



PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE

The Peace Corps Prep program at **Missouri State University** will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you will build **4 core competencies** through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support, and complete **1 additional requirement**.

The 4 competencies and associated requirements are as follows:

1. Training & Experience in 1 of 6 work sectors (Pages 3-9)

- 3 courses related to your chosen work sector
- 50 hours of related work experience (community activity, study away)

2. Intercultural Competence (Pages 10-14)

- 3 approved courses **OR**
- 2 core courses from approved course list, plus 1 regional course

3. Professional Development and Leadership (Page 15)

- Resume preparation and evaluation at Career Center
- Interview preparation and practice at Career Center
- Demonstration of Leadership Activities **OR**
- Take **Sociology 492: Leadership and Professional Development**

4. Foreign Language Skills (Page 16)

- Peace Corps' language requirements vary by region
- At MSU, Peace Corps Prep strongly recommends completing two language courses
- Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili are taught at MSU

5. Familiarize Yourself with Peace Corps Service (Page 17)

- Meet with PC Prep Committee member for initial discussion about program **OR**
- Attend one Missouri State Peace Corps Prep Event (an event is held every fall and spring semester)
- **Recommended:** Meet with RPCV or PCP Program Coordinator each semester

This document explains each of the certificate requirements in detail. *Use this guide to map out your Peace Corps Prep course of study at Missouri State.* Specifically, refer to this when completing your PC Prep application, where you will need to document how you plan to fulfill each of the requirements. **This guide aligns point-by-point with each section of the application!**

General Information About the Peace Corps (PC) Prep Certificate Program

- ❑ PC Prep is open to ALL undergraduate students, from all programs, colleges, and disciplines
- ❑ Starting in your freshman year at Missouri State, you can enroll in the PC Prep program
- ❑ PC Prep has a rolling admission, so apply any time throughout the academic year
- ❑ Education Abroad programs can be used to fulfill experience requirements for each sector and/or the intercultural competence requirements depending on program content and duration
- ❑ We will work with you to achieve your goals and earn a Peace Corps Prep certificate
- ❑ **Before beginning your PC Prep courses and activities, meet with a member of the Peace Corps Prep Committee!!**

Peace Corp Prep Committee Members

Missouri State University Returned Peace Corps Volunteers:

- Dr. Erin Kenny, Anthropology, ErinKenny@MissouriState.edu
- Dr. Ashley Leinweber, Political Science, ALEinweber@MissouriState.edu
- Suzanne Mwengi, Center for Academic Success and Transition, SMwengi@MissouriState.edu
- Dr. Alan Tinkler, English, AlanTinkler@MissouriState.edu
- Dr. Andrew Ward, Physical Therapy, AndrewWard@MissouriState.edu

Career Center liaison: Sherry Elkins, SherryElkins@MissouriState.edu

Graduate Assistant: Brian Musyoki, Musyoki388@MissouriState.edu

Peace Corps Prep Coordinator:

- Dr. Mary Willis. Anthropology, MSWillis@MissouriState.edu

- ❑ To stay on track, check in with a PC Prep Committee Member each semester
- ❑ Remember to fill out documentation materials for each activity, e.g., 50 hours of volunteer/professional work to fulfill requirement for sector experience, resume evaluation, interview requirement, etc.
- ❑ If you are not sure about an activity, opportunity, or course and whether it is appropriate to your program, please contact a PC Prep Committee member, the Peace Corps Prep program office at 417-836-5641, or email Dr. Mary Willis, mwillis@missouristate.edu for assistance.

1. Training and Experience in a Specific Work Sector

3 courses + 50 hours related experience

Leveraging concrete knowledge and skills is central to on-the-ground international development work. Through this PC Prep program, you will begin to build a professional specialty, which should serve your career well whether or not you become a Peace Corps Volunteer.

For PC Prep, you need to complete at least **3 courses** that align with a specific work sector (they can but do not need to come from your academic major or minor). You also must accumulate **a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that same sector**, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.

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 (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/volunteer-openings), then review the positions' required and desired qualifications and build them up accordingly. In the process, you should fulfill these PC Prep experiential requirements!*

There are [six sectors](#) (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve—detailed in the following pages. **Choose one sector to focus on** then complete at least 3 courses + 50 hours of related experience in that sector.

Note: Actual Peace Corps assignments are based on local needs, and thus may or may not align seamlessly with your qualifications. Flexibility is central to the Peace Corps experience!

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY PEACE CORPS PREP WEBSITE QR CODE





EDUCATION

Teach lessons that last a lifetime. Education is the Peace Corp's 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.

If you choose Education, take 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- Elementary, Secondary or Special Education
- English or Linguistics
- TEFL/TESL
- Math
- Computer Science/Information Technology
- Engineering
- Any Physical or Biological Science

Recommended Courses

- ✓ ECE 304 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- ✓ EDC 345 Introduction to Multicultural Education and Diversity
- ✓ EDC 350 School in Society
- ✓ ELE 302 Introduction to Elementary Education
- ✓ ELE 410 Teaching and Learning in the Elementary Classroom
- ✓ ENG 296 Introduction to Linguistics
- ✓ ENG 572 Writing Grant Proposals (Helpful to all PC sectors)
- ✓ ENG 591 Linguistic Theory
- ✓ ENG 592 Sociolinguistics for Language Teaching
- ✓ ENG 605 Methods in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- ✓ GRY 240 Earth Science for Teachers
- ✓ MTH 409 Teaching and Learning of Mathematics I
- ✓ MTH 410 Teaching and Learning of Mathematics II, with Practicum
- ✓ RDG 318 Foundations in Reading Instruction
- ✓ SEC 302 General Methods of Instruction in Middle and Secondary Schools
- ✓ SPE 310 Introduction to Special Education (*some PC countries have Spec. Ed sector within Education*)

Related Field Experience

Build 50 hours of related field experience through suggested leadership activities below:

- Enrolling in **CFD 303: Service-Learning: Child and Family Development**
- Teaching or tutoring in a classroom or with a community organization, e.g., Ozarks Literacy Council
- Teaching immigrants/refugees in a community organization, e.g., International Institute of Southwest Missouri (IISMO)
- Participating in a Missouri State 'Bear Breaks' Immersion Trip (~40 hours offered during spring break)
- Designated Service-Learning course (40 hours offered each semester)
- Study Away with teaching component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps' country)



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 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- Nursing
- Nutrition or Dietetics
- Health Education
- Pre-med
- Biology
- Technical Education
- Biomedical Sciences

Recommended Courses

- ✓ ANT 515 Medical Anthropology
- ✓ BMS 307 Human Anatomy
- ✓ BMS 310 Nutrition and Physical Activity in Aging
- ✓ BMS 460 Biology of HIV/AIDS
- ✓ COM 407 Health Communication and Culture
- ✓ DTN 130 Social and Behavioral Applications of Human Nutrition
- ✓ DTN 240 Introduction to Nutrition
- ✓ DTN 333 Nutrition Throughout the Life Span
- ✓ DTN 345 World Hunger
- ✓ ECO 504 Healthcare Economics
- ✓ ENG 572 Writing Grant Proposals (Helpful to all PC sectors)
- ✓ GRY 316 Geography of Global Health and Disease
- ✓ IPE 376 Cultural Competence in Health Care
- ✓ IPE 377 Global Issues in Health Services
- ✓ IPE 599 Health Literacy in Health Services
- ✓ SOC 341 Medical Sociology

Related Field Experience

Build 50 hours of related field experience through suggested leadership activities below:

- Enroll in a health focused service-learning course, e.g., **BMS 400: International Service-Learning, DTN 400: International Service-Learning: Malnutrition in Developing Countries**
- Bear Breaks Immersion Trip focused on health factors (~40 hours offered each spring)
- Utilize the Community Focus Report resource in the Center for Community Engagement to find opportunities.
- Utilize Givepulse.com to access service opportunities in Springfield, MO.
- Study Away with a health component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps' country)

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/foreign language—produce some of the strongest candidates



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 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- Environmental Science or related field
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Park Administration
- Wildlife Biology
- Natural Resources and Wildlife Management
- Forestry
- Biology, Botany, or Ecology
- Geology

Recommended Courses

- ✓ AGN 115 Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment
- ✓ AGN 143 Introductory Forestry
- ✓ AGN 215 Soils
- ✓ AGN 216 Soils Lab
- ✓ AGN 335 Soil Conservation and Water Management
- ✓ AGN 345 Forest Ecology (Ecosystems)
- ✓ AGN 405 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition
- ✓ AGN 455 Soil Genesis, Morphology and Classification
- ✓ AGN 465 Environmental Soil Science
- ✓ AGN 543 Silviculture
- ✓ AGP 103 Plant Science
- ✓ AGP 581 Applied Entomology
- ✓ ANT 314 Environmental Anthropology
- ✓ ANT 355 Environmental Archaeology
- ✓ BIO 339 Identification of Woody Plants
- ✓ BIO 373 Principles of Wildlife Management
- ✓ ECO 540 Economics of the Environment
- ✓ GLG 171 Environmental Geology
- ✓ GLG 547 Water Resources (Agricultural and Ecological Themes; Non-Majors welcome)
- ✓ GRY 108 Principles of Sustainability
- ✓ GRY 135 Principles of Weather and Climate
- ✓ GRY 142 Introductory Physical Geography
- ✓ GRY 305 Selected World Regions
- ✓ GRY 351 Conservation of Natural Resources
- ✓ KIN 500 Global Service Learning*
- ✓ REC 302 Ecotourism

Related Field Experience: Build 50 hours of field experience through leadership activities below:

- Educating the public on environmental or conservation issues, or working on environmental campaigns
- Conducting biological surveys of plants or animals
- Bear Breaks Immersion Trip (~40 hours each spring) or **GRY 470** Field Experience Outside US)
- Designated Service-Learning course (40 hours offered each semester)
- Study Away with an environmental component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps country), e.g., ***KIN 500** Global Service Learning, **REC 495** Tourism and Sustainable Development



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 3 courses from one of the following areas:

- Environmental Science or related field
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Park Administration
- Conservation Management
- Natural Resources and Wildlife Management
- Forestry
- Biology, Botany, or Ecology
- Geology

Recommended Courses

- ✓ AGB 514 International Agricultural Trade
- ✓ AGN 115 Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment
- ✓ AGN 405 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition
- ✓ AGN 543 Silviculture
- ✓ AGP 103 Plant Science
- ✓ AGP 365 Grain Crops for Food, Feed and Energy
- ✓ AGP 370 Forage Crops for Animals and the Environment
- ✓ AGP 425 Hydroponic Systems
- ✓ AGP 453 Crop Physiology
- ✓ AGR 100 Food Security
- ✓ ANT 397 Food and Culture in Biocultural Perspective
- ✓ GRY 135 Principles of Weather and Climate
- ✓ KIN 500 Global Service Learning*

Related Field Experience

Build 50 hours of related field experience through suggested leadership activities below:

- Enroll in AGR 599: International Study in Agriculture
- 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
- Missouri State 'Bear Breaks' Immersion Trip (~40 hours offered each spring)
- Designated Service-Learning course (40 hours offered each semester)
- Study Away with agricultural component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps country), e.g., **KIN 500** Global Service Learning*
- ✓ Utilize the Community Focus Report resource in the Center for Community Engagement to find opportunities.
- ✓ Utilize Givepulse.com to access service opportunities in Springfield, MO.



YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

Empower the next generation of change makers. 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 info technology.

If you choose Youth in Development, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Social Work
- Sociology
- Community Development
- Developmental Psychology
- Human Development
- Child and Family Development

Recommended Courses

- ✓ CFD 301 Play as Development
- ✓ CFD 305 Multicultural Studies in Child and Family Development
- ✓ ECE 304 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- ✓ PSY 331 Psychology of Childhood
- ✓ PSY 380 Development of the Student
- ✓ PSY 385 Development of the Early Childhood and Elementary School Student
- ✓ PSY 390 Development of the Adolescent Student
- ✓ PSY 441 Psychology of Adolescence

Note: ENG 572: Writing Grant Proposals is useful for all sectors within Peace Corps

Related Field Experience

Build 50 hours of related field experience through suggested leadership activities below:

- Teaching or counseling in at-risk youth programs
- Enroll in CFD 303: Service-Learning: Child and Family Development
- 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.
- Bear Breaks Immersion Trip (~40 hours offered each spring)
- Designated Service-Learning course (40 hours offered each semester), e.g., **CFD 303: Service-Learning – Children, Youth and Family Development**
- Study Away with child development component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps country)
- ✓ *Utilize the Community Focus Report resource in the Center for Community Engagement to find opportunities.
- ✓ *Utilize Givepulse.com to access service opportunities in Springfield, MO.



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.

If you choose Community Economic Development, take three courses from one of the following areas:

- Business or Public Administration
- Nonprofit Management
- Accounting, Banking, or Finance
- Information Technology, related fields
- Mass Communication
- International Business

Recommended Courses

Meet with your Academic Advisor to ensure that these courses fit within your course of study. Please discuss with our PCP Coordinator and PCP Partners to get courses approved.

- ✓ ANT 315 Anthropology of Globalization
- ✓ ANT 514 Anthropology of Development
- ✓ COM 469 Global Public Relations
- ✓ ECO 101 Economics of Social Issues
- ✓ ECO 345 Asian Economies (Not Taught with Regularity)
- ✓ ECO 346 International Economic Development
- ✓ ECO 565 International Economics
- ✓ ENG 222 Writing for Social Change
- ✓ ENG 572* Writing Grant Proposals (All PC sectors; writing grants part of service)
- ✓ ENT 301 Principles of Entrepreneurship
- ✓ ENT 302 Creativity, Innovation, and Ideation
- ✓ ENT 561/671 Small Business Consulting (Pre-Req – ENT 301)
- ✓ GRY 321 Economic Geography
- ✓ MGT 286 Business Communications (Pre-Req – ENG 110)
- ✓ MGT 440 Leadership Development (Pre-Req – MGT 340, MGT 341)
- ✓ MGT 447 International Management (Pre-Req MGT 340)
- ✓ MGT 543/643 New Venture Management
- ✓ REC 302 Ecotourism
- ✓ SOC 336 Race and Ethnicity
- ✓ SOC 430 The Nonprofit Sector and Civil Society

Related Field Experience

Build 50 hours of related field experience through suggested leadership activities below:

- Working with businesses or organizations in accounting or finance
- Starting and running your own business or other entrepreneurial activity
- Training others in computer literacy, maintenance, and repair
- Website design or online marketing
- Bear Breaks Immersion (~40 hours offered in spring) or **PLN 571** Planning/developing small community in SW Missouri
- Designate Service-Learning course (40 hours offered each semester)
- Study Away with economic component (Must be a study away of 2 or more weeks on the ground with relevance to PC sector and preferably in Peace Corps country), e.g., **KIN 500** Global Service Learning*, **REC 495** with program in Costa Rica

2. Intercultural Competence

3 approved courses *or* 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/electives** in which you learn about others while reflecting upon your own life. You will learn *cultural relativism*. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences.

You'll take at least 1 core and 1 regional course, plus complete hours in an education abroad program

OR take a 2nd core course to fulfill the intercultural competence requirement: (Please refer to the [MSU General Education Program](#) – Human Cultures, Public Affairs.)

NOTE: (1) If you wish for a course that does not appear on this list to count in your program, please consult with a PCP committee member and **(2)** although an education abroad program will count as one intercultural competence course, you are not required to complete an education abroad program to earn this certificate.

CORE COURSES

- AAS 100 Introduction to African American Studies
- ANT 100 World Cultures
- ANT 303 Cultural Anthropology
- ANT 312 Anthropology of Gender
- ANT 397 Food and Culture in Biocultural Perspective
- ECO 101 Economics of Social Issues
- ECO 456 Comparative Economic Systems
- FRN 326 Culture Populaire (France and Francophone countries, including geography and much more)
- GBL 250 Introduction to Global Studies & Globalization
- GRY 100 World Regional Geography
- GRY 320 Cultural Geography
- GRY 323 World Political Geography
- HST 104 World History since 1600 C.E.
- IDS 297 International Culture and Study Abroad
- MCL 100 Global Perspectives in Languages & Cultures in Society
- MCL 303 Coping with Culture
- PHI 105 Critical Thinking
- PHI 115 Ethics and Contemporary Issues
- PHI 342 Global Ethics (typically offered every other fall)
- PLS 205 Introduction to Comparative Government
- PLS 232 International Relations
- PLS 338 Politics of Less Developed Countries
- PLS 437 International Organizations and Law
- PLS 530 Non-State Actors
- REL 110 World Religions
- REL 342 Catholicism (If interested in Catholic majority regions, e.g., South America)
- REL 350 Islam
- REL 355 Buddhism
- REL 360 Hinduism
- REL 370 Women and Religion
- SOC 150 Introduction to Society
- SWK 219 Human Diversity

REGIONAL COURSES

- GRY 305 Selected World Regions; varies by semester

Africa:

- ANT332/AAS 333 Peoples & Cultures of Africa
- GRY 507 Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa
- HST 323/ AAS 323 Women in Africa
- HST 334/ AAS 334 Conflict and Peace Building in Africa
- HST 335/ AAS 335 African Civilization
- HST 338/ AAS 338 Sources and Methods in African History
- HST 339/ AAS 339 Africa and the Wider World
- HST 371 History of Modern Middle East and North Africa
- PLS 550/ AAS 550 Modern African Politics

Europe:

- HST 562 Communism in Eastern Europe

Asia:

- HST 381 Modern East Asia
- HST 572 Gender and Sexuality in Modern East Asia
- PLS 545 Asian Politics

Latin America:

- ANT 336 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America
- HST 350 Latin American Civilization
- HST 362 Modern Latin American History
- HST 364 History of Women in Latin America
- PLS 548 Latin American Politics
- SOC 350 Violence and Society in Latin America

Oceania:

- ANT 397 Peoples and Cultures of Oceania

Middle East:

- HST 371 History of Modern Middle East and North Africa
- HST 543 History of the Arab Israeli Conflict
- PLS 443 Nationalisms and Islam-isms of the Middle East
- PLS 544 Government and Politics of the Middle East
- PLS 569 Foreign Policies of the Middle East

2022/2023:

MSU Education Abroad Programs in Peace Corps Countries

Costa Rica

- o MSU Short Term: The Expedition: Leatherback Sea Turtle and Tropical Ecology in Costa Rica
- o Global Experiences Internship in San Jose
- o ISA Heredia, Spanish Language and Latin American Lit – summer
- o ISA Heredia, Costa Rica: Spanish Language, Latin American Studies & Courses with Locals
- o ISA San Jose, Costa Rica: Environmental Studies, Health Care, Liberal Arts & Spanish Language - Semester/Trimester
- o ISA San Jose, Costa Rica: Environmental Studies, Health Care, Liberal Arts & Spanish Language - Summer
- o ISA San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language & Latin American Culture - Summer
- o ISA Service-Learning in San Jose, Costa Rica
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Environmental Studies, Health Care, Liberal Arts & Spanish Language - Semester/Trimester
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language – Intensive Month
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language & Latin American Culture – Summer
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language, Liberal Arts & Environmental Studies - Semester
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language, Liberal Arts & Environmental Studies – Semester
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: San Jose, Costa Rica: Spanish Language, Liberal Arts & Environmental Studies – Summer
- o USAC Costa Rica: Heredia - Spanish Language, Ecological, and Latin American Studies
- o USAC Costa Rica: San Ramón - Life Sciences, Spanish Language, and Culture

Mexico

- o STFD Explore Education and Culture in Queretaro
- o ISEP Exchange Tecnologico de Monterrey
- o ISEP Exchange UPAEP University
- o Anahuac
- o Guadalajara – regular Semester/8-week summer/ language-intensive semester/ total immersion semester

Peru

- o ISA Cusco: Language, Literature and Culture- Semester & Summer
- o ISA Lima: Business, Latin American Studies, and Spanish – Summer
- o ISA Service-learning in Cusco, Peru
- o ISA Service-learning in Lima

- o ISA Veritas in Cusco – semester/AY/Summer

Colombia

- o ISA Barranquilla Latin American Studies, International Business, Engineering, and Courses with locals - semester
- o ISA Barranquilla, STEM summer

Jamaica

- o SFD Jamaica: Sustainable Communities and Environment

Dominican Republic

- o ISA Santiago, Dominican Republic: Caribbean Culture, Spanish Language & Courses with Locals
- o ISA Service-Learning in Santiago, Dominican Republic

Morocco

- o ISA Meknes, Morocco: Arabic Studies, International Relations & Language - Semester
- o ISA Meknes, Morocco: Arabic Studies, International Relations & Language - Summer
- o ISA Meknes, Morocco: Intensive Arabic Language - Summer
- o ISA Service-Learning in Meknes, Morocco
- o ISEP Study in Morocco - Al Akhawayn University - ISEP Exchange

South Africa

- o ISA Cape Town, South Africa: Business, STEM, Social Sciences & Liberal Arts - Semester
- o ISA Port Elizabeth, South Africa: Sustainable Development, Environmental Studies & Sport Science- Academic Year/Semester
- o ISA Service-Learning in Cape Town, South Africa
- o ISA Veritas Christian Study Abroad & Missions: Cape Town, South Africa: Business, STEM, Social Sciences & Liberal Arts – Academic Year/Semester
- o ISEP Study in South Africa - University of Johannesburg - ISEP Direct
- o ISEP Study in South Africa - University of Johannesburg - ISEP Exchange
- o USAC South Africa: Stellenbosch - Undergraduate Courses

Botswana

- o ISEP Study in Botswana - University of Botswana - ISEP Direct
- o ISEP Study in Botswana - University of Botswana - ISEP Exchange

Zambia

- o Global Research Experiences in Zambia (**Missouri State Faculty-Led Program**)

Thailand

- o USAC Thailand: Chiang Mai - Southeast Asia Culture, Politics, and Business

Vietnam

- o ISEP Study in Vietnam - International University Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City - ISEP Exchange

Indonesia

- o ISEP Study in Indonesia - BINUS University - ISEP Exchange

Fiji

- o ISEP Study in Fiji - University of the South Pacific - ISEP Direct

Peace Corps Tip!

Prolonged intercultural experiences—such as studying or volunteering abroad, supporting new immigrants or refugees acculturate to the United States, or volunteering in diverse schools—would also strengthen your Peace Corps candidacy significantly.

Note: If you need to find a sector-related project or should you decide to do a ‘substantive intercultural experience’ in the local community, consider taking ANT 400: *Action Anthropology*. Tell the professor that you are part of *Peace Corps Prep* and want to find an action activity to fulfill these hours and requirements.

Remember to speak with a member of the Peace Corps Prep committee and/or one of the RPCV’s to ensure that your activity counts toward the certificate requirements.

3. Professional and Leadership Development

Resume and interview support + Leadership experience

Peace Corps service and similar international development work opportunities are highly professional and selective. PC Prep requires **3 specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

1. **RESUME:** Have your resume reviewed by someone in the Career Center at Missouri State University
 - Upload your resume to **Handshake**
 - Visit the Career Center Drop-in Hours in Carrington 309 (See Career Center Website for hours)
 - Schedule an appointment with a Career Resources Specialist by calling 417-836-5636 or through Handshake
2. **INTERVIEW SKILLS:** Practice your interview skills with the Missouri State Career Center
 - Schedule a mock interview with a Career Resources Specialist by calling 417-836-5636 or through Handshake.
 - Access Big Interview from the Career Center webpage for an online AI-guided interview with feedback
3. Develop at least one significant **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE** and write and upload a two-page reflection of this activity. For example, you could participate in Model UN or in the Commerce Bank Emerging Leaders Program, Peer Leader, Bonner Leaders, Distinction in Public Affairs, or Inclusive Excellence Leadership Scholarship. You can organize a campus event, lead a service project, or serve on the executive board of a student organization.

Or you can complete the following course to fulfill the 3 specific activities.

- Enroll in **SOC 492 Leadership and Professional Development** (course will cover resume and interview requirements, including work with the Missouri State Career Center) and will include guidance and support for locating and completing a leadership experience.

The resume and interview activities for SOC 492 will be completed with the Career Center as required for the Peace Corps Prep certificate.

- Access the Missouri State Career Center at: <https://careercenter.missouristate.edu/>

Examples of Professional and Leadership Experiences:

- Participation in Model UN
- PLS 333 Model United Nations
- Participation in Student Government
- Missouri State University Club in leadership role
- Direct or Assist with Administration, or Manage a Missouri State Campus Organization
- Internship in a local non-profit
- Work with refugees and immigrants
- ENG 222 Writing for Social Change
- Work with Habitat for Humanity

4. Foreign Language Skills

Requirements vary by placement region

The skills that you will need to work in another country, and within a different culture or cultures, include both verbal and non-verbal language and communication. Most students must hone their capacity to interact professionally using a non-English language. *Minimum course requirements vary by desired placement region.*

- ❑ *Latin America*: Students indicating an intention to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Spanish-speaking countries must build strong intermediate proficiency, having completed two 200-level courses, or learned Spanish through another medium.
- ❑ *West Africa*: Students indicating an intention to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in French-speaking African countries must build proficiency in French or another Romance language, having completed one 200-level course or learned the language through another medium.
- ❑ *Everywhere else*: Students indicating an intention to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer anywhere else do not have explicit language requirements to complete the Peace Corps Prep Program, but are encouraged to study a foreign language, which will show your aptitude to learn another language.

In summary, although Peace Corps does not have specific language requirements for all volunteer placement sites, to fulfill this requirement for the PC Prep certificate at Missouri State University, and serve in a Spanish or French-speaking country, you should complete two language courses (at least 200-level courses or above), if you are studying Spanish and one 200-level course if you are studying French.

Note: *If you speak two or more languages and can demonstrate that you speak them with proficiency, you can skip this requirement! We will need to note this in your final paperwork/exit checklist.*

Also, if you have already taken and passed foreign language courses, or tested out of language requirements for Missouri State, these courses or tests will fulfill this requirement for the Peace Corps Prep certificate.

The following languages with relevance to Peace Corps are taught at Missouri State.

- ❑ Spanish (SPN 201 – Intermediate Spanish I; SPN 202 – Intermediate Spanish II)
- ❑ French (FRN 201 – Intermediate French I; FRN 202 – Intermediate French II)
- ❑ Portuguese
- ❑ Russian
- ❑ Arabic
- ❑ Swahili

**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/foreign language—produce some of the strongest candidates

5. Peace Corps Prep Check-In/Event Experience

Meet with and Interview Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Participate in a Missouri State PCP Event

To gain an understanding of what Peace Corps service is like, and what you will achieve or earn from serving, as well as the advantages of being a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, you must complete one of the following options:

1. Meet with a Missouri State Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV). Contact one of the Missouri State RPCVs or committee members listed below or fill out the interest form on the MSU Peace Corps Prep website: Soc-Ant.MissouriState.edu/PeaceCorpsPrep/default.htm and someone will contact you.

Peace Corps Prep Coordinator:

Dr. Mary Willis, Department Head

Sociology and Anthropology, MSWillis@MissouriState.edu

Peace Corps Prep Committee (country of Peace Corps service, if applicable)

Sherry Elkins

Career Center, SherryElkins@MissouriState.edu

Dr. Erin Kenny (Mali)

Anthropology, ErinKenny@MissouriState.edu

Dr. Ashley Leinweber (Niger)

Political Science, ALEinweber@MissouriState.edu

Suzanne Mwengi (Malawi)

CAST, SMwengi@MissouriState.edu

Dr. Alan Tinkler (Papua New Guinea)

English, AlanTinkler@MissouriState.edu

Dr. Andrew Ward (Philippines)

Physical Therapy, AndrewWard@MissouriState.edu

Brian Musyoki

Graduate Assistant, Musyoki388@MissouriState.edu

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (country of Peace Corps service)

Dr. Barri E. Tinkler (Papua New Guinea)

Dean, College of Education, BarriTinkler@MissouriState.edu

2. Attend a Missouri State University Peace Corps Prep event

Notes:

Student Name: _____

University: _____

PC Prep Coordinator: _____

PC Prep Coordinator Contact Information: _____