



**Peace  
Corps**

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

# PEACE CORPS PREP

## Student Guide 2025-26

Information about and requirements  
for completing the Peace Corps Prep  
program at Michigan State University

Joy Campbell, Program Coordinator

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## Introduction to the Peace Corps Prep program

**Prepare yourself to be the best Peace Corps Volunteer you can be!**

The Peace Corps Prep (PC Prep) program at Michigan State University (MSU) will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you'll build three core competencies during your undergraduate years through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These three competencies and their basic requirements are:

- **Training *and* experience in a specific work sector**
  - Three courses (approximately nine credits) related to your chosen work sector
    - Sector 1: Education
    - Sector 2: Health
    - Sector 3: Environment
    - Sector 4: Agriculture
    - Sector 5: Youth in Development
    - Sector 6: Community Economic Development
  - Fifty hours of related volunteer/work experience in your chosen work sector
- **Intercultural competence**
  - Three courses or a mix of self-reflective courses and intercultural experiences and demonstrated foreign language proficiency
  - It may also be possible to meet the requirements for this competency through some education abroad programs, volunteer work, or other means.
- **Professional and leadership development**
  - Résumé preparation
  - Interview preparation
  - Demonstration of leadership activities

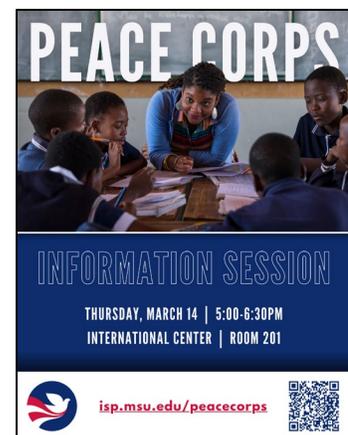
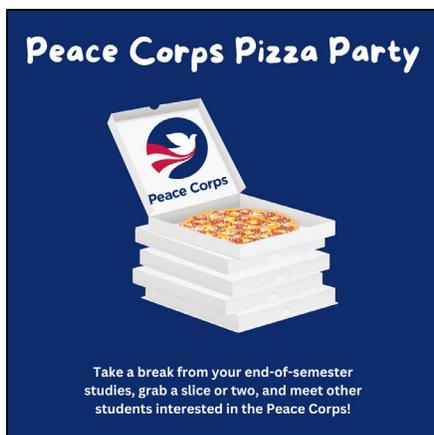
## General program information

- PC Prep is **open to all MSU undergraduate students**, first year through senior year, from any college, with any major.
- Note that while **only US citizens may apply to serve in the Peace Corps**, students with citizenship from other countries may still participate in PC Prep, as it can serve to document a general desire to work in the international development sector.
- Completion of the PC Prep program does not guarantee that you will be offered a position as a Peace Corps Trainee/Volunteer, though it serves to document your interest in development and **gives you a competitive foundation**.
- It is **not necessary to complete the PC Prep program to apply to the Peace Corps**, either through MSU's recruiting office or independently.
- The PC Prep certificate will not appear on your MSU transcript, but **the three competencies are integrated with the [Spartan Experience Record](#) (SER)**, providing an official MSU record of your involvement in the program. The SER documents student learning and engagement in non-credit bearing experiences and can be requested from the Registrar along with your transcript. Look for the globe icon in each competency to tell you the position name to search for in the SER system.

## Community and connecting

**PC Prep program participants typically check in with the Program Coordinator once a semester to go over their progress and discuss any changes or newly completed steps since their last meeting.** There is also an exit interview when all program requirements are met to ensure that the Program Coordinator has all the necessary documentation to have Peace Corps issue the certificate. The Program Coordinator is also available at any time for questions or concerns, and participants are always welcome to make an appointment or pop in.

In addition to those one-on-one meetings, **there are occasional social activities that you are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend** so you have a chance to meet like-minded people from across campus. Some are aimed at PC Prep students, some at anyone interested in Peace Corps



service, some at Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on campus and in the community, and some are for all of the above! Activities include things like representing the Peace Corps by marching in the MSU Homecoming Parade, painting the Rock during Peace Corps Week, informal pizza parties and coffee chats, panel sessions, and a spring reception to celebrate program graduates.

[Learn more](#)

**Comprehensive answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the [PC Prep website](#).**

To learn more, please complete the [PC Prep Program Interest Survey](#) and the Program Coordinator will provide information about any upcoming information sessions and the next steps in the application process.

[Apply](#)

Once you have decided that PC Prep is a good fit, you can apply! **Interested students can apply at any time through the program's rolling admissions process.** Information sessions will be offered multiple times throughout the academic year and may also be available online.

This Student Guide explains each of these requirements in detail. **Use this handbook and the [PC Prep Planning Sheet](#) to map out your PC Prep course of study at MSU.** Refer to the information in this guide 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.**

Ready to begin your PC Prep experience? Use the information you gathered on the [PC Prep Planning Sheet](#) to complete the [online application](#) on the PC Prep website.



*Homecoming 2023*



*Spring Reception 2024*



*Lansing Pride 2024*

## Competency I: Training *and* experience in a specific work sector

**3 approved courses + 50 hours related experience**

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Through the PC Prep program at MSU, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve your career well whether you become a Peace Corps Volunteer, pursue other opportunities in the development sector, or both.

For PC Prep, you need to complete **at least three courses** that align with a specific work sector (they *can* come, but *do not have to* come, from your academic major or minor). Since your participation in PC Prep is meant to demonstrate your developing expertise in a certain subject area, you must receive at least a 2.0 in each course you plan to count toward your PC Prep certificate. You also must accumulate and document **a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that *same* sector**, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.

There are [six sectors](#) in which Peace Corps Volunteers currently serve, detailed in the following pages. **Choose one sector to focus on then complete at least three courses + 50 hours of related experience in that sector.** These sectors are broad and not necessarily mutually exclusive. For example, environment, health, and education may be tightly connected in a setting where composting, gardening for better nutrition, and teaching are relevant. Similarly, agriculture and community economic development may both be relevant where household farmers work to feed themselves and their families, as well as sell products at the local market.

Choosing one sector focuses your experiences in the PC Prep program, but in no way limits how you may ultimately apply to the Peace Corps. Many programs at MSU may also serve to fill two requirements at once, such as field-based education, international or domestic, that includes theory and practice. Actual Peace Corps assignments are based on local needs, and thus may or may not align seamlessly with your qualifications.

Flexibility, creativity, and adaptability are key!

### 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!*



**SER Activity:** Peace Corps Prep Program Competencies

**Position:** Sector-Specific Skills Competency

## Sector 1: Education



**Teach lessons that last a lifetime.** Education is the Peace Corps' 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.



### Education

**Liam Timmerman** graduated in 2023 with dual majors in International Relations and Russian. He was in MSU's first cohort of **Peace Corps Prep** certificate recipients and is currently serving in the Education sector in **Kyrgyzstan!**

If you choose Education, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** from **ONE subject area below** (e.g., all related to Math education, or two LLT classes plus one LIN course) to build expertise in that subject area. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Education sector targets.

- College of Arts and Letters
  - *Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*
  - *Online Certificate in TESOL* (stand-alone non-credit online courses, additional tuition fee)
  - Any Language, Learning and Teaching (LLT) courses
  - Any Linguistics (LIN) courses
- College of Education
  - *Minor in Educational Studies*
  - *Global Educators Cohort Program (GECP)*

- Any Educational Administration (EAD) courses
- Any Teacher Education (TE) courses
- Any Counseling, Educational Psychology & Special Education (CEP) courses
- College of Engineering
  - Any Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) courses
  - Any Engineering (EGR) courses
- College of Natural Science
  - *Minor in Teaching Mathematics – Elementary*
  - *Minor in Teaching Mathematics – Secondary*
  - *Minor in Teaching Earth Science*
  - Any Astronomy and Astrophysics (AST) courses
  - Any Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) courses
  - Any Chemistry (CEM) courses
  - Any Integrated Science Education (ISE) courses
  - Any Mathematics Education (MTHE) courses
  - Any Science and Mathematics Education (SME) courses
- College of Social Science
  - *Minor in Teaching Geography*
  - Any Geography (GEO) courses

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Education sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- ANP 420      Language and Culture
- CEP 240      Introduction to Exceptional Learners
- CEP 460      Communication Skill Training for the Helping Professional
- EAD 362      Student Culture and Higher Ed.
- EAD 363      Diversity and Higher Education
- LIN 200      Introduction to Language
- LIN 230      Languages of the World
- LIN 401      Introduction to Linguistics

### MSU Pro Tip



*Let's talk TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). If you have no experience with language teaching and hope to teach English in the Peace Corps, consider the class in **Methods of Teaching Adult and Community English to Speakers of Other Languages (LLT 306)**. This course provides a methods foundation for teaching English to teens and adults and is well-suited for those hoping to teach overseas. The LLT 307 course is aimed more at those hoping to teach in K-12 environments in the US.*

- LIN 471 Sociolinguistics
- LLT 306 **Methods of Teaching Adult and Community English to Speakers of Other Languages** (*see sidebar on prior page*)
- LLT 307 Methods of Second and Foreign Language Teaching (*but see sidebar on prior page*)
- LLT 346 Pedagogical English Grammar for English Teachers
- LLT 361 Second and Foreign Language Learning
- LLT 496 Practicum in Adult English as a Second Language Teaching
- TE 101 Social Foundations of Justice and Equity in Education
- TE 102 Pedagogy and Politics of Justice and Equity in Education
- TE 250 Human Diversity, Power, and Opportunity in Social Institutions
- TE 341 Teaching and Learning of (Bi)Multilingual Learners
- TE 352 Immigrant Language and Culture
- TE 353 International Education
- TE 431 Learning Through Drama
- TE 448 Issues of Diversity in Children’s and Adolescent Literature
- WRA 495 Advanced Studies in Writing and Tutoring Pedagogy

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

### Peace Corps Tip

*Nearly two-thirds of Peace Corps Volunteers serve in Education or Health. Coursework and meaningful experience in one of these areas—especially teaching English as a second or foreign language—produce some of the strongest candidates.*



### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### General opportunities

- Teaching in a classroom, with a community outreach organization, in a formal tutoring capacity, or similar format. The subject of the teaching may be English as a Foreign/ Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject.

## Local opportunities

- [America Reads](#)
- [Capital Area District Libraries ESOL Programs](#)
- [Capital Area Literacy Coalition/The Reading People](#)
- [Community Volunteers for International Programs](#)
- [Cristo Rey Community Center](#)
- [Honors Times Two Mentoring Program](#)
- [Impression 5 Science Center](#)
- [Lansing Public Schools](#) (including a K-6 Spanish immersion school, a K-8 International Baccalaureate/Chinese immersion school, and an international magnet school)
- [Read to Succeed/Student Literacy Corps](#)
- [Refugee Development Center](#)
- [Refugee Outreach Collective MSU](#)
- [Science Theatre](#)
- [Telamon Corporation](#)
- [Visiting International Professional Program](#)
- [Volunteer English Tutoring Program](#)

## MSU Pro Tip



*The Education sector is so broad that the sector requirements can technically be met without any coursework in pedagogy, methods, or comparative education.*

*If you have selected the Education sector, but most of your coursework has been in other disciplines (e.g., STEM fields), **TE 353 International Education** would be an excellent course to complement your other classes. This course, open to any major, provides a foundation in global education and examines issues of access and achievement, gender differences, pedagogy and culture, role of home and community, school resources, teacher quality and policy, policy challenges in developing countries, and more.*

## Sector 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.



If you choose Health, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** related to the health sector from any of the following areas. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Health sector targets.

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - Any Human Nutrition and Foods (HNF) courses
- College of Education
  - *Minor in Health Promotion*
- College of Engineering
  - Any Environmental Engineering (ENE) courses
- College of Human Medicine
  - *Minor in Global Public Health and Epidemiology*

- Any Human Anatomy (ANTR) courses
- Any Epidemiology (EPI) courses
- Any Human Medicine (HM) courses
- Any Physiology (PSL) courses
- College of Natural Science
  - Any Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) courses
  - Any Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) courses
- College of Nursing
  - Any Nursing (NUR) courses
- College of Social Science
  - *Minor in Environment and Health*

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Health sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- ANP 270 Women and Health: Anthropological and International Perspectives
- ANP 370 Culture, Health, and Illness
- ANP 471 The Anthropology of Alternative Medicine
- EEM 260 World Food, Population and Poverty
- ENE 280 Principles of Environmental Engineering and Science
- ENE 483 Water and Wastewater Engineering
- ENE 487 Microbiology for Environmental Science and Engineering
- EPI 200 A Multidisciplinary Approach to Problems in Global Public Health and Epidemiology
- EPI 390 Disease in Society: Introduction to Epidemiology and Public Health
- GEO 235 Geography of Environment and Health
- GEO 435 Geography of Health and Disease
- HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development
- HM 101 Introduction to Public Health
- HNF 150 Introduction to Human Nutrition
- HNF 250 Contemporary Issues in Human Nutrition
- HNF 375 Community Nutrition
- HNF 385 Public Health Nutrition
- HNF 406 Global Foods and Culture
- HNF 415 Global Nutrition
- KIN 121 The Healthy Lifestyle
- KIN 125 First Aid and Personal Safety

- KIN 355 Physical Activity and Health Education for Elementary Teachers
- MC 337 Global Public Health
- NUR 324 Health Promotion and Disease and Injury Prevention I
- NUR 464 Health in Our World
- PHL 344 Ethical Issues in Health Care
- PHL 453 Ethical Issues in Global Public Health
- PSL 310 Physiology for Pre-Health Professionals
- REL 385 Religion, Health, and Healthcare
- SOC 475 Health and Society

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### General opportunities

- 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 resident advisor in a residence hall, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- Significant experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, or set design

## From the Field

*[Peace Corps gave me] the chance to grow and reflect.*



*As an immigrant, I appreciated the opportunity to excel here in the US and valued the opportunity to give back in a safe and secure environment.*

*Professionally, it was a way to pursue my passion in global health. I also saw an opportunity for a career in a government organization after finishing service, by using non-competitive eligibility (NCE). My dream job is to serve as part of the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Services.*

*- Nirav Shah, served in Zambia*

### *Local opportunities*

- [American Cancer Society Michigan](#)
- [American Red Cross Michigan Region](#)
- [Camp Casey](#)
- [Camp Catch-a-Rainbow](#)
- [Care Free Medical](#)
- [Carriage Town Ministries \(Flint\)](#)
- [Center for Survivors \(MSU\)](#)
- [Child Family Health International](#)
- [College of Human Medicine Public Health Association \(MSU\)](#)
- [Cristo Rey Community Center](#)
- [EVE – End Violent Encounters](#)
- [FitKids360](#)
- [Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children](#)
- [Hamilton Community Health Center \(Flint\)](#)
- [Hospice of Lansing](#)
- [Ingham Community Health Centers](#)
- [Lansing Area AIDS Network](#)
- [Lansing Latino Health Alliance](#)
- [McLaren Greater Lansing](#)
- [Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#)
- [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(apply to specific county office\)](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Generation Action](#)
- [Planned Parenthood of Michigan](#)
- [Sparrow Health System](#)
- [Spartan Street Medicine](#)
- [St. Vincent Catholic Charities – Refugee Services](#)
- [Women’s Health Interest Group – Grand Rapids](#)

## Sector 3: 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.



If you choose Environment, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** related to the environment sector from any of the following areas. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Environment sector targets.

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - *Minor in Applied Development in International Agriculture and Natural Resources*
  - *Minor in Conservation, Recreation and Environmental Enforcement*
  - *Minor in Environmental Economics*
  - *Minor in Forestry*
  - *Minor in Marine Ecosystem Management*
  - *Minor in Sustainable Natural Resource Recreation Management*
  - *Minor in Urban and Community Forestry*

- Any Community Sustainability (CSUS) courses
- Any Forestry (FOR) courses
- Any Fisheries and Wildlife (FW) courses
- College of Engineering
  - *Concentration in Bioenergy and Bioproduct Engineering*
  - *Concentration in Ecosystems Engineering*
  - *Concentration in Environmental Engineering*
  - Any Environmental Engineering (ENE) courses
- College of Natural Science
  - *Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies*
- College of Social Science
  - *Minor in Environment and Health*
  - *Minor in Environmental Social Science*
- James Madison College
  - *Minor in Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy*

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Environment sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- AAAS 404 Black Ecologies and Environmental Justice
- AFRE 265 Ecological Economics
- ANP 325 Anthropology of the Environment and Development
- ANP 443 Human Adaptability
- ANR 250 Global Issues in Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ANR 292 Applications in Environmental Studies
- ANS 480 Animal Systems in International Development
- CMP 445 Green and Energy Efficient Building Construction
- CSUS 200 Introduction to Sustainability
- CSUS 215 International Development and Sustainability
- CSUS 265 Exploring Environmental and Sustainability Issues and Policy Using Film
- CSUS 278 Introduction to Conservation, Recreation and Environmental Enforcement
- CSUS 300 Theoretical Foundations of Sustainability
- CSUS 301 Community Engagement for Sustainability
- CSUS 310 History of Environmental Thought and Sustainability
- CSUS 419 International Studies in Community Sustainability
- CSUS 445 Community-Based Environmental and Sustainability Education

- EC 310 Economics of Developing Countries
- ENE 280 Principles of Environmental Engineering and Science
- ENE 483 Water and Wastewater Engineering
- ENE 487 Microbiology for Environmental Science and Engineering
- ENT 205 Pests, Society and Environment
- FOR 202 Introduction to Forestry
- FOR 330 Human Dimensions of Forests
- FW 101 Fundamentals of Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology and Management
- FW 181 Introduction to Science, Technology, the Environment and Public Policy
- FW 434 Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management
- FW 439 Conservation Ethics
- FW 444 Conservation Biology
- FW 445 Biodiversity Conservation Policy and Practice
- FW 450 International Environmental Law and Policy
- FW 480 International Studies in Fisheries and Wildlife
- FW 481 Global Issues in Fisheries and Wildlife
- FW 813 Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (*undergrads may be eligible for override*)
- GEO 211 Environmental Policy and Practice
- GEO 235 Geography of Environment and Health
- GLG 306 Environmental Geomorphology
- GLG 421 Environmental Geochemistry
- GLG 446 Ecosystems Modeling, Water and Food Security
- IBIO 355 Ecology
- IBIO 357 Global Change Biology
- IBIO 446 Environmental Issues and Public Policy
- IBIO 485 Tropical Biology
- ISS 310 People and Environment
- JRN 472 Environmental, Science and Health Reporting
- MC 338 Environmental Justice and Global Change
- NSC 192 Environmental Issues Seminar
- NSC 292 Applications in Environmental Studies
- PDC 403 Introduction to Domicology: Sustainable Built Environment
- PHL 342 Environmental Ethics

## From the Field

*We love encouraging others in our community to find their own personal connection with the environment and outdoors – whatever that may look like! **Now more than ever, it is crucial that each individual does their part to protect the environment for generations to come.** In the environment sector, we also have so much to learn from Paraguayans – they are very creative when it comes to reusing items, and it seems like everyone has knowledge on native species and the best remedies to put in your tea for a sore throat!*

*- Allison Bell, served in Paraguay*

- SOC 252 Introduction to Environmental Sociology
- SOC 452 Advanced Seminar in Environmental Sociology

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of *related* field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### *General opportunities*

- 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

### *Local opportunities*

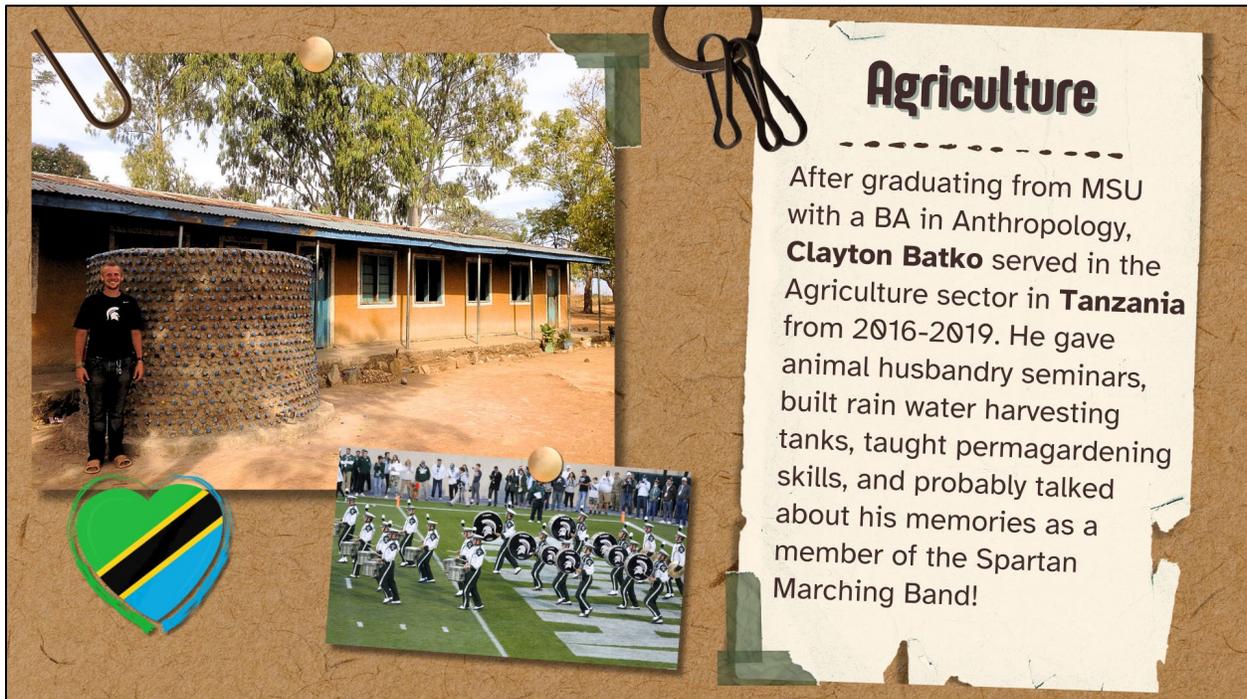
- [Allen Neighborhood Center – Hunter Park GardenHouse](#)
- [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#)
- [Blueprints for Pangaea MSU](#)
- [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#)
- [Clean Water Action](#)
- [Climate Reality Project Campus Corps](#)
- [Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice](#)
- [Ecology Center](#)
- [EcoWorks](#)
- [Engineers for a Sustainable World](#)
- [Fenner Nature Center](#)
- [Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails](#)
- [Greater Lansing Food Bank – Garden Project](#)
- [Green Home Institute](#)

- [Leadership in Environmental and Agricultural Fields \(LEAF\)](#)
- [League of Michigan Bicyclists](#)
- [LEED Green Associate Credential](#)
- [Michigan Audubon](#)
- [Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#)
- [Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy \(EGLE\)](#)
- [Michigan Energy Options](#)
- [Michigan Environmental Council](#)
- [Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)
- [Michigan League of Conservation Voters](#)
- [Michigan Recycling Coalition](#)
- [Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance](#)
- [Michigan Trout Unlimited](#)
- [Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council](#)
- [Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance](#)
- [MSU Greenpeace](#)
- [MSU Office of Sustainability](#)
- [Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Reach Outside](#)
- [Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment \(RISE\)](#)
- [Sierra Club Michigan Chapter](#)
- [South Side Community Coalition](#)
- [Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision](#)
- [Stewardship Network](#)
- [Student Greenhouse Project](#)
- [Sunrise Movement Lansing Hub](#)
- [Sustainable Spartans](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [US Green Building Council West Michigan Chapter](#)
- [West Michigan Environmental Action Council](#)
- [Woldumar Nature Center](#)

## Sector 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.



If you choose Agriculture, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** related to the agriculture sector from any of the following areas. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Agriculture sector targets.

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - *Minor in Agribusiness Management*
  - *Minor in Agronomy*
  - *Minor in Applied Development in International Agriculture and Natural Resources*
  - *Minor in Environmental Economics*
  - *Minor in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems*
  - Any Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) courses
  - Any Agricultural Technology (AT) courses

- Any Community Sustainability (CSUS) courses
- Any Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS) courses
- Any Entomology (ENT) courses
- Any Horticulture (HRT) courses
- College of Social Science
  - *Minor in International Development*

## Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Agriculture sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- AFRE 100      Decision-making in the Agri-Food System
- AFRE 206      World Food, Population and Poverty
- AFRE 327      Global Agri-Food Industries and Markets
- ANR 250      Global Issues in Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ANR 475      International Studies in Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ANS 110      Introductory Animal Agriculture
- ANS 124      Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- ANS 401      Ethical Issues in Animal Agriculture
- ANS 480      Animal Systems in International Development
- AT 101      Spanish for the Agricultural Industry
- AT 214      Leadership Development in Agriculture and Natural Resources Industries
- CSS 101      Introduction to Crop Science
- CSS 120      Issues in Food and Agriculture
- CSS 124      Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- CSS 294      Issues in International Agriculture
- CSS 424      Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems: Integration and Synthesis
- CSS 431      International Agricultural Systems
- CSS 455      Environmental Pollutants in Soil and Water
- CSUS 200      Introduction to Sustainability
- CSUS 215      International Development and Sustainability
- CSUS 224      Sustainable Farm and Food Systems Field Studies
- CSUS 310      History of Environmental Thought and Sustainability
- CSUS 317      Foundations of Teaching Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- CSUS 343      Community Food and Agricultural Systems
- CSUS 445      Community-Based Environmental and Sustainability Education
- ENT 205      Pests, Society and Environment
- ENT 410      Apiculture and Pollination

- ENT 479 Organic Pest Management
- GEO 410 Geography of Food and Agriculture
- HNF 406 Global Foods and Culture
- HRT 203 Introduction to Horticulture
- HRT 224 Sustainable Farm and Food Systems Field Studies
- HRT 251 Organic Farming Principles and Practices
- HRT 253 Compost Production and Use
- HRT 405 Sustainable Practices for Horticultural Food Crop Production
- MC 430 Applied International Development

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### General opportunities

- 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 the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm

### From the Field

*As an Agriculture Volunteer, I've enjoyed the flexibility to direct my time towards projects that are both interesting to me and beneficial for my community. I've also had the flexibility to work with the local schools and village groups and have been able to try new activities like beekeeping and pig husbandry together with my community.*

*Much of what I've enjoyed about being an Agriculture Volunteer can also be enjoyed by Health and Education Volunteers, but I do think Agriculture Volunteers, at least in Tanzania, start off with the most flexibility of the three sectors.*

*- John Whiting, served in Tanzania*

### *Local opportunities*

- [Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education Club](#)
- [Allen Neighborhood Center – Allen Farmers Market](#)
- [Allen Neighborhood Center – Hunter Park GardenHouse](#)
- [Bailey GREENhouse and Urban Farm](#)
- [Dairy Club \(MSU\)](#)
- [East Lansing Farmers Market](#)
- [Greater Lansing Food Bank – Garden Project](#)
- [Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance](#)
- [Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences](#)
- [MSU Extension 4-H](#)
- [Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment \(RISE\)](#)
- [Slow Food MSU](#)
- [Student Food Bank \(MSU\)](#)
- [Student Greenhouse Project](#)
- [Student Horticulture Association](#)
- [Student Organic Farm \(MSU\)](#)
- [Tollgate Farm and Education Center \(MSU\)](#)

## Sector 5: 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 information technology.



If you choose Youth in Development, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** related to this sector from any of the following areas. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Youth in Development sector targets.

- College of Education
  - *Minor in Educational Studies*
  - *Global Educators Cohort Program (GECP)*
  - Any Counseling, Educational Psychology & Special Education (CEP) courses
- College of Social Science
  - *Certificate in Social Work with Global Populations*
  - *Minor in Youth and Society*
  - *Minor in Human Behavior and Social Services*
  - Any Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) courses

- Any Psychology (PSY) courses
- Any Social Work (SW) courses

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Youth in Development sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- ANR 292 Applications in Environmental Studies
- CEP 240 Diverse Learners in Multicultural Perspective
- CEP 260 Dynamics of Personal Adjustment
- CSUS 200 Introduction to Sustainability
- CSUS 301 Community Engagement for Sustainability
- CSUS 445 Community-Based Environmental and Sustainability Education
- EAD 315 Student Leadership Training
- HDFS 145 The Individual, Couples and Families
- HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development
- HDFS 212 Children, Youth and Family
- HDFS 270 Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies
- HDFS 321 Curriculum for Children
- HDFS 412 Ecological Perspective of Adolescents
- HNF 375 Community Nutrition
- HNF 377 Applied Community Nutrition
- HNF 385 Public Health Nutrition
- HNF 406 Global Foods and Culture
- HNF 415 Global Nutrition
- KIN 355 Physical Activity and Health Education for Elementary Teachers
- PSY 244 Developmental Psychology: Infancy Through Childhood
- PSY 270 Community Psychology
- PSY 316 Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence: Promoting Resiliency
- PSY 444 Developmental Psychology: Adolescence Through Youth
- SOC 316 Youth and Society
- SOC 475 Health and Society
- SW 200 Introduction to Social Work
- SW 310 Human Behavior and Social Environment
- SW 320 Social Work and Social Policy I
- SW 470 Foreign Area Studies in Social Work
- TE 101 Social Foundations of Justice and Equity in Education

- TE 102 Pedagogy and Politics of Justice and Equity in Education
- TE 250 Human Diversity, Power, and Opportunity in Social Institutions
- TE 291 Special Topics in Urban Education
- TE 352 Immigrant Language and Culture
- TE 353 International Education

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### *General opportunities*

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs
- 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

### *Local opportunities*

- [Advent House Ministries](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters – Michigan Capital Region](#)
- [Boy Scouts of America – Michigan Crossroads Council](#)
- [Boys and Girls Club of Lansing](#)
- [Capital Area Response Effort \(CARE\)](#)
- [Cristo Rey Community Center](#)
- [Fostering Academics, Mentoring Excellence \(FAME\)](#)
- [Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan](#)
- [Girls on the Run Mid-Michigan](#)
- [Haven House](#)
- [Impression 5 Science Center](#)
- [Junior Achievement of Mid Michigan](#)

- [Lansing Public Schools](#) (including a K-6 Spanish immersion school, a K-8 International Baccalaureate/Chinese immersion school, and an international magnet school)
- [REACH Studio Art Center](#)
- [Refugee Development Center](#)
- [Refugee Outreach Collective MSU](#)
- [Samaritas](#)
- [South Side Community Coalition](#)
- [St. Vincent Catholic Charities](#)

## From the Field

*I enjoy working with young people because they are usually open-minded and eager to learn new skills and build relationships. I know that I am making a difference in their future.*

***Youth are the future leaders, and if we invest in them, we will have a better world.***

- Fabenson Frisch, served in Ukraine

## Sector 6: 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.

### Community Economic Development

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This is **Laura**, a Community Economic Development Volunteer in **Panama**. MSU has not had any recent Volunteers in this sector, so Laura isn't related to MSU - maybe you'll be pictured in a future Student Guide!

If you choose Community Economic Development, take **three courses (approximately nine credits)** related to this sector from any of the following areas. You may also wish to explore the italicized minors and special programs below, as the coursework for these programs is well-aligned with Peace Corps' Community Economic Development sector targets.

- College of Arts and Letters
  - *Minor in Arts and Cultural Management*
  - *Concentration in Nonprofit Leadership*
  - Any Arts and Cultural Management (ACM) courses
  - Any Graphic Design (GD) courses
- College of Communication Arts and Sciences
  - Any Communication (COM) courses
  - Any Media and Information (MI) courses

- Any Public Relations (PR) courses
- College of Engineering
  - Any Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) courses
- College of Social Science
  - *Certificate in Non-Profit Leadership*
  - *Minor in Leadership of Organizations*
  - Any Human Resources and Labor Relations (HRLR) courses
- Eli Broad College of Business
  - *Minor in Business*
  - *Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
  - *Minor in International Business*
  - Any Accounting (ACC) courses
  - Any Business (BUS) courses
  - Any Entrepreneurship (ESHP) courses
  - Any Finance (FI) courses
  - Any General Business and Business Law (GBL) courses
  - Any Management (MGT) courses
  - Any Marketing (MKT) courses

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service in the Community Economic Development sector. **This is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this sector.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- ANP 436      Globalization and Justice: Issues in Political and Legal Anthropology
- CAS 114      Creativity and Innovative Entrepreneurship
- CAS 214      Social Media and the Start-up
- COM 240      Introduction to Organizational Communication
- COM 275      Effects of Mass Communication
- CSUS 200      Introduction to Sustainability
- CSUS 430      Non-Profit Organizational Management for Community Sustainability
- CSUS 433      Grant Writing and Fund Development
- CSUS 473      Social Entrepreneurship and Community Sustainability
- EAD 315      Leadership Training
- EC 310      Economics of Developing Countries
- EC 410      Issues in the Economics of Developing Countries
- ESHP 190      The Art of Starting
- ESHP 202      Entrepreneurship Abroad

- GBL 393 Introduction to International Business
- GBL 460 International Business Law and Sustainability
- GBL 467 Emerging Enterprise Law
- GD 295 Design Thinking for Entrepreneurs
- HRLR 201 Human Capital, Human Resources, and Labor Relations
- HRLR 211 Introduction to Organizational Leadership
- HRLR 420 Comparative Human Capital Systems
- IBUS 310 International Business
- MGT 225 Women Leadership in Business
- MGT 352 Entrepreneurship: New Venture Process
- MGT 476 Globalization and International Management
- MI 301 Bringing Media to Market
- MI 304 Information and Society
- MKT 310 International Business
- PHL 345 Business Ethics
- PHL 452 Ethics and Development
- PLS 310 Public Administration and Policy Making
- PLS 342 Comparative Political Economy
- PLS 344 Politics of Developing Areas
- PLS 347 Democratic Regimes
- PR 310 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Public Relations and Advertising
- PSY 255 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- PSY 270 Community Psychology
- SOC 161 International Development and Change
- SOC 322 Sociology of Work
- SOC 424 Organizations and Society
- WRA 401 Rhetoric, Leadership, and Innovation
- WRA 453 Grant and Proposal Writing

If there is another course in the [Course Descriptions catalog](#) that you feel meets the requirement for this sector, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator. To request that a course count toward the requirements for this Peace Corps sector, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the subject area requirement.

#### Field experience

In addition to your coursework, you will accumulate and document 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as those listed here. New opportunities may become available throughout your participation in PC Prep, and some of the activities listed below may no longer be possible. If you become aware of new field experiences that could be added, or the closure of any of the listed programs, please let the Program Coordinator know.

### General opportunities

- 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

### Local opportunities

- [180 Degrees Consulting – MSU](#)
- [Capital Area Response Effort \(CARE\)](#)
- [Capital Area United Way](#)
- [Cristo Rey Community Center](#)
- [Eastside Community Action Center](#)
- [Michigan Community Action](#)
- [Multicultural Business Students](#)
- [Native American and Hispanic Business Students](#)
- [Professional Asian Student Association](#)
- [Refugee Development Center](#)
- [Refugee Outreach Collective MSU](#)
- [Samaritas](#)
- [South Side Community Coalition](#)
- [St. Vincent Catholic Charities](#)
- [Students Consulting for Non-Profit Organizations](#)
- [Sustainable Business Association](#)
- [Women and Minorities in Economics](#)
- [Women in Business Students' Association](#)
- [Women in Entrepreneurship](#)

### From the Field

*I wished to further connect with my Latin American heritage, to exchange with another Hispanic culture and better understand the intricacies of the Latinx identity. Most importantly, **I felt compelled to contribute to the goodness in the world and expand its reach, offering skills to help build a more inclusive global economy through local business and entrepreneurship.***

- Yvette Garcia, served in the Dominican Republic

## Competency II: Intercultural competence

**3 approved courses 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. You are also able to count foreign language courses and/or some education abroad programs or volunteer work for this competency. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences, so you are able to communicate effectively with people from varied cultures and backgrounds.



**SER Activity:** Peace Corps Prep Program Competencies

**Position:** Intercultural Competency

### Recommended courses

These courses have been curated as being particularly relevant for preparing students for service intercultural settings, as they involve critical reflection on engaging with cultural differences and will give you a framework for processing life as an intercultural volunteer. **As with the sector-related courses, this is not an exhaustive list—many other MSU courses would also provide valuable background information for this competency.** Some courses may have prerequisites, may require a certain major to enroll, or may not fit into your academic program; please work with your academic advisor to find courses best suited for your plans.

- AAAS 100 Race and Community in Local to Global Perspective
- AL 200 Cultural Difference and Study Abroad
- ANP 200 Navigating Another Culture
- ANP 201 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANP 203 Introduction to Archaeology
- ANP 220 Gender Relations in Comparative Perspective
- ANP 236 The Anthropology of Peace and Justice
- ANP 270 Women and Health: Anthropological and International Perspectives
- ANP 321 Anthropology of Social Movements
- ANP 330 Race, Ethnicity, and Nation: Anthropological Approaches to Collective Identity
- ANP 410 Anthropology of Latin America
- ANP 417 Introduction to Islam in Africa
- ANP 419 Anthropology of the Middle East

- ANP 420 Language and Culture
- ANP 422 Religion and Culture
- ANP 426 Urban Anthropology
- COM 310 Intercultural Communication
- COM 320 Diversity and Communication
- CSUS 310 History of Environmental Thought and Sustainability
- ENG 360 Studies in Postcolonial and Diaspora Literature
- ENG 449 Seminar in Race, Ethnicity, and Literature
- ENG 460 Seminar in Global and Postcolonial Literature
- GSAH 200 Questions, Issues, and Debates in Global Studies
- GSAH 201 Introduction to Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities
- GSAH 220 Global Interactions and Identities
- GSAH 230 Values, Experience, and Difference in Global Contexts
- GSAH 301 Global Citizenship
- GSAH 310 Questions of Justice in Global Contexts
- GSAH 311 Global Perspectives on Borders and Migration
- GSAH 313 Violence and Power in Global Contexts
- GSAH 314 Race, Gender, and Global Identities
- HDFS 442 Ethnic Families in America
- IAH 203 Latin America and the World
- IAH 204 Asia and the World
- IAH 205 Africa and the World
- IAH 207 Literatures, Cultures, Identities
- IAH 209 Art, the Visual, and Culture
- IAH 210 Middle East and the World
- IAH 211 Area Studies and Multicultural Civilizations (Series of 211A, B, C, D each focusing on different a world region)
- ISS 210 Society and the Individual
- ISS 215 Social Differentiation and Inequality
- ISS 225 Power, Authority, and Exchange
- ISS 315 Global Diversity and Interdependence
- ISS 318 Lifespan Development Across Cultures
- JRN 345 Images and Messages
- MC 111 Identity and Community: An Approach to Writing I

## Peace Corps Tip

*In-country intercultural training for new Peace Corps trainees will allow you to reflect on your own cultural values and how they influence your behavior in-country. You'll also discuss the questions you have about the behaviors and practices you observe in-country, exploring the underlying reasons for these behaviors and practices—and your role as a facilitator of development. Training will cover topics such as the concept of time, power and hierarchy, gender roles, communication styles, and the concept of self and relationships.*



- MC 376 Modern Political Thought in the Muslim World
- MC 386 Women and Power in Comparative Perspective
- PSY 342 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
- RCAH 203 Transcultural Relations through the Ages
- RCAH 225 Introduction to Community Engagement
- RCAH 235 Introduction to Language and Culture Studies
- REL 207 Intercultural Competence, Religious Diversity, and Self-awareness
- SOC 214 Social Inequality
- SOC 215 Race and Ethnicity
- SOC 310 Global Migration
- SOC 362 Developing Societies
- SSC 399 Service Learning and Civic Engagement: Theory and Practice
- WS 102 Navigating Sex and Gender in Everyday Life
- WS 403 Women and Change in Developing Countries

### Courses—other options

**There are many other courses in departments across campus that may also fulfill this requirement.** If you choose to explore options not listed above, the following guidelines will help you begin your course search:

- The courses can be from any department so long as they have a focus on comparative or global perspectives. At least one should have an international focus.
- The courses will typically be 3 credits each, though there may be valid and valuable offerings with more or fewer credits.
- Search the [Course Descriptions](#) catalog from the Office of the Registrar using keywords to find courses of interest to you.
  - For example, if you are interested in deepening your knowledge of African Studies, you could search using “Africa” as a keyword.
- If there is another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement, please discuss it with the Program Coordinator.
  - To request that a course be considered for this competence, please complete the [Peace Corps Prep course petition form](#). You will need to upload a recent copy of the course syllabus and write a short paragraph about how the course aligns with the intercultural competency requirement.

The following minors are also likely to include courses which would meet the intercultural competence elective requirement and are a good place to explore other elective possibilities.

- College of Arts and Letters
  - *Minor in African American and African Studies*
  - *Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies*

- College of Social Science
  - *Minor in African Studies*
  - *Minor in Asian Pacific American Studies*
  - *Minor in Asian Studies*
  - *Minor in Chicano/Latino Studies*
  - *Minor in Global Studies in Social Science*
  - *Minor in International Development*
  - *Minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies*
  - *Minor in Peace and Justice Studies*
  - *Minor in Race and Ethnicity in the United States*
  - *Minor in Youth and Society*
- James Madison College
  - *Minor in Muslim Studies*

### Foreign language courses

Being successful in cross-cultural contexts often requires knowledge of spoken (and nonverbal) languages different from your own first language. Increasing your proficiency in one or more world languages is thus another way you can meet part of the requirements for the intercultural competency; up to two of the courses can be foreign language courses.

Many MSU colleges have a foreign language requirement in place, so PC Prep students may already be taking language courses for their degree.

MSU has a [robust program in world languages](#), with dozens of options for courses and tutorials. Regularly offered languages include:

|                           |                 |            |            |          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) | Arabic          | Chinese    | French     | German   |
| Hebrew                    | Hindi           | Indonesian | Italian    | Japanese |
| Korean                    | Persian (Farsi) | Portuguese | Russian    | Spanish  |
| Swahili                   | Tagalog         | Tajik      | Tamil      | Thai     |
| Turkish                   | Urdu            | Uzbek      | Vietnamese | Yoruba   |
| Zulu                      |                 |            |            |          |

### MSU Pro Tip



*Foreign language proficiency related to your world area, even at the novice level, can make you a more competitive Peace Corps applicant. The block tuition system may make it easier to add a language course from MSU's extensive offerings. **Go ahead – try a Swahili class or check out a beginner Thai course!***

Languages that may be spoken in Peace Corps host countries that are not regularly taught on campus, but which may be available in a tutorial or course share format, include:

|            |            |                 |          |         |
|------------|------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Amharic    | Bamanankan | Bambara         | Bengali  | Chewa   |
| Dutch      | Finnish    | Fulfulde/Pulaar | Hausa    | Igbo    |
| Indonesian | Kazakh     | Khmer           | Malagasy | Mende   |
| Polish     | Romanian   | Shona           | Somali   | Tagalog |
| Tamil      | Twi        | Venda           | Wolof    | Xhosa   |



Department of Romance and Classical Studies (RCS)  
<https://rcs.msu.edu/>



Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures (LiLaC)  
<https://lilac.msu.edu/>



Less Commonly Taught Languages Program  
<https://lilac.msu.edu/lctl/>

### Fulfilling the intercultural competency other ways

You may be able to substitute a prolonged intercultural experience for one or two courses. In some cases, education abroad or extensive work in an intercultural context (e.g., internship, volunteer work) may be used to fulfill part of this competency. Please speak with the Program Coordinator about this option if you would like to use an intercultural experience toward your certificate requirements.

#### Education abroad programs

**Participating in an education abroad program can quickly improve your language proficiency and intercultural competence.** MSU is a national leader in education abroad, with over 275 credit-bearing programs around the world. Education abroad programs can offer opportunities to use another language with host families, in the community, and in the classroom.

#### Peace Corps Tip

*Prolonged intercultural experiences—such as studying, volunteering, or teaching abroad, supporting newcomers in their acculturation to the United States, or teaching in the US—would also significantly strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy.*



Programs vary widely in terms of length, focus, and actual language exposure. Coursework in most MSU education abroad programs is taught in English, except for intensive language-learning programs. **Most languages in which majors or minors are offered at MSU have language-intensive education abroad programs available.** Students may also want to explore non-MSU education abroad programs, summer immersion programs, and other opportunities.

Because so many factors can impact your language study, please speak with the Program Coordinator about whether your planned education abroad program can be used to fulfill the intercultural competency.

There are scholarships that can help with funding for education abroad. Some, such as the Boren Awards, focus specifically on language training, and could align well with this PC Prep competency if the language is spoken in your chosen region. Visit the Education Abroad pages on [scholarships and fundraising](#) and [national scholarships](#) for more information.



Office for Education Abroad  
<https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/>

### Volunteer work

It may be possible to attain the required level of intercultural competence through extensive volunteer work. Please speak with the Program Coordinator if you would like to explore whether your volunteer experience could be used for this competency. Possible opportunities to explore include:

- [Cristo Rey Community Center](#) – essential services for vulnerable populations
- [Refugee Development Center](#) – collaboration with refugees and newcomers through education, engagement, and support
- [Telamon Corporation](#) – education, outreach, and support for migrant and seasonal workers

### Critical Language Scholarship

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) is a program of the US Department of State. Its website says the program “**provides immersive summer programs for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to learn languages of strategic importance to the United States’ national**

## MSU Pro Tip



*You can search MSU’s Education Abroad programs and filter them using parameters like country, program length, language of instruction, and whether the program is focused on language immersion. **Visit the [Program Search page to get started!](#)** Creating a profile will allow you to save programs to look at later, but the catalog is also [visible to visitors](#) without the need to create a profile.*

**security and economic prosperity.** Through intensive language instruction and structured cultural activities, participants receive the equivalent of one year of language study in just eight weeks.”

If you are interested in studying one of the nine critical languages offered through the CLS program, many of which are spoken in countries where Peace Corps operates, you are encouraged to apply for this intensive summer program. The nine languages currently offered through CLS are:

|                 |            |         |          |        |
|-----------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Arabic          | Chinese    | Hindi   | Japanese | Korean |
| Persian (Farsi) | Portuguese | Russian | Swahili  |        |

Note that CLS applications are due in November each year, with awards taking place the following summer. Learn more at the link below and contact the Program Coordinator for more information about CLS opportunities for MSU students.



Critical Language Scholarship

<https://clscholarship.org/>

### Boren Awards

The Boren Awards are another federal opportunity, funded by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office. **The program provides funding to support intensive language study abroad for undergraduate and graduate students whose long-term goals include public service.** Boren applicants can choose from over 90 preferred countries in Africa, Asia, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, many of which also serve as Peace Corps host countries. Recipients of Boren Awards are required to complete 12 months of federal service after they graduate (Peace Corps service would fulfill this requirement).

### Peace Corps Tip

*You will be surrounded by, speaking, and working in your host country language for 27 months. Some countries may conduct an interview before you depart for service to assess your level and determine what classes you may need during training. All Peace Corps countries will require you to meet a specific language benchmark in order to swear in as a Volunteer.*



Awards generally last one or two semesters. Preference is given to students applying for programs lasting at least 25 weeks, though students can apply for as few as 12 weeks of funding. STEM majors, who may find it more difficult to fit an extended overseas program into their academic plans, are given an exception and can apply for shorter summer programs.

The list of preferred languages includes dozens, from Akan to Zulu, so it is likely that you can find a match for a language spoken in your proposed Peace Corps country. Except for French and Spanish, there is no minimum proficiency requirement for a Boren Award; you can apply to any program appropriate for your level, even if you are a novice learner.

Boren applications are due in February each year, with awards taking place as early as that summer, though most begin the following academic year. Learn more at the link below and contact Lynn Aguado in the Office for Education Abroad for more information.



Boren Awards

<https://borenawards.org/>

### Native speaker proficiency

**If you are a strong native speaker and hope to serve in a country in which your non-English first language is spoken, you can meet this requirement by demonstrating your proficiency and do not need to take language courses.** Please speak with the Program Coordinator about how to document your proficiency level.

## Competency III: Professional and leadership development

### Résumé 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).



**SER Activity:** Peace Corps Prep Program Competencies

**Position:** Professional Development and Leadership Competency

### Résumé preparation

Read materials specific to creating a Peace Corps résumé, then have your résumé critiqued by a Peace Corps recruiter, someone in MSU's Career Services Network, or the career consultant in your College.

- General résumé tips:
  - The Career Services Network provides concrete tips for writing a résumé here: <https://careernetwork.msu.edu/channels/write-a-resume-or-cover-letter/>
  - There are also lots of tips in the Career Services Network's Career Handbook, available here: <https://careernetwork.msu.edu/resources/msu-career-handbook/>
- Peace Corps-specific tips:
  - Resources created specifically for tailoring your résumé for an eventual Peace Corps application are available [on the resources page of the PC Prep website](#), along with sample résumés are for each Peace Corps sector.
- Use the resources provided to tailor your own résumé, then make an appointment with the Peace Corps Recruitment Office or Career Services to have it reviewed.
- After your feedback session, complete the [Résumé Review Verification Form](#) to confirm that you have finished this requirement.

#### Peace Corps Tip

***Your résumé is the most important part of your Peace Corps application!***

*Spending the time to tailor your résumé to the specific volunteer opening you hope to fill is worth the effort, since this document demonstrates your qualifications in terms of academic, work, and volunteer experience, and serves as a concise way to show that you have what it takes to serve.*



## Interview preparation

Not everyone who applies to the Peace Corps makes it to the interview stage of the process; PC Prep's requirement that you prepare for an interview is optimistically assuming that you have a good chance of being asked to interview because participating in this program strengthens your overall competitiveness as a Peace Corps applicant.

### STEP 1: Prepare

You will fulfill the interview preparation requirement portion of this competency by working independently to prepare using available PC Prep materials.

- The [PC Prep documents website](#) provides a detailed handout created specifically to help PC Prep participants plan for the interview. The handout provides tips, sample interview questions, and other resources. There is also an example of the actual email that an applicant will receive from Peace Corps to set up an interview.
- Additional resources:
  - Peace Corps offers this [article about preparing for an interview](#).
  - The CSN provides these [tips on preparing for interviews](#).

### STEP 2: Interview

Now you're ready to schedule your interview! The MSU Peace Corps Recruitment Office is a great place to make an appointment for a mock interview. Email them at [msupeace@msu.edu](mailto:msupeace@msu.edu) to set up an appointment (in person or virtual). Many students choose to do this at the same appointment as their résumé review.

- After your mock interview, complete the [Interview Preparation Requirement Form](#) to confirm that you have finished this part of the competency.

## Leadership experience

Develop at least one significant leadership experience and be prepared to thoughtfully discuss it in the online form and during your exit interview.

- For example, you could choose to organize a campus event, lead a work or volunteer project, or serve on the executive board of a student organization.
- The MSU Department of Student Life provides several resources for finding leadership opportunities through their [Leadership Development](#) programs.
- The [Spartan Experience Record](#) can be useful in documenting leadership experiences.
- When you have completed your leadership experience(s), use the [Leadership Experience Form](#) to describe and reflect on your endeavors.

### From the Field

*Once I found out about Peace Corps, every fiber of my being told me that this was the perfect way to not only start a life of global public service, but also where I could use my skills of leadership, diplomacy, and management in an unconventional way. **I could be the change I want to see.***

- Peter Wilborn, served in Comoros

## Completing the Peace Corps Prep program

### Validate program requirements and get that certificate

When you are ready to verify that you have met the requirements for the PC Prep certificate, please take the following steps:

- Go through the “Pre-Exit Checklist Checklist” on the [documents page of the PC Prep website](#) to make sure you have all the documentation needed to complete your Exit Interview.
- Schedule an appointment with the Program Coordinator to review and sign your Exit Checklist.

### Apply to the Peace Corps

If you plan to apply to the Peace Corps, contact the campus recruiters to get started. **It can take up to a year from application to departure for those who are selected, so plan accordingly.**

MSU has a Peace Corps Recruitment Office in the International Center, and the recruiters there are well-equipped to get you started on your application journey. More information about the application process is provided in the next section.

### From the Field

*My Peace Corps service wasn't what I thought it would be, but instead, turned out to be exactly what I needed it to be. So, what am I going to be taking away from the toughest job I'll ever love? ...The most important things this journey has given me don't necessarily take the shape of items that can merely be packed away, but instead, come in the form of lessons learned that have made a lasting impression deep within. Their mark not only endures through the way they have contoured the person I have grown to become during service but will continue to take root in shaping the choices I make, both personally and professionally from here on forward.*

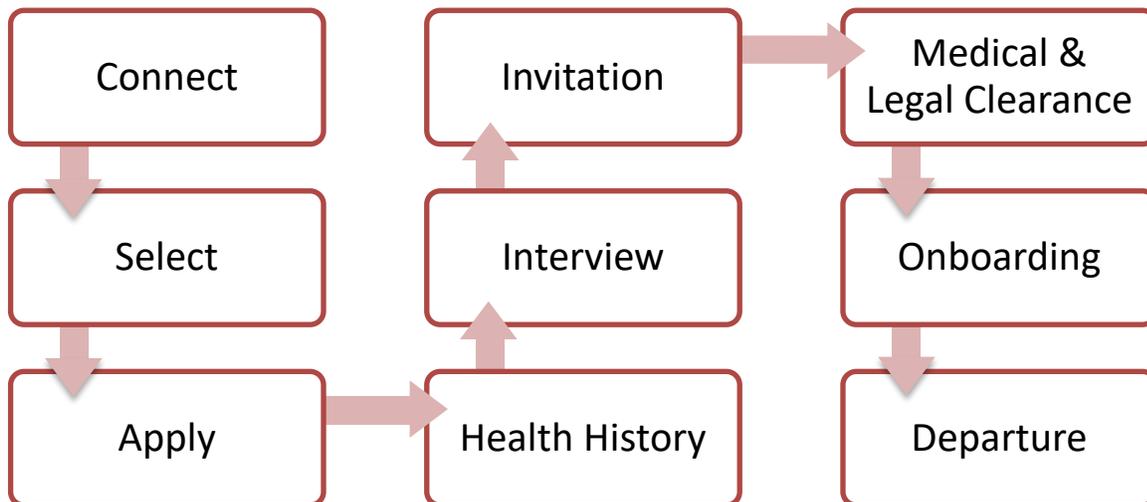
- Anne Lyons, served in Costa Rica

## Peace Corps application process

**Next step... apply!**

MSU's Peace Corps recruiters will guide you through each step of the lengthy application process, which can last up to a year from application to departure. They provide information sessions, tips and feedback on various sections of the application, networking and social opportunities for applicants to meet RPCVs, reminders about deadlines, and more. Recruiters also serve as liaisons with the Peace Corps central office and can seek answers to any questions you have during the process.

### Application process



1. Connect with the MSU Peace Corps recruiter(s).
2. Select the current Peace Corps opening best suited to your skills and interest.
3. Apply online via the Peace Corps website (there are four deadlines per year).
4. Provide your health history so Peace Corps can understand your individual medical needs.
5. Interview via videoconference if you are selected.
6. Accept your invitation to serve if you are chosen and invited.
7. Provide additional medical and legal information so Peace Corps can certify that medical support for your specific needs can be provided.
8. Complete the online documentation required for departure about two months prior to departure.
9. Embark on your Peace Corps service assignment!

## Application components

Following are the [essential information and documents](#) you will need to provide in your application to serve in the Peace Corps. **Items in italics will be part of your Peace Corps Prep certificate program, so these areas will be easy for you to document.** MSU's recruiters will be able to assist with tips on writing your motivation statement, choosing references, and any other questions you have.

- Basic personal information such as contact info
- Legal history
- Intelligence agency background (for you and any immediate family members)
- Education background
- Motivation for Serving statement (about 1 page)
- Three references
- *Sector specific experience*
- Foreign language skills
- *Résumé (1-3 pages)*
- *Peace Corps Prep certification*

### Peace Corps Tip

***You can only have one active Peace Corps application at a time. You submit one application, either for a specific position or to be considered for programs where you are needed most. You can also apply again for future programs if you are not selected for the position to which you applied.***



## Benefits of service

In addition to the lifelong friendships you will form during your service, and the immeasurable impact your service will have on your world view, **there are a number of [important tangible benefits](#) to serving in the Peace Corps.**

- Financial benefits
  - Volunteers receive a stipend for housing and living expenses during service.
  - A generous completion bonus (currently about \$10,000 for a full 27-month tour) is provided upon completion of service to help with the transition to life in the US.
- Student loan benefits
  - Some public student loans may be eligible for deferment or for Public Service Loan Forgiveness by your lender.
  - Perkins loans may be eligible for partial cancellation by your lender.
- Travel benefits
  - Transportation to and from your country of service is covered.
  - Each Volunteer receives two paid vacation days per month of service.
- Medical and dental benefits
  - Medical and dental coverage is provided during service.

- Career benefits
  - The training you have at the start of service, in addition to hands-on work during your service, provide valuable experience which is sought after by corporate, nonprofit, and government employers.
  - The Peace Corps offers career support to help you prepare for your next step after service, including:
    - Help “translating” your field experience to prospective employers
    - One year of noncompetitive eligibility status for federal employment
    - Access to job announcements, résumé services, and career fairs
  - Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate program
    - Volunteers can earn a recognized teaching credential during service.
- Graduate school benefits
  - More than 90 participating universities and colleges offer Coverdell Fellowships to RPCVs, providing reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends in a range of disciplines.
  - Many other universities (MSU included) offer various tuition discounts and other incentives for RPCVs.
- Networking benefits
  - Hundreds of thousands of Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers, making for a highly active and diverse alumni network.

### From the Field

*As a placement officer, I encounter a **common misunderstanding that Peace Corps Volunteers are not paid during their service.** While the motivation to serve people is the essential factor needed for a successful service, that doesn't mean foregoing compensation.*



*- Justin Tabor, served in the Philippines*

### Application deadlines and position listings

Peace Corps has multiple deadlines per year, generally on the 15<sup>th</sup> of a given month.

Programs begin to accept applications approximately six months to one year prior to the departure date. Each two-year position description includes three dates—apply by, depart by, and know by—to help in your planning.

### Peace Corps Tip

***Browse current opportunities here!***



## Contacts, links, and forms

**Connect with the people and resources you need**

### MSU Peace Corps contacts and links

#### Peace Corps Prep Central Contact

Use this email address for all program-related questions, and your inquiry will be routed to the most appropriate person.

Email: [pcprep@msu.edu](mailto:pcprep@msu.edu)

#### Peace Corps Prep Program Coordinator

Coordinator: Joy Campbell (RPCV Morocco, 1998-2000)

Email: [joycamp@msu.edu](mailto:joycamp@msu.edu)

Phone: 517.884.2167

Office: International Center, Room 216

Office hours: By appointment via [Calendly](#)

#### Peace Corps Prep Website

<http://isp.msu.edu/pcprep>

#### Peace Corps Recruitment Office

Recruiter(s): Shannon Harasta  
(RPCV Nepal, 2019-2020; Peace Corps Response, 2021)

Maida Walters  
(RPCV Timor-Leste, 2019-2020; RPCV Colombia, 2022-2024)

Email: [msupeace@msu.edu](mailto:msupeace@msu.edu)

Website: <http://isp.msu.edu/peacecorps>

Phone: 517.432.7474

Office: International Center, Room 201A

Office hours: See website for current hours

### Campus contacts and links

#### Career Services Network

<https://careernetwork.msu.edu/>

Center for Community Engaged Learning  
<https://communityengagedlearning.msu.edu/>

Course Descriptions Catalog  
<https://reg.msu.edu/Courses/Search.aspx>

Department of Student Life Leadership Development resources  
<https://studentlife.msu.edu/leadership/index.html>

Education Abroad  
<https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/>

Involve@State – List of Registered Students Organizations  
<https://msu.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>

Spartan Experience Record  
<https://ser.msu.edu/>

Writing Center  
<https://writing.msu.edu/>

## Other contacts and links

Peace Corps website  
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Peace Corps Prep website  
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/university-programs/peace-corps-prep/>

## Peace Corps Prep forms and links

### Planning and applying

#### [Peace Corps Prep Program Interest Survey](#)

- Complete this survey to indicate your interest in the program; the Program Coordinator will provide information about the next steps in the application process.

#### [Peace Corps Prep Planning Sheet](#)

- Use this document to plan out your Peace Corps Prep classes and other experiences. This sheet mirrors the online application form you will fill out when you are ready to apply.

### [Peace Corps Prep Online Application](#)

- When you are ready to apply for the program, use the information you gathered on the Planning Sheet to complete the online application.

During the program

### [Course Petition Form](#)

- Use this online form to request that a course be considered for requirements in either your work sector or the intercultural competence requirement

### [Work Sector Hours Verification Form](#)

- Use this document to verify your minimum of 50 hours' experience related to your work sector.

### [Résumé Review Verification Form](#)

- Use this online form to verify that you have had your résumé critiqued by an appropriately qualified person.

### [Interview Preparation Verification Form](#)

- Use this online form to verify that you have prepared for and participated in a mock interview.

### [Leadership Experience Form](#)

- Use this online form to describe and reflect on a leadership experience.

Completing the program

### [Pre-Exit Checklist Checklist](#)

- Use this internal checklist to make sure you have everything you need before you make your appointment with the Program Coordinator to complete the Exit Checklist.

### [Exit Checklist](#)

- This is the official checklist provided by the Peace Corps to certify that you have completed the program. You and the Program Coordinator will sign this form and if you apply to the Peace Corps, you will scan and attach the Exit Checklist to your application.

## Peace Corps Prep program graduates

**You could be next!**

Some PC Prep graduates apply to the Peace Corps as they finish their undergraduate studies. Others may wait until after they have worked for a few years, finished graduate school, or pursued other endeavors. Some may never apply to the Peace Corps, and that's OK, too! The PC Prep certificate never expires, so whether Peace Corps service is in your immediate future or a long way down the road, you'll always have that credential to show your preparation for service.

|    | Completed Program | Name     | Major(s)  | PC Prep Sector | Peace Corps Service Status If Known     |
|----|-------------------|----------|---|----------------|---|
| 1  | Spring 2023       | Cheyenne | Political Science   | ENV            |   |
| 2  | Spring 2023       | Danielle | Human Development and Family Studies                                    | HEA            | Invited to serve in Cameroon (2023)     |
| 3  | Spring 2023       | Liam     | International Relations; Russian  | EDU            | Serving in Kyrgyzstan (as of June 2023) |
| 4  | Spring 2023       | Maya     | Arts & Humanities; Russian  | EDU            | Invited to serve in Costa Rica (2024)   |
| 5  | Spring 2023       | Sarah    | Environmental Studies and Sustainability                                | EDU            |   |
| 6  | Fall 2023         | Aditi    | Comparative Cultures and Politics                                       | AGR            |   |
| 7  | Fall 2023         | Kaitlyn  | Environmental Studies and Sustainability                                | ENV            |   |
| 8  | Fall 2023         | Malcolm  | Applied Engineering   | CED            | Invited to serve in Togo (2024)         |
| 9  | Fall 2023         | Mikayla  | Linguistics   | EDU            |   |
| 10 | Spring 2024       | Mary     | Arts & Humanities   | EDU            | Invited to serve in Kosovo (2024)       |
| 11 | Spring 2024       | Truman   | Comparative Cultures & Politics; Environmental Studies & Sustainability | ENV            |   |

|    | Completed Program | Name     | Major(s)   | PC Prep Sector | Peace Corps Service Status If Known |
|----|-------------------|----------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12 | Spring 2024       | Spencer  | Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy; Social Relations & Policy | ENV            | Invited to serve in Malawi (2024)   |
| 13 | Spring 2024       | Katie    | Social Relations & Policy  | ENV            | Invited to serve in Mexico (2025)   |
| 14 | Spring 2024       | Zach     | French & Global History  | EDU            |                                     |
| 15 | Fall 2024         | Paige    | Sustainable Parks, Recreation, and Tourism                             | ENV            |                                     |
| 16 | Spring 2025       | Serena   | Public Policy  | ENV            | Invited to serve in Mexico (2025)   |
| 17 | Spring 2025       | Julia    | Global and Cultural Studies  | ENV            | Invited to serve in Panama (2025)   |
| 18 | Spring 2025       | Garfield | German & Religious Studies   | ENV            | Invited to serve in Mongolia (2025) |
| 19 | Fall 2025         | Ben      | Biosystems Engineering   | ENV            | Applied to serve in Tonga (2025)    |
| 20 | Fall 2025         | Claire   | Social Relations and Policy  | EDU            |                                     |
|    |                   |          |  |                |                                     |
|    |                   |          |  |                |                                     |
|    |                   |          |  |                |                                     |
|    |                   |          |  |                |                                     |
|    |                   |          |  |                |                                     |