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), 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]
- [Engineering]
- [Any Physical or Biological Science]

Recommended courses:

- *EDN 200 - Teacher, School and Society*
- *EDN 203 - Psychological Foundations of Teaching*
- *EDN 301 - Instructional Design and Evaluation (requires EDN 200, 203)*
- *EDN 211 - Principles of Leadership*
- *EDN 230 - Tutoring Individuals and Small Groups*
- *EDN 265 - Culture, Advocacy and Policy for ESL Teachers or ...*
- *EDN 307 - ESL Topics for Non-ESL Teachers*
- *EDN 342 - Global Education Issues (requires a waiver for admission into Watson)*
- *EDN 350 - Comparative Education (requires a waiver for admission into Watson)*

*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
- tutor in UNCW's Intensive English Language Program
- Cape Fear Literacy Council
- Lumina Academy
- DREAMS Center for Arts Education
- Smart Start of New Hanover County

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
- Biology

o   Environmental Science or Environmental Engineering

Recommended courses:

- *PBH 234 - Introduction to Health Promotion & Education*
- *PBH 290 - Introduction to Public Health*
- *PBH 320 - Global Health*
- *PBH 405 - Environmental Health*
- *PBH 452 - Epidemiology*
- *HEA 205 - Reproduction and Sexuality*
- *HEA 207 - Nutrition & Behavior*
- *HEA 201 - Substance Abuse Prevention*
- *HEA 270 - Mental & Emotional Health*
- *EVS 195+EVSL 195-Intro. To Environmental Studies OR EVS 205-Global Environmental Issues*
- *EVS 281 - Introduction to GIS*
- *EVS 430 - Tropical Ecology*
- *EVS 485 - Food and the Environment*
- *EVS 485 - Advanced Environmental Field Techniques*
- *EVS 485 - Terrestrial Wildlife Field Methods*

*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
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design
- American Red Cross: Cape Fear Chapter
- Alzheimer's North Carolina, Inc.
- ASAP: Autism Support and Programs
- Cape Fear Clinic, Inc.
- Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCenter
- WHAT: Wilmington Health Access for Teens
- New Hanover Regional Medical 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:

- o Environmental Studies or related field
- o Recreation, Sport Leadership & Tourism Management
- o Biology and Marine Biology
- o Biology, Botany, or Ecology
- o Geology

Recommended courses:

- *EVS 195+EVSL 195-Intro. To Environmental Studies OR EVS 205-Global Environmental Issues*
- *EVS 281 - Introduction to GIS*
- *EVS 430 - Tropical Ecology*
- *EVS 485 - Food and the Environment*
- *EVS 485 - Advanced Environmental Field Techniques*
- *EVS 485 - Terrestrial Wildlife Field Methods*

*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
- Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity
- Cape Fear Volunteer Center
- North Carolina Missions of Mercy
- Work On Wilmington
- International Service Learning

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:

- o Biology & Marine Biology
- o Environmental Studies
- o Business or economics

Recommended courses:

- EVS 195+EVSL 195-Intro. To Environmental Studies OR EVS 205-Global Environmental Issues
- EVS 281 - Introduction to GIS
- EVS 430 - Tropical Ecology

- EVS 485 - Food and the Environment
- EVS 485 - Advanced Environmental Field Techniques
- EVS 485 - Terrestrial Wildlife Field Methods

*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
- Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity
- Cape Fear Volunteer Center
- Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina
- Full Belly Project
- Good Shephard Center

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:

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

Recommended courses:
- SWK 235 - Introduction to Social Work and the Social Welfare System
- SWK 240 - Basic Working Relationship Skills
- SWKL 240 - Working Relationship Lab
- SWK 320 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
- SWK 321 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
- SWK 335 - Social Welfare Policies
- SWK 341 - Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
- SWK 355 - Issues in Diversity for Generalist Practice
- SWK 396 - Pre-Field Seminar
- SWK 406 - Research Methods for Social Work Practice I
- SWK 407 - Statistics and Research Methods for Social Work Practice
- SWK 442 - Generalist Social Work Practice with Groups
- SWK 443 - Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations
- PSY 220, 221, 223 – Developmental Psychology

*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
- American Red Cross: Cape Fear Chapter
- Amigos International, Wilmington, NC
- Brigade Boys and Girls Club
- Cape Fear Clinic, Inc.
- Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity
- Cape Fear Volunteer Center
- Carousel Center for Abused Children, Wilmington, NC
- Community Boys and Girls Club of Wilmington
- Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina
- North Carolina Missions of Mercy

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:

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

Recommended courses:

- INB 300 - International Business
- INB 352 - International Management
- INB 377 - International Operations Management
- INB 426 - International Trade and Finance
- INB 439 - Multinational Financial Management
- INB 422 - International Marketing

*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
- Amigos International, Wilmington, NC

- Cape Fear Volunteer Center
- International Service Learning

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!

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 courses:

- ANT 205 (SOC 205): Human Societies
- ANT 206: Cultural Anthropology
- ANT 208: Language and Culture
- ANT 327: Globalization and Cultural Change
- BLA 371: International Business Law

- COM 344: Intercultural Communication
- INT 480: Global Issues
- INT 481: Topics in Globalization

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

- INT 495: Seminar in International Studies
- PLS 111: Politics and Government in Global Perspective
- PLS 218: Ethics in International Affairs
- PLS 220: Introduction to International Relations

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—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 someone in the UNCW Career Center.
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at the UNCW Career 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.

STUDENT APPLICATION

Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Major(s): _____ Minors(s): _____

Expected Graduation (month and year): _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

1. Training and experience in a specific work sector

Please check the box of the sector in which you would like to serve:

    ❑ Education   ❑ Environment   ❑ Youth in Development

    ❑ Health   ❑ Agriculture   ❑ Community Economic Development

Note: Actual Peace Corps assignments are based on local needs, and thus may or may not align seamlessly with your qualifications. Flexibility is key to the Peace Corps experience!

(1) Coursework. List the number and name of 3 courses in this same sector that you plan to take, and the semester in which you plan to take them (it is fine if you've already taken them).
Note: The courses you include on this application may change, but it's good to have a plan.

  1. Course: _____ Semester and year: _____

  2. Course: _____ Semester and year: _____

  3. Course: _____ Semester and year: _____

(2) Hands-on experience in that <u>same sector</u> (must total at least 50 hours). Describe what you plan to do:

2. Foreign language skills

Requirements depend upon desired Peace Corps volunteer placement site. (1) Latin America/ *Spanish-speaking countries*→ two 200-level courses. (2) West Africa/ *French-speaking countries*→

one 200-level course in any Romance Language. (3) *Everywhere else*→ no explicit requirements, but language skills are a plus.

If you intend to learn a foreign language, please list which one: _____

List the top 2 foreign language courses you plan to take:

Course 1: _____ Semester and year: _____

Course 2: _____ Semester and year: _____

Or describe your alternative learning process (e.g., native speaker):

3. Intercultural competence

List the core course and two approved electives you plan to take:

Core course: _____ Semester and year: _____

Elective 1: _____ Semester and year: _____

Elective 2: _____ Semester and year: _____

4. Professional and leadership development

1. **Professional resume feedback:** When do you plan to meet with [Career Services] for a one-on-one resume review?   Month and year: _____
2. **Professional interview prep:** When do you plan to meet with [Career Services] for an interview workshop?   Month and year: _____
3. **Describe a leadership experience that you intend to pursue:**
    For example, leading a work or volunteer project, serving on the executive board of a student organization, or organizing a big campus event.

_____   _____
Signature of Student   Date

_____   _____
Signature of Peace Corps Prep Coordinator   Date

EXIT CHECKLIST

Below are the Peace Corps Prep certification requirements. If you apply to Peace Corps, please *scan and attach this signed form to your application with the name "PC Prep Checklist."* If you apply to Peace Corps before completing a requirement below, write: "[Activity]: planned [month/year]."

1. Training and experience in a specific work sector

Please check the box of the sector in which you have prepared yourself to serve:

❑ Education   ❑ Environment   ❑ Youth in Development

❑ Health   ❑ Agriculture   ❑ Community Economic Development

(1) Coursework. List the 3 highest approved sector-aligned course #s and titles you took:

1._____   3. _____

2. _____

(2) Hands-on experience in that <u>same sector</u>. Total Hours (must be at least 50)**: _____**

   Description of experience:

2. Foreign language skills

Requirements depend upon desired Peace Corps volunteer placement site. (1) *Spanish-speaking countries*→ two 200-level courses. (2) *French-speaking countries*→ one 200-level courses in any Romance Language. (3) *Everywhere else*→ no explicit requirements, but language skills are a plus.

Language: _____   **List your 2 highest level course #s and titles:**

1. _____   2. _____

Or describe your alternative learning process (e.g., native speaker):

3. Intercultural competence

List your 3 approved courses/experiences that bolstered your intercultural competence:

1. _____   3. _____

2. _____

4. Professional and leadership development

1. **Professional resume feedback:** ❑ Yes ❑ No   Date: Where:

2. **Professional interview prep:** ❑ Yes ❑ No   Date: Where:

3. **Demonstrated leadership experiences** (i.e., student orgs, work, volunteer, etc.) **Describe:**

_____   _____   _____   _____
Signature of Student   Date   Signature of PC Prep Coordinator   Date

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

With your approval, the University of North Carolina Wilmington Peace Corps Preparatory (PC Prep) program will release information on a regular basis to the Peace Corps, including details about the participants in this program and other relevant data that help the Peace Corps evaluate the effectiveness of PC Prep. These educational records are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student's educational records. This Act prohibits college officials from disclosing any records, including grade reports, academic standings, transcripts of records, or any other records, which contain information directly related to the student and from which the student can be individually identified without the student's consent. Consistent with FERPA guidelines, University of North Carolina Wilmington will not release records related to your performance in the PC Prep program, other than those enumerated in this disclosure agreement.

I hereby permit University of North Carolina Wilmington to disclose personally identifiable information to Peace Corps regarding my participation in the PC Prep program for the purposes of evaluating PC Prep. This information will be limited to my name, date of admission to PC Prep, the coursework and other activities I pursued to satisfy PC Prep requirements, date of graduation, and whether I successfully completed the PC Prep upon graduation. If I do not ultimately enter the Peace Corps, University of North Carolina Wilmington may report post-graduation career information to the extent that University of North Carolina Wilmington has that information.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature_____

Date_____