

# PEACE CORPS PREP

## FAQS

### Applying to Peace Corps Prep

#### Who is eligible to participate in the Peace Corps Prep program?

Any current undergraduate student in good academic standing, with an interest in global service/careers. All Majors and nationalities are welcome.

#### When is the deadline to apply?

Students are accepted on a rolling basis. Students are nominated to the Peace Corps for the certificate every October and March. That means that if you miss the Peace Corps' deadline, you would need to wait until the next cycle in order to receive the certificate.

### Earning the Peace Corps Prep Certificate

#### How long does it take to complete the certificate?

It depends. Students have been certified in as little as one semester (before graduation) when they have already completed most requirements and are then supported to complete the remainder. The earlier you begin the program the better because you will be matched with a Sector Coach to help you in identifying your best fits for courses and volunteering, and you will have more time to connect with other candidates and the Peace Corps recruiter.

#### Do I need to choose a sector to earn the certificate?

Yes! This step is necessary to identify and complete the 3 sector-specific courses and 50 hours of volunteering. You may have coursework and volunteering in additional sectors too! That breadth is welcome in Peace Corps applications and service. But you do need to try to qualify in one of the 6 sectors.

#### What am I supposed to do with the Planning Worksheet?

You can download the form and click on the edit/fill form icon to enter and save your information. You will update the form with the guidance of your Sector Coach in your one-on-one meetings. You and your Sector Coach should both have access to your Planning Worksheet and update it as you add courses and volunteering or if your interests change.

## **Do I need to change my Major or Minor to earn the Peace Corps Prep Certificate?**

No! The 3 sector-specific courses and 3 intercultural competency courses/experiences fit into most students' existing Majors, Minors, Gen. Ed requirements, and general elective credits. Also, study abroad and some volunteering within communities count towards the intercultural requirement.

## **Is there a good/natural fit between certain sectors and Majors/Minors?**

Yes! Here are some examples:

- For Agriculture - Economic (and Nutritional) Anthropology/Human Biology, Biology, Ecology, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, Environmental Science
- For Community Economic Development - Business (Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing), Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Economics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Information Science/Informatics, Public Policy and Management
- For Education - Education, English, Human Development, Public Policy and Management and anything in STEM
- For Environment - Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, Emergency Preparedness, Geography, Physics, Public Policy and Management
- For Health - Biology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Neuroscience, Public Health, Public Policy and Management
- For Youth in Development - Human Development, Leadership, Psychology, Public Policy and Management, Social Welfare

## **Which courses, Majors, and Minors overlap with intercultural competency?**

Your ICC courses may overlap with your General Education requirements, especially International Perspectives, Humanities, Challenges of the 21st Century, and Social Sciences. You may also find a lot of relevant coursework in culture area studies (Africana Studies, East Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Latin American and Caribbean Studies), globally oriented Social Sciences (Anthropology and Globalization), and throughout many other disciplines.

## **Where can I find volunteer/training opportunities for my Peace Corps sector and to demonstrate my intercultural and professional development?**

You have many resources!: Engage UAlbany, Community and Public Service Program, Career and Professional Development, your College/School's internship/experiential learning director/coordinator, and the many other local and virtual opportunities listed on the Peace Corps Prep Guides to Courses/Volunteering website.

## **Do I need to wait until I graduate to earn the certificate?**

No. You can earn the certificate during the semester when all requirements have been met. That may be the semester when you graduate or earlier. If you hope to serve in the Peace Corps right after graduation, we advise earning the certificate in the semester before your last (the Peace Corps volunteer application-to-overseas placement period can last 6-9 months). After you graduate, you cannot earn the certificate. You must be a current or graduating undergraduate student to be eligible for the certificate.

# Relation to the Peace Corps

## **Do I need to apply to the Peace Corps if I am a Peace Corps Prep candidate?**

No. The choice is entirely up to you. There are various motivations for earning the certificate, including as formal recognition of your professional and intercultural development.

## **To serve in a specific sector in the Peace Corps, do I need to have earned the certificate in that sector?**

No. You can qualify in more than one sector and they will be noted on your "Exit Checklist," which you upload when you apply to the Peace Corps. Your specific sector is not shown on your certificate.

## **Will I automatically be accepted into the Peace Corps because I earned the Peace Corps Prep Certificate?**

No. You still need to apply, to a particular position, or to serve where needed most. The Certificate communicates to the Peace Corps that you put in the hard work to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that they recognize in successful volunteers.

## **Besides the courses and volunteering, what else is the Peace Corps looking for/does the certificate require and support?**

Leadership development/diverse teamwork experience (can be paid work, organizing/hosting student events, peer mentoring/tutoring, Student Association position...), a convincing and well written statement (why you want to serve, where, doing what, to what end, then/so what?...), resume feedback, and interview skills/practice, which the Office of Career and Professional Development, our Peace Corps Recruiter, and your Sector Coach will help you with!

# STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

## CONTACT YOUR SECTOR COACH

## FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

**We look forward to working with you on your  
Peace Corps Prep Certificate!**



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