# PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The Purdue 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, or "learning objectives," 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**

There are six sectors in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve: Education, 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). 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 identify the* type *of assignment in which you'd like to serve by reading the sector-specific paragraphs delineating each sector's scope in the next few pages, and checking out sector-specific job description links. Enjoy!*

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Further assistance in how to tailor your Purdue education to each sector (in terms of both coursework and related experience) 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.

Education Sector Coordinator:
Dr. Jill Newton (RPCV New Guinea)
Mathematics Education, College of Education

## I. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Education Sector:*

**Option A***: Three 3-credit education or learning sciences courses taken as part of an* [approved teaching or learning sciences major](#) *at Purdue:*

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.

**Option B***: Three 3-credit teaching-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives:*

Students who are not majoring in Education but who wish to volunteer in teaching-related placements are advised to select three of the following courses.

| Course | Purdue Core Requirement |
|---|---|
| EDCI 205: Exploring Teaching as a Career | Written Communication |
| EDCI 270: Into to Educational Technology | Information Literacy |
| EDCI 285: Multiculturalism & Education | Behavioral Social Science |
| EDPS 220: Psychology of Learning | Behavioral Social Science |
| EDPS 235: Learning and Motivation | Behavioral Social Science |
| EDPS 260: Intro to Special Education | Behavioral Social Science |
| SLHS115: Intro to Communication Disorders | Science, Technology & Society |
| SLHS 309: Language Development | Science, Technology & Society |

## II. *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:

- Purdue Oral English Proficiency Program ([oepp@purdue.edu](mailto:oepp@purdue.edu))
- Tutoring in a local area school (http://www.teach.purdue.edu/resources/Schools.html)
- 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.

Health Sector Coordinator:
Dr. Vicki L. Simpson
Director of Undergraduate Nursing
College of Nursing

## I. _Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Health Sector:_

_**Option A**: 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

_**Option B**: Three 3-credit health-related Purdue Core Curriculum electives:_

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

| Course | Purdue Core Requirement |
|---|---|
| EDPS 306 Adolescent and Young Adult Development | Behavioral Social Science |
| PHIL 270: Biomedical Ethics | Humanities |
| HSCI 201: Principles of Public Health Science | Science, Technology & Society |
| HSCI 202: Essentials of Environmental, Occupational, & 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 |

_Health Sector Student Guide continues on next page_

**II.** *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***:*

- 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.

Environment Sector Coordinator
Dr. Ernest R. Blatchley, III
Civil & Environmental/Ecological Engineering

## I. _Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Environment Sector:_

**Option A:** _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 Water Supply in Developing Counties
- • EEE 250 Environmental, Ecological and Engineering Systems
- • EEE 300 Environmental & Ecological Systems Modeling

**Option B**: _Three of the following 3-credit Purdue Core Curriculum electives:_

| Course | Purdue Core Requirement |
|---|---|
| POL 222: 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 |

**II.** *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:*

- 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.

Agriculture Sector Coordinator
Gary Burniske, Managing Director
Purdue Center for Global Food Security
(RPCV Guatemala and Costa Rica)

## I. *Fulfilling the Coursework Requirement for the Agriculture Sector:*

**Option A**: *Students majoring in Agriculture, Food Science, Nutrition, Forestry or Agricultural & Biological Engineering may complete their 3-course requirement within the major, choosing 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

**Option B**: *Three of the following 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 |

*Agriculture Sector Student Guide continues on next page*

**II.** ***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 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,*
  b) *teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities,*
  c) *working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm.*

***Options for doing so at Purdue include:***

- Purdue Ag Ambassadors
- Purdue Agribusiness Club
- Purdue Ag Week Task Force
- Purdue Student Farm CSA program
- Undergraduate Internship @ Borlaug Center for Food Security
- Food Finders Bank of Greater Lafayette or a similar "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.

Youth in Development Coordinator
Dr. Mark Russell
Youth Development & Agricultural Education
College of Agriculture

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

**Option A:** *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:*

o  Youth  Dev't & Agricultural Ed
o  Anthropology
o  Women's Studies

o  Sociology
o  Human Development
o  Health & Kinesiology

o  Family Studies
o  Comparative Political Systems
o  Public Policy

*Option B: Three 3-credit Youth in Development--related Purdue Core Curriculum electives:*

Students who are not pursuing a youth in development-related major listed above but who wish to volunteer in the Youth in Development sector are advised to take **PSY 358 (required)** plus any two of  the following courses:

| Course | Purdue Core Requirement |
|---|---|
| **PSY 368: Children's Dev't In Cross-Cultural Perspective (Req**) | Behavioral Social  Science |
| POL 230: Intro to the Study of Peace | Behavioral Social  Science |
| POL 235: Int'l Relations btwn 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 |

*Youth in Development Sector Student Guide continues on next page*

**II.** *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:*

- Purdue/Indiana  4-H "Children, Youth and Families at Risk" (**CYFAR**) Program
- Purdue chapter of **College Mentors for Kids**
- Purdue **Timmy Global Health**
- 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.

Community Economic Development Coordinator
Dr. David Ayres, Associate Dean
International Programs Office

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

**Option A:** *Three 3-credit courses focusing on communications, economic development, business & management or infrastructure, taken as part of an approved major in one of the following:*

o Economics
o Business or Organizational Leadership
o Accounting and Finance
o Tourism Management

o Computer Sciences
o Graphic or Visual Communication Design
o Mass Communications
o Construction Management

o Engineering (particularly Civil and Mechanical)
o Technology Education

**Option B**: *Three 3-credit courses taken as all or part of one of the following:*

- Entrepreneurship & Innovation Certificate
- Minor in Organizational Leadership & Supervision
- Minor in Product Life-Cycle Management
- Minor in Management

- Minor in Economics
- Minor in Communication
- Minor in Food & Agribusiness Management
- Minor in Farm Management

### II. *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, (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 include:*

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

## 2. Foreign language skills

> **Requirements vary by location -- see below**

Working across cultures often entails verbal and nonverbal languages distinct from your own. Building foreign language skills is thus a second key component of the PC Prep curriculum. *Where would you like to serve?* PC Prep minimum course requirements align with those needed by applicants to the Peace Corps itself, which vary by linguistic region. *Note: If you are a strong native speaker* of a foreign language already, please make a note of it as an "alternative learning method" on the Purdue PC Prep Planning Sheet!

- *Latin America*: Individuals wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. Purdue PC Prep requires the equivalent of **two 200-level courses in Spanish**.
- *Francophone World:* Individuals wanting to serve in *French-speaking* African countries should have a willingness and commitment to learning French. Purdue PC Prep requires the equivalent of **two 200-level courses in any Romance language**.
- *Everywhere else:* The Peace Corps has **no explicit language requirements** for individuals applying to serve in most other countries. However, you will still likely learn and utilize another language as a Peace Corps volunteer, so it is extremely helpful to have taken foreign language or linguistics classes. Purdue PC Prep requires the equivalent of **two courses in any language** or **two linguistic** courses (for this purpose Purdue PC Prep recommends: LC 261, Intro to the Linguistic Study of Foreign Languages, and SLHS 227, Intro to Linguistics)

## 3. Intercultural competence

> **Required Core Practicum + 1 elective course + 1 immersion 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 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. You must complete the Cross-Cultural Certificate and select at least one elective from Groups A & B below.

I.    **Core Practicum (required of all participants)**

Cross-Cultural Certification Program - An experiential six-week practicum which connects US Purdue students with non-US Purdue students to work in small groups on developing the following six skills of intercultural competence (adapted from the AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge & Competence rubric):

- Curiosity
- Openness
- Intercultural Empathy
- Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks
- Verbal & Non-Verbal Communicative Flexibility
- Intercultural Self-Awareness

## II.    Group A electives (Choose one)

One approved 3-credit course from the following list which either:
   a) exemplifies a disciplinary approach to cross-cultural competence or
   b) teaches a framework for understanding cultural difference

| A) Disciplinary Approaches | B) Frameworks |
|---|---|
| AGR 201: Communicating Across Cultures | ANTH 230:  Gender Across Cultures |
| ANTH 327:  Environment and Culture | COM 224/303:  Intercultural Communication |
| ANTH 340:  Global Perspectives on Health | EDPS 591: Culture and Cognition |
| EDPS 316:  Collaborative Leadership in Cross-Cultural Settings | HDFS 280: Diversity in Individual & Family Life |
| ENGR 201: Engineering in Global Contexts | PSY 335: Stereotyping and Prejudice |
| HIST 211: The Global Field: World Soccer & Global History | WGSS: Gender and Multiculturalism |

## III.    Group B electives (Choose one):

One or more immersive experiential encounter(s) with another culture <u>which includes reflective learning</u>, **in the developing world (or, with prior approval, a low-income non-majority domestic community)**, from among the following options:
- An approved Purdue Global Service Learning program
- An approved Global Design Team overseas project
- An approved alternative spring break program (such as disaster relief, Habitat for Humanity project, tour to Birmingham, etc.)
- A semester abroad if taken together with a Purdue-approved Reflective Intercultural Learning course

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

> **Resume and interview support + Leadership experience**

International development is a highly professional sector. It is difficult to break into and demands great initiative and leadership to advance professionally within the field. 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 during a Center for Career Opportunities (CCO) one-on-one resume review and participate in a CCO **interview workshop**.
2. Engage in a **professional interview** with a Peace Corps Representative [at a Purdue Career or Study Abroad Fair]  or local Returned Peace Corps Veteran
3. Using your <u>leadership self-assessment</u>, develop at least one significant **leadership experience** and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully.  We recommend  serving as a:
   - Boiler Gold Rush International Group Leader (orientation for internationals)
   - Resident Assistant @ Crosswalk Commons or a Living /Learning Community
   - Program Leader:  Multinational Integration Xchange (MIX) or Boiler Out! Volunteers
   - Purdue PC Prep Recruitment Leader or Study Abroad Ambassador
   - Teaching Assistant for a global-service-learning project team or course
   - Executive board of a student organization, or a big campus event.