Organic Chemistry II
- CHEM 4303      Biochemistry
- COMP 1300      Digital Communication
- COMP 2300      Introduction to Web Design and Multimedia
- COMP 1315      Introduction to Computer Science:
- MISY 1305      Bus Computer Applications
- PHSC 1315      Physical Science I
- PHSC 2312      Physical Science II
- PHSC 3308      Science of Everyday
- PHYS 1301      General Physics I
- PHYS 1302      General Physics II
- PHYS 2325      University Physics I
- PHYS 2326      University Physics II

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

- ï Teaching in one of these or a similar form: in a classroom, with a community outreach organization, or in a formal tutoring capacity
  - ï The subject of the teaching may be English as a Foreign/Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject
- Examples of additional locations PVAMU students in the education sector could volunteer in the Houston region include:
  - Hempstead Independent School District - Hempstead, TX
  - Royal Independent School District - Brookshire, TX
  - Waller Independent School District - Waller, TX
  - Met's Head start – Hempstead, TX
  - Education Based Housing – Hempstead, TX
  - or a similar organization that provides education opportunities to the community.
- Be a tutor – PVAMU Tutoring Center.
- Please note: PVAMU Education Majors are required to do Student Teaching!
- Below are a few teacher organizations to volunteer and get involved with.
  - [Texas Association of Future Educators](#)
  - [International Reading Association](#)
  - [Educators Rising](#)
  - [Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators](#)
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## 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 watersanitation. 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 (consult a PCPrep advisor):**

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

**Recommended Courses:**

- AGRI 2354 Diseases and Sanitation
- FDSC 3358 Food Quality Assurance and Sanitation
- FDSC 4357 Food Processing and Engineering
- BIOL 2306 Healthcare in Minority Communities
- BIOL 1307 General Microbiology
- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
- BIOL 4201 Medical Terminology
- HKIN 1306 First Aid, Safety and CPR
- HKIN 4323 Fitness Program
- HKIN 4306 Adapted Physical Activities
- HLTH 1306 Environmental Health
- HLTH 1304 Personal Health
- HLTH 2302 Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases
- HLTH 3300 Health Education for the Elementary School
- HLTH 3304 Consumer Health
- HLTH 3301 Nutrition
- HLTH 3003 Health Education for the Elementary School
- HLTH 3305 Public and Community Health
- HUNF 1322 Nutrition and Wellness
- HUNF 2353 Intermediate Nutrition
- HUNF 2363 Food Service Systems
- HUNF 3361 Nutrition Throughout the Lifecycle
- HUNF 3365 Nutrition and Disease
- HUNF 4347 Nutrition Counseling
- HUNF 4369 Community Nutrition & Health
- HUSC 1135 Human Sciences Preparations
- HUSC 1322 Ecology of Human Nutrition and Food
- PHLT 1310 Foundation to Public Health
- PHLT 2325 Biostatistics
- PHLT 3312 Health Policy & Health Systems
- PHLT 3320 Determinants of Health and Health Disparities
- PHLT 4302 Global 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

- ï Counseling or teaching in health subjects
  - ï Working as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor.
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
- Some additional examples of places PVAMU students in the health sector could volunteer with in the Houston area include
  - PVAMU – Healthy Houston Initiatives
  - PVAMU – Owens Franklin Health Center
  - Waller County E.M.S.
- Job shadow in a health setting, hospital, etc.
- Volunteer/work for the Texas Department of Health & Human Services, local health-related non-profits, resource center such as the W.A.R.M or the Hempstead House of Help, blood drives/health screenings.
- Work at the on- campus health clinic by assisting with vital signs and health assessment as needed
- Volunteer with Vaughn Gage a Holistic Adult Day Center for Hospice patients that focuses on the total well-being of the participants and those that love them
- Work with Access health to assist with immunizations
- Health fair in the community
- Assist with feeding the homeless
- Work in food Pantry/food bank
- Work with the on-campus Panther Meal Share Program
- Please note: Nutrition Majors are required to complete an Internship!
- [RSVP Student Advocate](#)
- [Panthers Promoting Healthy Decisions \(PhDs\)](#)
- [PVAMU Women's Center](#)

### 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 (consult a PCPrep advisor):

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

**Recommended Courses:**

- AGEC 4323 Land and Resource Economics
- AGRI 2360 Environmental Soil Science
- AGRO 2361 Natural Resource Conservation Management
- AGRO 2623 Green House Management
- AGRO 3354 Soil and Water Management
- AGRO 4323 Land and Resource Economics
- AGRO 4362 Environmental Science
- BIOL 1411 Botany
- ARCH 3364 Sustainable Building
- SOCG 4143 Environmental Sociology
- CVEG 2304 Global Development Issues
- CVEG 3301 Environmental Engineering
- CVEG 4301 Environmental Engineering Design
- FDSC 3358 Food Quality Assurance and Sanitation
- PHSC 4301 Earth Science

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
- [ ]
- [ ]

Additional destinations where PVAMU students in Natural Resource and Environmental Science can volunteer:

- Volunteering with the Katy Prairie Conservancy where you can help to sustain a resilient Texas by preserving coastal prairies, wetlands, farms, and ranches to benefit people and wildlife forever.
- Waller County – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- PVAMU Co-Op Extension Services
- Volunteer/work with city/community beautification projects
- Educating the public on environmental or conservation issues, or working on environmental campaigns
  - [Center for Energy & Environmental Sustainability \(CEES\)](#)
- Conducting biological surveys of plants or animals

- [Cooperative Agricultural Research Center \(CARC\)](#)
- Gardening, farming, nursery management, organic or low-input vegetable production, or landscaping
  - [PVAMU Community Garden](#)
- Providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management
  - [The National Organization of Profession Black Natural Resource Conservation Service Employees](#)
  - [Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension Program](#)
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## 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 (consult a PCPrep advisor):**

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

### **Recommended Courses:**

- BIOL 1411 Botany
- BIOL 3403 General Microbiology
- BIOL 3406 Animal Histology
- BIOL 4401 Vertebrate Embryology
- BIOL 4402 Comparative Anatomy
- GEC 4322 Agribusiness Management
- AGEC 4323 Land and Resource Economics
- AGEG 4342 Farm Drainage
- AGEC 3321 Agricultural Policy
- AGRI 1301 Natural Resources Conservation Management
- AGRI 1319 General Animal Science
- AGRI 1330 Land Grant System and Global Food Security
- AGRI 1331 Agricultural Science and Technology
- AGRI 1341 Fundamentals of Agricultural Engineering
- AGRI 1370 Crop Science and Biology
- AGRI 2317 Fundamentals of Agricultural Economics
- AGRI 2321 Marketing Agricultural Products
- AGRI 2322 Food Distribution Systems
- AGRI 2351 Animal Production and Marketing
- AGRI 2360 Environmental Soil Science
- AGRI 2373 Principles of Crop Production
- AGRO 3362 Soil Morphology and Classification
- AGRO 3364 Soil and Water Management
- AGRO 3371 General Entomology
- AGRO 3363 Soil Fertility and Fertilizers



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
- [ ]
- [ ]

Additional examples of places students in the agriculture sector could volunteer within the Houston area:

- Volunteer on PVAMU College of Agriculture farms
- PVAMU-CAHS Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
- Waller County – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a local commercial farm.
- Participate in 4H & FFA.
- Volunteer at a community garden.
- Volunteer with agricultural associations (American Cattlemen, Quarter Horse, MANNRS etc.).
- Volunteer/work at Waller County Fair, Houston Livestock & Rodeo.
- Memorial Park Conservancy, Houston, Texas

## 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 (consult a PCPrep advisor):**

- Community Development
- Counseling
- Developmental Psychology
- Family Studies
- Human Development
- Social Work

### **Recommended Courses:**

- HDFM 2351 Childhood Disorders
- HDFM 2353 The Contemporary Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- HDFM 2355 Human Development and Life Span
- HDFM 3350 Childhood Environments
- HDFM 3351 Individual and Family Counseling Strategies
- HDFM 3352 Parenting Issues and Education
- HUNF 4347 Nutrition Counseling
- HKIN 3303 Movement Activities for Elementary Children
- PSYC 2301 General Psychology

- PSYC 2398 Child Psychology
- PSYC 2316 Psychology of Personality
- PSYC 3322 Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC 3325 Clinical Psychology
- PSYC 3332 Social Psychology
- SOCG 1306 Social Problems
- SOCG 2301 Sociology of Marriage and Family
- SOCG 2302 Black Families
- SOWK 2313 Social Work with Children and Families
- SOWK 2317 Multicultural Issues in Mental Health
- SOWK 3311 Social Welfare Policy and Services
- SOWK 3313 Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- SOWK 3321 Human and Cultural Diversity Social Work

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

- ï Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs
- ï 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

Additional places where PVAMU students in Youth & development can volunteer:

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs in places like the:
  - Boys & Girls Club of Austin County - Bellville, TX
  - Boys & Girls Country - Hockley, TX
- Work/volunteer at a summer camp, after school program, library, daycare, Special Olympics, Police Athletic League, and the YMCA/YWCA.
- [Youth Development](#)
- [PVAMU Psychology Honor Societies, Clubs & Service Orgs](#)
- [Waller ISD](#)
- [Hempstead ISD](#)
- Please Note: Social Work Majors are required to do Field Experience!

## 6. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Harness 21<sup>st</sup>-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 DEVELOPMENT, take three courses from one of the following areas (consult a PCPrep advisor):**

- Accounting, Banking or Finance
- Business or Public Administration
- Computer Science
- Graphic Design

- International Business
- Mass Communications
- Nonprofit Management

**Recommended Courses:**

- BCOM 3330 Business Communication
- COMM 1307 Introduction to Mass Communication
- COMM 1311 Introduction to Speech Communication
- COMM 2300 Media Literacy
- COMM 2355 Communication, Globalization, International Media
- COMM 3351 Communication Law & Ethics
- COMM 3366 Intercultural Communication
- COMM 3372 Digital Video Production I
- DGMA 2317 Fundamentals of Digital Imaging
- DGMA 2318 Fundamentals of Interactive Media
- ARTS 1315 Creative Thinking
- DGMA 3312 Layout I
- DGMA 3313 Layout II
- DGMA 3334 Branding
- DGMA 4317 Social Media Design
- ECON 1301 Fundamentals of Economics in a Global Society
- ECON 3331 Economic Development
- ECON 4334 International Trade
- ECON 4335 Urban Economics
- ENTR 3301 Economics for Entrepreneurs
- ENTR 3303 Social Entrepreneurship
- ACCT 2301 Principles of Accounting
- ACCT 2302 Principles of Managerial Accounting
- FINA 1307 Personal Financial Management and Planning
- FINA 2313 Financial Planning from a Global Perspective
- FINA 3301 Fundamentals of Financial Planning
- FINA 3310 Principles of Finance
- MGMT 1301 Introduction to Business
- MGMT 2301 Design Thinking
- MGMT 2320 Leadership and Ethics
- MGMT 2326 Leadership in a Global Environment
- MGMT 3333 Commercializing Innovative Ideas
- MGMT 4341 International Environment of Business
- MISY 1305 Business Computer Applications
- MISY 2301 Fundamentals of MIS with ERP
- MISY 3311 Introduction to Crisis Informatics
- MISY 3332 Networking
- POSC 2312 Public Administration

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

- ï Working with businesses, organizations, or cooperatives in accounting, finance, microfinance, management, project management, budgeting, or marketing
- ï Starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity
- ï Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, and repair
- ï Website design or online marketing

- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Additional places where PVAMU students can volunteer in the Houston area:

- Volunteering with the PVAMU Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) Program
- Volunteer with local chamber of commerce or the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Volunteer with Junior Achievement or Future Business Leaders of America
- City of Prairie View Economic Development Corporation
- City of Hempstead Economic Development Corporation
- City of Waller Economic Development Corporation
- Waller County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP)
- Volunteer through the department to:
  - Help small businesses develop a marketing plan.
  - Help a small business or a non-profit develop a business plan to help get a bank loan.
  - Volunteer with a small business develop and maintain a web page.
  - Volunteer in middle or high schools to offer seminar and workshop on financial literacy.

**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. 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!*

Students are strongly encouraged to engage in foreign language training.

Students indicating an intention to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must show intermediate-language skills either by scoring sufficiently high on the CLEP test or by completing at least two Spanish-language courses at the 2000-level or higher.

Students who intend to serve in French-speaking African countries must build proficiency in French or another Romance language. They can demonstrate such proficiency by scoring sufficiently high on the CLEP test or by completing at least two French language courses at the 2000-level or higher. Although PVAMU does not currently offer French language courses, such courses are transferable from accredited institutions of higher learning.

### 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:

**Take at least one of these core introspective diversity and inclusion courses:**

- AFAM 1301 Race, Class, and Gender in America
- HUMA 1305 Mexican-American Culture
- HUNF 3364 Food and Culture
- MUSC 2343 Survey of World Music



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

**Choose 2 additional electives from the above list or 2 from these below:**

AGRO 2361	Natural Resource Conservation Management (global perspective)
AGRI 1330	Land Gr Sys Food Security
CURR 2300	Global Influences on Teacher Education
CVEG 2304	Global Development Issues
ECON 1301	Funds Econ in Global Society
FINA 2313	Financial Planning Glob Perspective
HIST 2321	World Civics I
HIST 2322	World Civics II
MGMT 2326	Leadership in Global Environment
ECON 3331	Economic Development
POSC 2350	Global Issues

**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.* 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 the Office of Career Services.
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at the Office of Career Services.

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.