



Peace Corps **PREP**

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 same sector (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) *Spanish-speaking countries* → two 200-level courses. (2) *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

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, 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

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 identify the type of assignments in which you'd like to serve through this [interactive tool](http://www.peacecorps.gov/openings) (www.peacecorps.gov/openings), then review the positions' desired qualifications and build them up accordingly. In the process, you should fulfill these PC Prep experiential requirements!

There are six 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** (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.

If you choose Education, take 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- AYA Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Middle Childhood Education
- Special Education
- English
- Math
- Museum Studies
- Computer Science
- Any Physical or Biological Science

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

- Teaching in one 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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - Canton City Schools
 - North Canton City Schools
 - Portage Collaborative Montessori School
 - Fairless Local Schools
 - Lake Local Schools
 - Green Local Schools
 - Lighthouse Ministries After School Program
 - Tiqvah Hands of Hope After School Program
 - Salvation Army Child Care Program
 - Micah's Way Family Program at Skyline Terrace Public Housing
 - Children of Grace Preschool and Child Care Center
 - Early Childhood Resource Center
 - SPARK (Supporting Partnership to Assure Ready Kids)
- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
 - The Uganda Experience – Walsh students have the opportunity to live and work with Uganda counterparts at Kisubi Brothers University College

#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.

If you choose Health, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Nursing
- Exercise Science
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Pre-Occupational Therapy
- Pre-Medicine
- Biology
- Spanish for Healthcare

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - LifeCare (formerly Canton Community Clinic)
 - Aultman Medical Center
 - Mercy Medical Center
 - Akron Children's Hospital
 - Total Living Center
 - House of Loreto Senior Center
 - Quest Recovery Center
 - Catholic Charities
- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
 - Nursing In Tanzania – Nursing students have the opportunity to work in Moshi, Tanzania in local hospitals and also work with the Hruma School of Nursing in a cross training experience
 - Nursing in Haiti – Nursing students have the opportunity to work in Port Au Prince, Haiti at St. Damien Pediatric hospital.

#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.

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

- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Environmental History

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - Stark Parks
 - Stark Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Akron Zoo
 - Summit County Public Health Department
 - Ohio State Agricultural Extension

#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.

If you choose Agriculture, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Business | <input type="radio"/> International | <input type="radio"/> Biology |
| <input type="radio"/> Government and Foreign Affairs | <input type="radio"/> Relations | |

*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, 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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - Stark Fresh
 - Rid-All Farm
 - Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)
 - Let's Grow Akron
 - Ms. Julie's Kitchen
 - Deli Ohio

#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.

If you choose Youth in Development, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Behavioral Science/Counseling | <input type="radio"/> Community/Clinical Psychology | <input type="radio"/> Criminal Justice |
| | <input type="radio"/> International Relations | <input type="radio"/> Family Studies |

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - Project REBUILD
 - North Canton YMCA
 - Canton Martin Center for Boys & Girls
 - Salvation Army Afterschool Program
 - Boys & Girls Club of Massillon
 - TomTod Ideas
- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
 - The Uganda Experience – Walsh students have the opportunity to live and work with Uganda counterparts at Kisubi Brothers University College
 - CAPA Service Learning in London – students have the chance to work 12-15 hours a week with a community based organization in London; studying multiculturalism and social services

#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.

If you choose Community Economic Dev., take three courses from one of the following areas:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ○ Global Business | ○ Graphic Design | ○ Government and Foreign Affairs |
| ○ Management | ○ Communication | |
| ○ Accounting or Finance | ○ Corporate Communication | |
| ○ Marketing | ○ International Relations | |
| ○ Computer Science | | |

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):
 - JRC's Mahoning Neighborhood Corridor Project
 - Community Building Partnership

- Greater Canton Chamber of Commerce
- North Canton Chamber of Commerce
- Centro San Jose Immigrant Worker Project
- Alliance Catholic Worker
- Refuge of Hope
- Arts in Stark
- Habitat for Humanity
- Summit Bridges (formerly Bridges Out of Poverty Summit County Collaborative)
- IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program
- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
 - The Uganda Experience – Walsh students have the opportunity to live and work with Uganda counterparts at Kisubi Brothers University College
 - The CAPA Shanghai Experience
 - International Business Experience – location of experience changes each year, overall goal of the program is to provide students with experience in the global market place (Previous locations: Rome, London, Milan)

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 language

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.

- Latin America: Individuals wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. This typically means completing **two 200-level courses**.
- West Africa: Individuals wanting to serve in *French-speaking* African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Romance Language), usually through **one 200-level course**.
- 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 during service, so it is only helpful to have taken at least one foreign language class.

Note: If you are a strong native speaker and want to serve in a country that speaks your same language, you can skip this requirement!

3. Intercultural competence

3 approved courses

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:

- SOC 205 Social Cultural Diversity
- SOC 202 Cultural Anthropology
- GFA 209 World Regional Geography
- PEAC 201 Introduction to Peace Studies
- PEAC 301 Conflict Resolution
- HIST 101/102 World Civilization
- PHIL 203 Moral Philosophy

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

- SOC 204 Social Problems
- SOC 207 Population
- COM 210 Mass Communication and Society
- COM 305 Intercultural Communication
- EDUC 206 Exceptionalities and Multiculturalism in a Global Society
- ENG 315 African American Literature
- ENG 200-6 On Food
- HIST 336 Modern Latin America
- HIST 338 History of Africa
- GFA 401 Poverty and Prosperity in the Developing World
- PHIL 350 Philosophy of Medicine

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.*

Peace Corps Prep participants much choose one Global Learning Experience to participate in during their 4 year course work. Choices include but may not be limited to depending on the year:

- *The Rome Experience*
- *CAPA International Studies Programs (Locations: London, Shanghai; Buenos Aires)*
- *The Uganda Experience*
- *Nursing in Tanzania*
- *Nursing in Haiti*

- *Global Healthcare Experience*
- *International Business Experience*
- *Museum Studies Experience*
- *Honors Service Learning in Uruguay*

4. Professional and leadership development

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 by someone in the Career Services Center.
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** with the Career Services 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. Leadership opportunities on campus include, but are not limited to the following; becoming a Resident Assistant, serving as a Peacemaker, serving on Walsh University Student Government, participating in the Walsh University Social and Justice for Peace club, or becoming a member of the University Program Board. Please speak with your Peace Corp Prep Coordinator for more ideas.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

With your approval, the Walsh University 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, Walsh University will not release records related to your performance in the PC Prep program, other than those enumerated in this disclosure agreement.

I hereby permit Walsh University to disclose personally identifiable information to Peace Corps regarding my participation in the Peace Corps Preparatory 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, Walsh University may report post-graduation career information to the extent that Walsh University has that information.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____