

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

HOW TO BECOME A COMPETITIVE CANDIDATE

Every year, close to 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers head overseas for 2-year assignments. Approximately two-thirds of these volunteers have Liberal Arts degrees! The **most competitive candidates** are those with experience in planning, organizing, counseling, or leadership within the past 4 years. In addition, specific experience & skills are required to qualify for programs, as listed below. For additional information on how you can qualify for an assignment, contact the Peace Corps Regional Office at 1-800-424-8580, option '1' or your University of Florida Representative at (352) 392-6783 in 411 Peabody Hall!

If you're interested in:
English Teaching

You will need:

BA/BS in any discipline with at least 3 months of English, foreign language or literacy tutoring experience or library science experience. The tutoring must have been done within the past 4 years in a structured program that provides pre-service training. You must have tutored a student(s) at least 12 years old, and the tutoring must have been performed at least 10 hours per month. Even if you are still in the process of gaining this experience, you can still submit your application now, and continue with your tutoring throughout the application process. **TIP:** When filling out your application, remember that the overall quality of the application (e.g., spelling & grammar) will be considered when determining the competitiveness of the applicant.

Health & Nutrition

BA/BS in any discipline with First Aid, EMT, or CPR Certificates and/or at least 3 months of health-related experience (e.g., AIDS outreach, peer health educator, Planned Parenthood counseling, nurse's aide, hospital/clinic emergency room experience, etc.).

Public Health/Sanitation

BA/BS in any discipline with an expressed interest in hygiene education/sanitation and at least 3 months experience in hands-on skilled work (construction, masonry, carpentry, set design, mechanical repairs). **The most competitive applicants have experience with concrete and building forms.**

Agriculture & Forestry

BA/BS in any discipline with at least 3 months experience in vegetable gardening, nursery or greenhouse work/management, pest management, tree planting, tree care, urban forestry, livestock care/management, fish cultivation/production, etc.

Community Services

BA/BS in any discipline with at least 3 months of experience in planning, organizing, counseling, or leadership within the past 4 years. Community services assignments are extremely competitive. Many assignments require specialized experience such as AIDS counseling, health education, medical and mental health counseling, social work, business experience, teaching, curriculum development, youth development or work with youth-at-risk.

Things you can do...

- Join a student club or local organization, and take a leadership role. Volunteer to plan a community event; organize a service project on campus; identify an area of need in your community and start your own organization. **The most competitive Peace Corps applicants have experience in planning, organizing, counseling and leadership.**
- Take French or Spanish classes. While language study alone will not qualify you for a Peace Corps assignment, it is often a required component for certain requests. With 1 to 2 years of college or high school level study, you will have many more opportunities to be placed in a Peace Corps assignment.
- Learn more about people from other cultures. Join a language or cultural club; be a conversation partner to an international student; work with local immigrants; attend cross-cultural events.
- **APPLY EARLY!!!** By submitting your application a full year before you wish to begin an assignment, you will have the largest number of assignment opportunities.