



PEACE CORPS PREP CORE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Peace Corps Prep programs aim to prepare students for intercultural fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. Here are four core learning objectives that serve this end. The Peace Corps asks partner institutions to create a streamlined path for their students to build them.

1. Training and experience in a specific work sector

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Students should take at least **three courses** that build their capacity to work in one of the following sectors. Additionally, they should accumulate **a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that same sector**, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Learn more about Peace Corps' six sectors [here](#), and browse current volunteer openings (and their required qualifications) [here](#).

- Education
- Environment
- Youth in Development
- Health
- Agriculture
- Community Economic Development

2. Foreign language skills

Students should hone their capacity to interact professionally using a foreign language—the stronger the better. PC Prep 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, but they should still be encouraged to study a foreign language.

3. Intercultural competence

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. Students should deepen their cultural agility through **a mix of three introspective courses** in which they learn about others while reflecting upon their own selves in relation to others. The goal is to build the capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences. Some example courses:

- Any Diversity & Inclusion course
- African/Asian/Black/Latin or Native American Studies
- Gender, LGBTQ, or Disability Studies
- Intercultural Communication

Note: Prolonged intercultural experiences—such as studying/volunteering abroad, supporting new Americans/immigrants in the local community, or teaching in diverse schools—also strengthen a candidacy significantly and may be written into program structures in addition to or in place of up to two of these courses.

4. Professional and leadership development

Peace Corps service and similar international development work opportunities are highly professional and selective. Students will benefit from these three activities:

1. Having their **resume** critiqued by someone in Career Services
2. Attending a workshop or class on **interview skills**
3. Developing at least one significant **leadership experience** and preparing to discuss it thoughtfully (i.e., organizing an event, serving on an executive board, or leading a project)