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**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 will 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

**Appendix C:** Student Guide

1. Foreign language skills
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.*** In particular, refer to this when completing your PC Prep application, where you will 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 **three courses** that align with a specific work sector (they may, 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. Please consult with PC Prep Program Coordinator AND attend one of the offered PC Prep Application Sessions as you develop your application.

***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!*

Stetson supports six sectors in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve (see full details for each sector below). **Choose one sector to focus on,** and 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!*

**Focus Areas**

#1 [**Education**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#education) (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#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.

Students who want to complete the Education focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below.

**EDUC 245H Social Foundations of Education**

**EDUC 255S Educational Psychology**

**EDUC 265 Principles and Methods of Instruction for Diverse Learners**

**EDUC 300 ESOL Principles and Practices** *(EDUC 265 prerequisite requirement)*

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Stetson’s Education Sector Advisor and Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, from one of the following areas:*

* + - Elementary, Secondary or Special Education
		- English or Linguistics
		- TEFL/TESL
		- Math
		- Computer Science
		- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Health Science, Environmental Science

*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
	+ The subject of the teaching may be English as a Foreign/Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject.
	+ Some examples of places leaders in the education sector could volunteer with are Volusia County Schools, Headstart, Easter Seals, or a similar organization that provides education opportunities to the community.

*Students should attend a PC Prep Application Session and then, as needed, consult with Ann-Marie Willacker (awillacker@stetson.edu), Peace Corps Prep Field Experience Coordinator in the Center for Community Engagement, to identify an appropriate community assignment or assignments.*

#2 [**Health**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#health) (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#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.

Students who want to complete the Health focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below.

**PUBH 140V Introduction to Public Health**

**PUBH 284 Foundations of Epidemiology**

**PUBH 303 Global Health**

**PUBH 486 Planning for Healthy Cities**

**SOCI 375 Medicine and Health in Society**

**SOCI 391V Examining a Pandemic**

**COMM 327V Health Communication**

**PSYC 324V Health Psychology**

**HLSC 119V Health and Wellness**

**HLSC 290V Cross Cultural Aspects of Health Behavior**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Health Sector Advisor, Dr. Rachel Core from one of the following areas:*

* + - Public Health
		- Health Sciences
		- Health and Communication
		- Biology
		- Environmental Science
		- Chemistry

*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
	+ Some examples of places leaders in the health sector could volunteer with include Florida Hospital, Good Samaritan Clinic, Hispanic Health Initiatives, and the Florida Department of Health.

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***Peace***

***Corps***

***Tip!***

*Nearly* [*two-thirds*](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/) *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.*

#3 [**Environment**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#environment)(<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#environment>)



**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.

Students who want to complete the Environment focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below.

**ENSS 112P Environment and Society**

**ENSS 140P Introduction to Environmental Studies and Science**

**ENSS 141P Introduction to Environmental Science**

**ENSS 204S Environmental Geography of Latin America**

**ENSS 218V Environmental Law and Policy**

**ENSS 310V Cultural and Political Ecology**

**ENSS 315V Sustainability Studies**

**ENSS 317V Global Perspectives of Food Production**

**ENSS 319V Water Policy**

**ENSS 320V Environmental Planning**

**ENSS 325V Climate Adaptation and Planning**

**ENSS 330V Wetland Systems**

**ENSS 355V Environmental Activism**

**ENSS 410 Global Environmental Change (MGMT 500 or MGMT 510)**

**BIOL 112P Environmental Biology**

**BIOL 118P The Natural World: Systems and Processes of Science**

**COMM 367V Environmental Communication**

**ECON 325V Energy, Environment, and Economics**

**PHIL 317V Environmental Ethics**

**SOCI 215V Population, Society, and Environment**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Environment Sector Advisor, Dr. Wendy Anderson.*

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

* Volunteering with the Alliance for International Reforestation, which plants trees and teaches sustainable farming practices in Central America.
* Volunteering for Hatter Harvest, which maintains a community garden on campus and works to raise awareness and bring sustainable food to campus.
* Volunteering for Sandhill Restoration where Students and faculty have established a teaching landscape and outdoor learning center with a focus on a vanishing ecosystem.
* Some examples of additional places leaders in the environment sector could volunteer with include Lyonia Environmental Preserve, Blue Springs State Park, Lake Woodruff Wildlife Refuge, and the Marine Science Center.

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4. [**Agriculture**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#agriculture) (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#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.

Students who want to complete the Agriculture focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below: Please note that the courses below are tentative approved for PC Prep and awaiting final approval from our curriculum committee

**FOOD 101S: Food Studies**

**FOOD 190: Special Topics in Sustainable Food Systems**

**FOOD 201V: Beginning Practicum for Sustainable Food Production**

**FOOD 230P: Growing Food in Cities**

**FOOD 318V: Seeds of Equity**

**ENSS 310V: Cultural and Political Ecology**

**ENSS 317V: Global Perspectives of Food production**

**PUBH 486: Planning for Healthy Cities**

**AFST 343D: Soul Food Throughout the African Diaspora**

**COMM 328B: Food, Communication and Culture**

**COMM 336V: Food and Nutrition in the Media**

**ENGL 343V1: Soul Food Across the Color Lines**

**HLSC 200V: Introduction to Nutrition Science**

**BIOL 113P: Human Food and Nutrition**

**BIOL 222V: Current Issues in Food and Nutrition**

**BIOL 405: Ecology**

**BIOL 450: Plant Ecology**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Agriculture Sector Advisor, Dr. Tony Abbot from one of the following areas:*

* + - Sustainable Food Systems
		- Environmental Science and Studies
		- Ecology

*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, or fish cultivation and production such as the Spring Hill Garden and Fleet Farming
* Teaching or tutoring the public in environmental or agricultural issues/activities
* Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm

*Students should attend a PC Prep Application Session and then, as needed, consult with Ann-Marie Willacker (awillacker@stetson.edu), Peace Corps Prep Field Experience Coordinator, in the Center for Community Engagement to identify an appropriate community assignment or assignments*

#5 [**Youth in Development**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#youth-in-development)

 (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#youth-in-development>)

**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.

Students who want to complete the Youth in Development focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below.

**BSAN 351V Technology Globalization and Social Justice**

**ENSS 112P Environmental Science and Society**

**ENSS 310V Cultural and Political Ecology**

**ENSS 318V Seeds of Equity**

**SOCI 101S Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology**

**SOCI 204 Contemporary Social Problems**

**SOCI 255S Sociology of Families and Intimate Relationships**

**SOCI 304S Social Inequality**

**SOCI 307V Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration**

**SOCI 312V Gender and Society**

**EDUC 245H Social Foundations of Education**

**EDUC 275V Human Exceptionalities**

**EDUC 305V Cultural Diversity Education**

**EDUC 373V Social, Emotional, and Vocational Needs of Individuals with Disabilities**

**EDUC 370V Celebrating Diversity: Examining Populations on the Fringe of Society**

**ECON 141V Poverty and Microcredit**

**ECON 306 Humane Economics, Freedom, and Justice**

**ECON 346 Development Economics**

**ECON 347V Local Economic Development**

**ECON 351V Environment, Ethics and Religion**

**PSYC 101S Introduction to Psychology**

**PSYC 231 Developmental Psychology**

**PSYC 241 Social Psychology**

**PSYC 251D Abnormal Psychology**

**PSYC 324V Health Psychology**

**PSYC 332 Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood**

**PSYC 435 Childhood Behavior Disorders**

**PSYC 445 Psychology of Women**

**GEND 100V Studies in Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality in the U.S.**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Health Sector Advisor, Dr. Camille King from one of the following areas:*

* + - Sociology
		- Education
		- Community Development
		- Psychology
		- Human Development

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

* Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs in places like the Spring Hill Boys and Girls Club, the Chisholm Community Center, Police Athletic League, and the YMCA.
* 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
* Working with youth abroad through programs such as Alternative Spring Break in Peru or faculty-led abroad programs; for instance a program in Cambodia working with elementary school students.

*Students should attend a PC Prep Application Session and then, as needed, consult with Ann-Marie Willacker (awillacker@stetson.edu), Peace Corps Prep Field Experience Coordinator, in the Center for Community Engagement to identify an appropriate community assignment or assignments.*

#6 [**Community Economic Development**](https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#community-economic-development)

(<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#community-economic-development>)

**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.

Students who want to complete the Community Economic Development focus of the Peace Corps Prep Program at Stetson University should complete three of the courses listed below.

**SOBA 360V Social Justice and the Bottom Line**

**BSAN 351V Technology Globalization and Social Justice**

**ECON 103S Essentials of Economics I**

**ECON 303 Money and Banking**

**ECON 374Q Econometrics**

**ECON 346 Development Economics**

**ECON 201H OR INSU 201H Foundations of Globalization**

**ECON 141V Poverty and Microcredit**

**ECON 301 Intermediate Macroeconomics**

**ECON 324 International Economics**

**ECON 104S Foundations of Economics**

**ECON 204S Essentials of Economics**

**ENTP 307V Organizational Design**

**ENTP 353V Social Entrepreneurship**

**FINA 303 Money and Financial Institutions**

**FINA 311 Business Finance**

**INTL 201 International Business and Culture**

**INTL 450 International Entrepreneurship**

**MGNT 305 Human Relations, Leadership, and Teamwork**

**MGMT 409V Managerial Ethics, Sustainability, and the Future**

**MKTG 315 The Marketplace and Consumers**

**POLI 145S Politics of the Developing World**

**POLI 451 Politics of International Trade and Finance**

**POLI 201 Comparative Politics**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Community Economic Development Advisor, Dr. Chris de Bodisco (CAS) based on if the course is offered by the College of Arts and Sciences or the School of Business Administration*

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

* Working with nonprofits in accounting, finance, microfinance, management, project management, budgeting, or marketing
* Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, and repair at a nonprofit
* Website design or online marketing at a nonprofit
* International business consulting projects through Stetson’s summer program in Scotland
* Volunteering with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) Program

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**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 program.

*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!

**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.

You’ll take at least 1 of these core courses:

* **ANTH 101B Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropology**
* **GEND 100D Studies in Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality**

And choose 2 additional electives (one can be from the list of core courses above):

* **AFST 100S Introduction to Africana Studies**
* **AFST 343D Soul Food Throughout the African Diaspora**
* **EDUC 275V Human Exceptionalities**
* **ENGL 343V1 Soul Food Across the Color Lines**
* **ENSS 310V Cultural and Political Ecology**
* **HIST 103H Modern World Civilizations**
* **HIST 208H Latin American History: The Challenges of Modern Nationhood**
* **HIST 306H Modern Middle East**
* **HIST 349H War and Diplomacy in Modern East Asia**
* **HIST 376S Global Migrations and Diasporas**
* **INTL 201 International Business & Culture**
* **INTL 405 Cross-Cultural Dynamics and Management**
* **RELS 109B Sacred Traditions of the World**
* **Any Study-Away Experience**

*Or an appropriate substitute approved by Intercultural Competence Advisor, Dr. Rosalie Richards*

***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. For more information on study abroad opportunities, contact the staff at WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning at* *world@stetson.edu* *or call 386-822-8165.*

1. **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):

* Attend a resume workshop offered by Career and Professional Development, a virtual Peace Corps resume session, or have your resume critiqued by a pre-approved non-profit employer partner.
* Attend an interview workshop offered by Career and Professional Development or participate in a practice interview with a pre-approved non-profit employer partner.
* Participate in a LEAD (Leadership Education and Development) program and serve in a leadership role on campus.
	+ Examples of LEAD programs include: Leadership Engagement Coaching Session, Leading Beyond Stetson, Stetson Leadership Fellows, Strengths Advocate, Women’s Leadership Community, or Leadership Summit (more information about all of these programs is available at [www.stetson.edu/ulead](http://www.stetson.edu/ulead)).
	+ Examples of leadership roles on campus include: serving in a leadership role within a student organization, being selected to serve as a leader for a student leadership program marketed by Stetson ULead ([www.stetson.edu/ULead](https://email.ad.stetson.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=rwi3e2mTeUiPrbCUopHsZwUWvDJW_9IIQTCIUn-g9tFtiUZBX99g0EqChxG81k5cVqdleIu0u3A.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.stetson.edu%2fULead)), or serving as a leader for a Stetson athletic team (Division I or Club Sport).