



# 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 [Pages 1-7]
2. Foreign language skills [Page 8]
3. Professional and leadership development [Page 8]
4. Intercultural competence [Page 9-10]

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!**

## 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, 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 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.

**Faculty Advisors:** Dr. Jennifer Eidum

The Education Track requires at least 3 courses taken at Elon related to education (see below). There are two options for the Peace Corps Prep Education Track:

- Education Generalist
  - Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Specialist\*
- \*Courses listed with an asterisk are recommended for the TESOL specialty*

### Required:

EDU 2110 or SOC 2430 Education and Society / Sociology of Education;

\*ENG 3060 TESOL: Theory & Practice

### Select one course from the following:

EDU 4500 Teaching Diverse Learners in Middle & Secondary Schools

EDU 4510 Teaching Diverse Learners

\*ENG 2050 Grammar

\*ENG 3010 Introduction to Linguistics

\*ENG 3090 Writing Center Workshop

\*EDU 3650 Methods and Materials in TESOL

### Select (a minimum of) one course from the following:

COR 4430 Poverty and Social Justice

COR 4540 Diversity and Social Justice: Building Cultural Competency

EDU 2980 Children's Literature and Arts Integration

EDU 3230 Literacy Development I: Principles and Practices

EDU 3250 Adolescent Literacies

EDU 3240 Literacy Development II: Strategies and Instruction for Struggling Readers

EDU 3250 Adolescent Literacy

EDU 3550 Teaching in 21st Century Classrooms

EDU 4310 Environmental Education

EDU 4420 Effective Middle Level Teaching

EDU4210 Methods of Teaching Midl Gr/Secondary English

\*ENG 2040 Language in Society

\*ENG 2130 Introduction to Creative Writing

\*ENG 2090 Writing Studies Survey

\*ENG 3800 Advanced World Literature

\*ENG 3020 History of the English Language

\*ENG 4160 Teaching Creative Writing in the Community

GBL 2360 India: Science, Education, and Development

GBL 2970 Malawi: The Warm Heart of Africa

PSY 3820 Educational Psychology

\*PWR 2110 Professional Writing Rhetoric

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially with experimental and study abroad courses.

*Note:* Any of the courses listed for the [Teaching and Learning minor](#) or the [TESOL minor](#) are acceptable

**Experiential Learning Requirements:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of this include:

- Working with the Kernodle Center to find ESL tutoring locations or
- Tutoring students through The Village Project in the School of Education.
- Work as a camp counselor or counselor in an after school program, such as the Burlington Housing Authority or Boys and Girls Club.

## #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.

**Faculty Advisor:** Amanda Tapler

**Required:** PHS 3020 Global Health

**Select two courses from the following:**

PHS 2010 Introduction to Public Health  
PHS 3010 Introduction to Epidemiology  
ANT 3250 Medical Anthropology  
COR 4420 Food, Health, and Society in a Global Perspective  
BIO 3230 Immunology  
BIO 3650 Toxicology  
CHM 3550 Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry  
COM 3370 Health Communications  
ECO 3210 Health Economics  
ECO 3410 Gender and Development  
ECO 4110 Economic Growth and Development

ENS 3110 Sustainable Food Production  
ESS 3133 Exercise Psychology  
GEO 3460 Natural Disasters  
COR 3240 Substance Abuse and Human Behavior  
COR 3260 Human Sexuality  
COR 4060 Women's Health Issues  
COR 3680 Nutrition in the 21st Century  
PSY 3840 Health Psychology

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially with experimental and study abroad courses.

**Required Volunteer/Field Experience:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work/field experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of this include:

- 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 Residence Advisor or Apartment Manager in an Elon residence hall,
- Working as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design

## #3 ENVIRONMENT



**Help forge a global movement to protect our planet.** Volunteers lead grassroots efforts in their communities to protect the environment and strengthen their 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.

**Faculty Advisors:** Dr. Amanda Chunco and Dr. Jen Hamel

**Required:** ENS 1110/1130 Introduction to Environmental Science and Lab

**Select two courses from the following:**

*\*Highly recommended*

ENS 1010 Current Issues in Environmental Science

ENS 2000 Sophomore Seminar: Environmental Inquiry

ENS 2150 Diversity of Life

ENS 2440 Natural Resources Management and Sustainability\*

ENS 3200 Restoration Ecology

ENS 3300 Wildlife Ecology\*

ENS 3400 Water Resource Management\*

ENS 3460 Wetland Ecology and Management\*

GEO 2500 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

BIO 3612 Aquatic Biology: The Study of Inland Waters

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially for experimental and study abroad courses.

**Required Volunteer/Field Experience:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of this include:

- 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

## #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.

**Faculty Advisors:** Dr. Amanda Chunco and Dr. Jen Hamel

**Required:** ENS 1110/1130 Introduction to Environmental Science and Lab

**Select two courses from the following:**

*\*Highly recommended*

ENS 3110 Sustainable Food Production\*

ENS 3140 Agroecology\*

COR 4290 Permaculture: Food, Culture and Sustainability\*

ENS 4970 Senior Seminar: Environmental Assessment and Project Development

ENS 2200 Garden Studio - Fall and Winter Gardening (2 sh each)

ENS 2210 Garden Studio - Spring and Summer Gardening (2sh each)

ENS 1200 Community Agriculture - Fall Harvest (2 sh each)

ENS 1210 Community Agriculture - Spring Planting (2 sh each)

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially with experimental and study abroad courses.

**Required Volunteer/Field Experience:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work/field experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of field experience may include:

- 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 Elon's Loy Farm, community gardens or Campus Kitchen
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm

## #5 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT



**Empower the next generation of change makers.** 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.

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Christina Horsford (RPCV Suriname)

**Required:**

HSS 1110 The Art and Science of Human Service Studies/ELR  
HSS 2130 Working with Groups and Communities

**Select one course from the following:**

PSY 2100 Lifespan Development  
OLE 2250 Introduction to Adventure-Based Learning  
HSS 3200 Group Dynamics and Leadership  
HSS 3500 International Human Services  
LED 2100 Foundations of Leadership Studies  
PHS 3020 Global Health  
PSY 3520 Psychology of Sex and Gender  
PEH3630(Coaching Technical & Tactical)  
WGS 1100 Sex and Gender

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially with experimental and study abroad courses.

**Required Volunteer/Field Experience:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of field experience may include:

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs, for example, working with Burlington Housing Authority or Boys and Girls Club.
- 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

## #6 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Harness 21<sup>st</sup>-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.

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Tonmoy Islam

**Required:** ECO 1000 Principles of Economics

**Select one course from the following:**

- ECO 3500 Business Economics
- ECO 3100 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
- ECO 3200 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
- ECO 3110 International Trade and Finance
- ECO 3410 Gender and Development
- ECO 3230 Environmental Economics
- ECO 4110 Economic Growth and Development
- ECO 4210 Urban Economics and Planning

**Select one additional course from the above list OR one course from the following:**

- INB 2500 Introduction to International Business
- MKT 4160 Global Marketing
- FIN 4250 Global Finance
- HSS 2130 Working with Groups and Communities
- COR 4540 DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY
- COR 4550 Sustainable Development: Social, Economic, and Environmental Challenges and Opportunities
- COR 4560 Realistic Environmental Solutions
- COR 4570 For the Public Good: Evaluation the Effectiveness of Charity

**Course Substitutions:** Service Area Faculty Advisors may substitute as they feel appropriate, especially with experimental and study abroad courses.

**Required Volunteer/Field Experience:** A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in this sector (the more, the better), preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity. Examples of field experience may include:

- 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



## Foreign language skills

Requirements vary by placement region

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!

## 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 [Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) and/or Faculty sector advisor]
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at the SPDC or with the PC Area recruiter.
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. Practical hands-on experience is always the most desirable, but complimenting that with leadership courses in or out of the classroom can be very helpful.



## Intercultural competence

3 approved course 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.

This objective is central to an Elon education: beginning with COR 110: The Global Experience and culminating with the Core Capstone course, your Elon experience is built upon intercultural competence. Moreover, you will likely participate in study abroad, service learning, and/or internships that demonstrate intercultural competence.

### Examples of courses that foster intercultural competence:

COR 1100 The Global Experience Study Abroad

Courses, such as:

GBL 2300 The Call of South Africa

GBL 2310 Peru: Living Heritage of the Andes

GBL 2320 Ethiopia and Tanzania: Exploration of History, Culture and the Natural World

GBL 2360 India: Science, Education and Development

GBL 2390 Brazil: Culture and Community Engagement

GBL 2520 Costa Rica: Language, Culture, and Ecotourism

*A full listing of current study abroad courses can be found [here](#).*

Community-Based Learning courses, such as:

BIO 2412 Human Physiology

EDU 2110 Education and Society

EGR 2210 Engineering Design for Service

ENG 3060 TESOL Theory & Practice

HSS 1110 Art/Sci Human Service Studies

PSY 3520 Psychology of Sex and Gender

*A full listing of current Academic Service Learning courses can be found [here](#).*

Courses from across the university, along with a short student rationale for how the course fostered the students' **intercultural competence**. Such as:

ANT 1120 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
ENG 1229 Writing Life  
ENG 2320 Literature of East Asia  
ENG 2340 Caribbean Literature  
ENG 3810 Latin American Literature & Culture  
ENG 3840 Middle Eastern Literature  
ENG 3830 African Experience in Literature  
ENS 1100 Humans and Nature  
ENS 3100 Environmental Issues in Southeast Asia  
GEO 1310 The World's Regions  
GEO 3450 Global Environmental Change  
GEO 1210 Global Physical Environments  
HST/INT 2210 The World in the 20th Century  
HST 3130 Modern Africa  
HST 3540 Modern Latin America

HSS 3500 International Human Services  
HSS 3510 Global Violence against Women  
INT/POL 1410 International Relations  
PHL 2150 Ethics and Decision Making  
PHL 3300 Economic Justice  
POL 3480 International Human Rights  
POL 1610 Comparative Politics  
PST1000 Introduction to Public Policy  
PST3120 Policy and Equality  
REL 1000 Religion in a Global Context  
REL 1810 Buddhist Traditions  
REL1820 (Yoga/Karma/Dharma/Hindu Tradn)  
REL 1840 Christian Traditions  
REL 1850 Jewish Traditions  
SOC 2610 Sociological Theory

### Examples of experiences that foster intercultural competence (in place of elective courses):

- Studying or volunteering abroad may count *if* the student is in a country that has at some point hosted Peace Corps Volunteers (see the list of current and past countries [here](http://www.peacecorps.gov/countries) [[www.peacecorps.gov/countries](http://www.peacecorps.gov/countries)]).
  - Studying/volunteering abroad in these countries from one week to a summer may substitute for one course.
  - Experiences that last a full semester may substitute for both electives.
- Other intercultural experiences, such as helping new immigrants/refugees acculturate to the U.S. or volunteering in diverse schools, may also count. If they also align with one of Peace Corps' six sectors, these experiences may simultaneously count for that hands-on experiential requirement.
  - Each distinct intercultural experience lasting at least forty hours may substitute for one elective.

**Peace  
Corps  
Tip!**

*Prolonged intercultural experiences—such as studying or volunteering abroad, working at a summer camp, or other long-term commitments—would also strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy significantly!*