



Peace Corps PREP

“A program like this is a professor’s dream for excited, engaged students in the classroom.

Numbers, theories, research papers all take on a new meaning.

Students are no longer thinking about passing an exam or getting a grade, but rather how their new knowledge might come to help them on the ground in a completely different setting.”

—Robin Ragan, professor
Knox College

Uniting student coursework with practical international field experience

As a component of an undergraduate curriculum, the Peace Corps Prep Program consists of selected courses paired with community service to help prepare students for work in international development, potentially with the Peace Corps. This program is a formal partnership between the Peace Corps and higher-education institutions. Its intent is to motivate students as they progress through school with an eye to how their studies can apply after graduation. When combined with service abroad as a Peace Corps Volunteer, this program enhances the career opportunities of graduates and offers many other benefits, just a few of which are outlined (see back page).

Students apply to the program through the school and participate for two or more years. A year before graduation, or anytime thereafter, they apply to the Peace Corps and include their Peace Corps Prep Program experience in their application. While this does not guarantee acceptance into Peace Corps, students participating in the program will gain skills which are an advantage in the competitive Peace Corps application process and in other international development work.



Where Peace Corps Volunteers Go and What They Do

Peace Corps Programs

- Education
- Youth and Community Development
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Business and Information & Communication Technology
- Agriculture
- Environment

4% The Caribbean
1 Dominican Republic
2 Eastern Caribbean
Antigua/Barbuda

3% North Africa and the Middle East
19 Jordan
20 Morocco

18% Eastern Europe, Central Asia
49 Albania
50 Armenia
51 Azerbaijan
52 Bulgaria
53 Georgia
54 Kazakhstan
55 Kyrgyz Republic
56 Macedonia
57 Moldova
58 Romania
59 Turkmenistan
60 Ukraine

6% The Islands
Federated States of Micronesia and
Fiji
Samoa
Tonga
Vanuatu

Peace Corps Prep
What helps make a volunteer effective?
- transferable skills
- adaptability
- volunteer experience
- language studies

The school:

- Designates a program coordinator to work with the Peace Corps.
- Creates course offerings and requirements for the program, such as foreign language study, international development studies, or a specific discipline that aligns with Peace Corps Volunteer work (e.g., education, teaching English as a second language, agriculture, environment, health, and business).
- Promotes the program to students and screens and selects candidates for the program.

Peace Corps:

- Provides suggested curriculum and guidance to prepare students for international service.
- Provides recruitment support to students interested in applying to Peace Corps to work overseas following graduation.
- Offers five decades of experience in building peace and friendship through service to others. Its mission has remained the same since 1961:
 - To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
 - To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
 - To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.
- Offers a 27-month work, cultural immersion, and skills development experience in over 75 countries. Volunteers work in one of six general program areas: agriculture, business, education, environment, health, and youth and community development.

Find out how your school can participate in, or is already involved with, Peace Corps Prep by contacting: pcprep@peacecorps.gov

“The Peace Corps Prep Program helps students navigate the huge array of choices they face by providing them with a set of classes that helps prepare them for serving overseas as a Peace Corps Volunteer after they graduate. We’ve found that students benefit when they understand why they are taking a class, and this program provides students with direction and a purpose to focus on.”

—David Firth, professor
University of Montana



Peace Corps Prep Readies Volunteers

“The Prep program is a great way to ensure students receive a well-rounded set of skills and experiences,” says Luke Karner, a Peace Corp Prep participant. “Being flexible and adaptive are key qualities in an effective Volunteer and the Prep program emphasizes both through the wide range of required coursework, language training, and Volunteer experience. The Prep program exposed me to methods of teaching and tutoring that continually prove to be invaluable in my daily life as a youth development Volunteer in Honduras.”



Benefits of serving in the Peace Corps

- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel costs covered to and from the country of service
- Stipend for overseas living and housing expenses
- Medical and dental coverage
- Student loan deferment and partial cancellation of some loans
- Vacation time
- Transition funds of \$7,425 (before taxes) following 27 months of work
- Career and transition assistance after service
- Graduate school opportunities through Peace Corps partners
- No fee to participate



peacecorps.gov
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