



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 three core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. The three competencies are the following:

1. Training and experience in a specific work sector
2. Intercultural competence
3. 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.*** Refer to this when completing your Peace Corps 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!**

Please note the courses and descriptions included come from each university or college and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Peace Corps. This content is for educational purposes.

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 Peace Corps Prep program, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve your career well and prepare you for Peace Corps service.

For Peace Corps 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 work experience in that same sector**, preferably in teaching or outreach capacity.

Peace Corps Tip!

When applying 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](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/volunteer-openings) in which you'd like to serve (<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 Peace Corps Prep experiential requirements!

There are [six sectors](https://www.peacecorps.gov/ways-to-serve/our-work-sectors/) (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/ways-to-serve/our-work-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!

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 (3) courses from the following areas:

- [Elementary, Secondary or Special Education]
- [Teaching English as a Second Language]
- [Engineering]
- [English or Linguistics]
- [Math]
- [Any Physical or Biological Science]
- [Computer Science]

Recommended courses:

- [EDST 1001 Introduction to Teaching]
- [ENGL 2514 Writing Workshop: Research and Analysis (3 Credits)]
- [CSAS 1015 Foundations of Computer Science (3 Credits)]
- [CSAS 4117 Software Engineering (3 Credits)]
- [PHYS 1007 Intro to Astronomy (3 Credits)]
- [BIOL 1101 Introduction to Biology (3 Credits)]

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
 - For example, the teaching subject(s) might include English as a Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject
 - [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]

- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

2. HEALTH



Serve on the front lines of global health. Health Volunteers work with clinics and healthcare providers in their communities to develop strategies to promote nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, water and sanitation, malaria prevention, and HIV/AIDS education.

If you choose Health, take three (3) courses from the following areas:

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| ○ [Nursing] | ○ [Pre-med] | ○ [Environmental or |
| ○ [Nutrition or Dietetics] | ○ [Biology] | Sanitary Engineering] |
| ○ [Health Education] | ○ [Technical Education] | |

Recommended courses:

- [BIOL 1101 Introduction to Biology (3 Credits)]
- [BIOL 1104 Biology in the World Around Us (4 Credits)]
- [BIOL 2221 Genetics (3 Credits)]
- [IPHS 2510 Introduction to Health Sciences and Health Careers (3 Credits)]
- [IPES 4645 Nutrition Across the Lifespan for Healthcare Professionals (3 Credits)]
- [DIPL 4277 Global Health, Bioterrorism, and International Security]

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

- Volunteer or work experience in such areas as health outreach, hospice, nutrition counseling, emergency medical technician (EMT) or CPR teaching/certification, maternal health, or 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 peer health counselor
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design
- [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]
- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

3. ENVIRONMENT



Create a more sustainable world. Volunteers promote efforts to protect natural resources at the local level and strengthen understanding of environmental and sustainability issues.

If you choose Environment, take three (3) courses from one of the following areas:

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| ○ [Environmental Science or related field] | ○ [Park Administration] | ○ [Forestry] |
| ○ [Natural Resources Conservation] | ○ [Wildlife Biology] | ○ [Biology, Botany, or Ecology] |
| | ○ [Natural Resources or Wildlife Management] | ○ [Geology] |

Recommended courses:

- [BIOL 3341 Environmental Toxicology (3 Credits)]
- [BIOL 2122 Introduction to Ecology (4 Credits)]
- [SOCI 2311 Population, Ecology, and the Environment (3 Credits)]
- [ANTH 3230 Climate Change & Society (3 Credits)]
- [ANTH 3240 Cultures of Sustainability (3 Credits)]
- [ENVL 1019 Introduction to Geology (3 Credits)]
- [DIPL 3201 Sustainable Development]

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

- Educating the public on environmental or conservation issues
- 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
- [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]
- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

4. AGRICULTURE



Strengthen food security. Agriculture Volunteers work with farmers to support programs in food security, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods.

If you choose Agriculture, take three (3) courses from the following areas:

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| ○ [Agronomy] | ○ [Entomology] | ○ [Agricultural Economics] |
| ○ [Horticulture] | ○ [Agricultural Science] | ○ [Business or Economics] |
| ○ [Botany] | ○ [Agribusiness] | ○ [Biology] |

Recommended courses:

- BIOL 2122 Introduction to Ecology (4 Credits)]
- [BIOL 1104 Biology in the World Around Us (4 Credits)]

- [BIOL 1211 General Biology- Organisms (3 Credits)]

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, fish cultivation and production, or related areas
- Teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm
- [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]
- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

5. YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT



Empower the next generation. Volunteers work with youth in communities to increase youth community engagement and strengthen leadership, life, and employability skills, guiding young people to realize their social, economic, and civic potential.

If you choose Youth in Development, take three (3) courses from the following areas:

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| ○ [Social Work] | ○ [Developmental Psychology] |
| ○ [Counseling] | |
| ○ [Community Development] | ○ [Human Development] |
| | ○ [Family Studies] |

Recommended courses:

- [SOWK 1111 Introduction to Social Work (3 Credits)]
- [PSYC 1216 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3 Credits)]
- [PSYC 1216 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3 Credits)]
- [SOCI 1101 Introduction to Sociology (3 Credits)]
- [SOCI 2701 Social Change (3 Credits)]
- [PSYC 2212 Developmental Psychology (3 Credits)]
- [SOWK 1335 Family Violence (3 Credits)]

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

- Teaching or counseling in youth programs
- Activities that involve planning, organizing, assessing community needs, counseling, and leadership, in areas such as education, youth development, health, the environment, and/or business
- [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]
- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

6. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Cultivate and grow local economic opportunities. Volunteers work to strengthen economic infrastructure through urban planning or supporting entrepreneurs and business owners.

If you choose Community Economic Development, take three (3) courses from the following areas:

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

Recommended courses:

- [BACC 2104 Managerial Accounting (3 Credits)]
- [BMGT 2501 Principles of Management (3 Credits)]
- [BMGT 2503 Organizational Behavior (3 Credits)]
- [PSYC 1216 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3 Credits)]
- [BFIN 3211 Financial Strategy (3 Credits)]

*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, marketing, or related areas
- Starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity
- Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, or repair
- Website design or online marketing
- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization
- [Every course has an internship/ field requirement to fulfill field experience.]
- [Teaching assistant opportunities are available depending on the course/ professor/ department.]

**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 language—produce some of the strongest candidates.

2. Intercultural Competence

Approved courses or a substantive intercultural experience or foreign language skills or any combination of all three

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. With this learning objective, you will deepen your cultural agility - by taking three intercultural courses that provide opportunities to learn about others while reflecting upon your own self in relation to others. The goal is for you to build your capacity to understand multiple cultures and build intercultural competence.

Intercultural Courses

Students will deepen cultural agility through **a mix of three self-reflective courses focused on global perspectives.**

You'll take at least three (3) of these intercultural courses:

- [DIPL 4115 Cross Cultural Negotiation and Conflict Management (3 Credits)]
- [DIPL 4185 Foreign Policy of Post-Soviet States]
- [DIPL 4193 Eastern European and Post-Soviet Politics]
- [DIPL 4803 Politics and Society in Latin America and the Caribbean]
- [DIPL 2101 Ethnopolitical Landscapes]
- [DIPL 3850 Church, State and Politics in Latin America]
- [DIPL 4717 Africa Displacement and Conflict]
- [DIPL 4601 Chinese Politics and US China Relations]
- [DIPL 4611 International Relations in SouthEast Asia]
- [DIPL 4700 International Relations of African States]

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

Substitution Option:

A maximum of two courses can be substituted with an Intercultural Experience or Foreign Language Course/Proficiency

Intercultural Experience – Engage in an intercultural experience—including studying, volunteering and/or teaching abroad or in a different cultural context from your own in the United States (including U.S. territories). Each distinct intercultural experience lasting at least 40 hours may substitute for one course. Experiences that last a full semester may substitute for two courses.

Seton Hall University offers rich opportunities for students to gain prolonged intercultural experiences, enhancing their intercultural Peace Corps candidacy. Ranked among the top three colleges in New Jersey for the number and variety of faculty-led study abroad

programs each year, Seton Hall allows students to immerse themselves in diverse cultural settings and gain firsthand insights into global communities. Overseas volunteer opportunities with the Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) in countries such as El Salvador and Honduras provide another opportunity enabling students to support underserved populations, fostering cross-cultural understanding and service-oriented leadership. Locally, DOVE also provides chances to work with new immigrants and refugees, aiding in their acculturation and integration into U.S. society. Additionally, students can volunteer in diverse schools, gaining invaluable experience in education and community engagement that aligns with Peace Corps goals.

Select from these intercultural experiences:

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| • [Rome Connection (CORE 2101: Christianity and Culture in Dialogue)] | : Engagement in the Catholic Intellectual Traditions: Internship in Catholic Studies and Healthcare]] |
| • [Doing Business in India (BINT 3810: Global Business)] | • [State Building in Sierra Leone (POLS 2690: Topics in Comparative Politics, SOCI 2012: Special Topics in Society, or ANTH 3308: Special Topics in Anthropology)] |
| • [Ancient Adventures in Greece (ARCH 1112: Archaeology of Greece)] | |
| • [Faith and Healthcare in Mexico (CORE3911/CAST3891/NUTH3891 | |

Foreign Language Skills – Develop language skills by taking courses in a foreign language or American Sign Language. Please note that sign language or native/fluent experience with more than one language can also satisfy this requirement. All are encouraged to hone their capacity to interact professionally in more than one language.

Seton Hall offers four years (or more) of instruction in the following foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. Four of these languages (Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Japanese) are on the State Department list of Critical Languages. We also have area studies majors and/or minors that complement many of these language offerings. Some examples of our language and area studies courses include:

Select from these language courses:

- JAPN 1215 Intro to Jap Healthcr Prof I (3 Credits) _____]
- [LALS 1002 Intro to Latino-Latina Studies (3 Credits) _]
- [ITAL 3322 Sp Top - Ital Civ. (3 Credits) _]
- [SPAN 3319 Iss in Latin Amer Pop Culture (3 Credits) _]
- [CHIN 3217 Business Chinese-Culture I (3 Credits)]

- [JAPN 3216 Japanese fr Dipl & Intl Rltn II (3 Credits)]
- [FREN 3321 Sp Top - Food Culture in Franc (3 Credits)]
- [SPAN 3322 ST: City&Country Span Lit&Film (3 Credits)]

3. Professional and Leadership Development

Resume and interview support + leadership experience

Peace Corps service and similar international development work opportunities are highly professional and selective. Peace Corps Prep requires **the following activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (and other professional endeavors):

1. Have your **resume** critiqued by someone in Seton Hall's Career Center.
 - a. All students have access to the Career Center and their software offered, as well as the advisors for one-on-one coaching. Software offered by The Career Center includes:
 - i. VMOCK – software in which students can upload and/or create a resume, which can be reviewed by AI software for initial feedback. This includes suggestions such as formatting and verbiage. These reviews will then inspire conversation between a Career Center Director or Advisor to review more specific information and help a student gain perspective on the various suggestions by both the tool and the Career Center staff.
2. Attend a workshop or class on interview skills or participate in a mock interview at Seton Hall's Career Center.
 - a. The Career Center offers various workshops, including resume writing and mock interviewing. All of these workshops are open to all students, including those in the Peace Corps Prep Program, and attendance in these sections should be tracked and
 - b. The Career Center also provides two pieces of software, which students in the Peace Corps Prep Program have access to: Big Interview and Virtual Speech. Both pieces of software allow students to do a virtual mock interview, which is then recorded, and students can then see AI feedback from their interview. As with the resume software, these recorded interviews can then be discussed with Career Center staff for additional feedback.
3. Develop at least one significant **leadership experience** and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully. For example, organizing a campus or community event, leading a work or volunteer project, or serving on the executive board of a student organization.

- a. Seton Hall University has more than 100 organizations students can take leadership roles in, including the University newspaper, *The Setonian*, and the University's Student Government Association. Students can also organize and execute events through those various organizations, as well as through Greek Life and the Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE). The University also offers the Buccino Leadership Institute, assisting students in developing leadership skills for their success both during and after their time here at Seton Hall University.
4. Connect with a **Peace Corps Recruiter, Strategic Campus Recruiter, or Returned Peace Corps Volunteer** about volunteer service, the application process and benefits of service. All Peace Corps Prep participants interested in applying for Peace Corps should complete this online form at [Peace Corps Prep Connect](#) to connect with Peace Corps recruiters.