



PREP

CORE PC PREP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Peace Corps Prep programs aim to prepare students for international development work and potential Peace Corps service. Here are four core learning objectives we have identified as serving this end. We ask our partner institutions to create a path for students to meet them.

1. Training *and* experience in a specific work sector

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

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

2. Foreign language skills

Students should hone their capacity to interact professionally using a foreign language—the stronger the better. PC Prep minimum course requirements vary by desired placement region:

- *Latin America*: 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 another 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, though it is pointedly advantageous to have done so.

3. Intercultural competence

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

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

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

4. Professional and leadership development

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

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