



## **PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT GUIDE**

The Peace Corps Prep program will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you'll build four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support. These four competencies are the following:

- 1. Training and experience in a work sector
- 2. Foreign language skills
- 3. Intercultural competence
- 4. Professional and leadership development

This document explains each of these requirements in detail. *Use this guide to map out your Peace Corps Prep course of study.* In particular, refer to this 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!

### **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](http://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](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/) ([www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/)) in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve—detailed below. **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!*

## #1 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
- Engineering
- Any Physical or Biological Science

Recommended courses:

EDF 2085 Intro to Diversity for Educators  
LIN 4721 Second Language Acquisition  
ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology  
ANT 4401 Exploring Cross-Cultural Diversity  
ANT 4462 Health, Illness and Culture

SPA 3470 Culture and Diversity in Communication Sciences and Disorders

*College of Education Undergraduate Catalog: <http://ugc.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/14Education.pdf>*  
*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/11CAS.pdf>*

And build 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:

- Teaching in one of these or a similar form: in a classroom, with a community outreach organization, or in a formal tutoring capacity
- The subject of the teaching may be English as a Foreign/Second Language, special education, drama, or a STEM subject
- Continue to the development of libraries and/or tech resource centers
- Assist with the integration and support of refugee children
- Founding or leading a community- or school-based organization

**Study Abroad Options include:**

USF Panama Spring Break:

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

Association for Childhood Education: <http://www.acei.org/>

Alliance of Health and Fitness Professionals:

<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/physed/programs/StudOrg.html>,

Association of Physical Education College Students: <http://tinyletter.com/USF-APECS>

SunCoast Area Teacher Training & Education Research Honors Program:

<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/SCATTER/scatter.html>

Student Council for Exceptional Children:

<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/sped/SCEC/SCEC.HTML>

Living Learning Community – eduCARE: <http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/sas/LLC.html>

Florida Department of Children and Families – to support Refugee Services:

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/refugee-services>

**Education related honors societies:**

Pi Lambda Theta: <http://pilambda.org/>

Kappa Delta Pi: <http://www.kdp.org/>

Omicron Tau Theta: <http://cwe-usf-ott.blogspot.com/p/ottusf.html>

**Participate in:**

The Great American Teach-In: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/meet-the-us-attorney/us-attorney-activities>

Stampede of Service: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFVIQIfi\\_J0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFVIQIfi_J0)

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

**Join:**

BullSync connects student organizations, community service partners, and engagement at USF:  
[https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-south-florida?redirect\\_to=%2Fhome%2F695](https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-south-florida?redirect_to=%2Fhome%2F695)

The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE): <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

## #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 from one of the following areas:

- Nursing
- Biology
- Environmental or Sanitary Engineering
- Nutrition or Dietetics
- Technical Education
- Public Health
- Health Education
- Pharmacy
- Bio-medical Sciences

Recommended courses:

GEY 4104 Healthy Global Aging

ITT 4531 Italian Food in Film

HSC 4551 Survey of Human Diseases

PHC 3302 Introduction to Environmental & Occupational Health

PHC 4101 Introduction to Public Health

HSC 4624 Foundations of Global Health

PHC 4464 Intro to Health Disparities and Social Determinants

PHC 3320 Environmental Health Science

PHC 4031 Emerging Infectious Diseases

*College of Public Health Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/18PublicHealth.pdf>*

*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/11CAS.pdf>*

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- 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 or volunteering as a resident advisor, a peer nutritionist, or a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- Experience in mechanical repairs, construction, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, hydrology, and/or related to improving sanitation
- Working in a laboratory dedicated to a health study

**Study Abroad Options include:**

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

The W.E.L.L. <http://health.usf.edu/giving/well.html>

USF Public Health Student organizations: [http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/student\\_orgs.html](http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/student_orgs.html)

Pinellas Hope: <http://pinellashope.org/>

Bridge Clinic: <http://health.usf.edu/bridge/index.htm>

BayCare Tampa Bay: <https://baycare.org/about-us>

Ybor Youth Clinic: <http://health.usf.edu/doctors/pediatrics/yboryouthclinic>

USF Health Service Corps: <http://health.usf.edu/ahec/usfhealthservicescorps/index.htm>

## **Participate in:**

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

## Join:

BullSync connects student organizations, community service partners, and engagement at USF:

[https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-south-florida?redirect\\_to=%2Fhome%2F695](https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-south-florida?redirect_to=%2Fhome%2F695)

The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

## #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 from one of the following areas:

- Environmental Science or related field
  - Natural Resources Conservation
  - Natural Resources
  - Wildlife Management
  - Global Sustainability
  - Forestry
  - Biology
  - Ecology
  - Geology

#### Recommended courses:

PHC 3320 Environmental Health Science

IDS 4239 Intro to Global Sustainability

ENV 4001 Environmental Systems Engineering

## *College of Engineering Undergraduate Catalog:*

<http://ugs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/15Engineering.pdf>

*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/11CAS.pdf>*

## *College of Public Health Undergraduate Catalog:*

<http://ugs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/18PublicHealth.pdf>

And build 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:

- 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 including food security and safety

**Study Abroad Options include:**

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

Emerging Professionals: <http://www.usgbc.org/help/what-are-emerging-professionals-ep>

Tampa Bay Assn of Environmental Professionals: [www.tbaep.org](http://www.tbaep.org)

Florida Chapter-US Green Building Council: [www.usgbc-fgc.org](http://www.usgbc-fgc.org)

Hillsborough County Economic Development Council: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org)

Pinellas County-UF/IFAS: <http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Environmental Protection Commission Hillsborough Co.:[www.epchc.org](http://www.epchc.org)

Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition: <https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/tampa-bay>

St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce: [www.stpete.com](http://www.stpete.com);

St. Petersburg Sustainability Council: <http://sustainstpete.org/>

TIE Tampa: [www.meetup.com/TIE-TAMPA](http://www.meetup.com/TIE-TAMPA)

Sustany: [www.sustany.org](http://www.sustany.org)

Earthlink: [www.earthlink.net](http://www.earthlink.net)

Tampa Bay Estuary Program: [www.tbep.org](http://www.tbep.org)

Tampa Bay Watch: [www.tampabaywatch.org](http://www.tampabaywatch.org)

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful: [www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org](http://www.keeptampabaybeautiful.org);

Going Green Tampa Bay: <http://www.tampagov.net/green-tampa>

**Participate in:**

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

**Join:**

USF Student Environmental Association: <https://www.facebook.com/seausf/>

USF Engineers without Borders: <http://studentorgs.usf.edu/ewb/wordpress/index.php/contact-us/>

Engineers for a Sustainable World: <https://orgsync.com/99363/chapter>

USF American Waterworks Association: <https://orgsync.com/86895/chapter>

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## #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 from one of the following areas:*

- |                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Agronomy     | <input type="radio"/> Entomology           | <input type="radio"/> Agricultural Economics |
| <input type="radio"/> Horticulture | <input type="radio"/> Agricultural Science | <input type="radio"/> Business or economics  |
| <input type="radio"/> Botany       | <input type="radio"/> Agribusiness         | <input type="radio"/> Biology                |

*Recommended courses:*

HUM 3309 Intro to Food Studies

HSC 4580 Foundations of Food Safety

HUN 3126 Food and Culture

*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/11CAS.pdf>*

*And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:*

- Working with an organization or 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 about community environmental or agricultural issues/activities
- Working on the business management or marketing side of a commercial farm
- Advancing the works of a botanical garden, park, and/or recreation area.

**Study Abroad Options include:**

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

Sweetwater Farm: [www.sweetwater-organic.org](http://www.sweetwater-organic.org);

USF Botanical Gardens: <http://gardens.usf.edu/>;

USF F.A.R.M.: <https://www.facebook.com/farmusf>;

USF S.P.E.A.K.: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/48198993867/?fref=ts>

**Participate in:**

[USF Health Service Corps: http://health.usf.edu/ahec/usfhealthservicescorps/index.htm](http://health.usf.edu/ahec/usfhealthservicescorps/index.htm)

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

**Join:**

USF Engineers Without Borders: <https://www.facebook.com/EWBUSF/>

Engineers for a Sustainable World: <http://raingardens.us/k-12-educational-outreach/engineers-for-a-sustainable-world/>;

USF Student Environmental Association: <https://www.facebook.com/seausf/>

USF American Waterworks Association: <https://orgsync.com/86895/chapter>

FWEA Florida Water Environment Association: <http://www.fwea.org/>;

Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots Program: <http://www.janegoodall.org/>;

Feed-A-Bull: <http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/wellbeing/about-us/feed-a-bull.aspx>;

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## #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 info technology.

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

- Social Work
- Developmental Psychology
- Counseling
- Human Development
- Community Development
- Family Studies

Recommended courses:

EDF 2085 Intro to Diversity for Educators  
ISS 3010 Introduction to the Social Sciences  
ISS 4935 Seminar in the Social Sciences  
MCB 4223 Food Microbiology  
ANT 4930 Nutritional Assessment

*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/11CAS.pdf>*  
*College of Education Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/14Education.pdf>*  
*College of Public Health Undergraduate Catalog: <http://uqs.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/18PublicHealth.pdf>*

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- 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
- Work or volunteer with Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay
- Volunteer or work with Tampa Bay Sports teams

**Study Abroad Options include:**

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

USF Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships: <http://www.usf.edu/engagement/>  
March of Dimes: <https://www.facebook.com/marchofdimesflorida/>  
The Children's Home: <https://www.childrenshome.org/>

Shriner's Hospital: <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/locations/tampa>  
Special Olympics Hillsborough County FL: <http://specialolympicsflorida.org/hillsborough/>  
Alliance of Health and Fitness Professionals:  
<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/physed/programs/StudOrg.html>  
Association of Physical Education College Students: <http://tinyletter.com/USF-APECS>  
SunCoast Area Teacher Training & Education Research Honors Program:  
<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/SCATTER/scatter.html>  
Living Learning Community – eduCARE: <http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/sas/LLC.html>  
Florida Department of Children and Families – to support Refugee Services:  
<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/refugee-services>

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The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE): <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

**Join:**

Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.habitathillsborough.org/>  
MOSI Museum of Science and Industry: <http://www.mosi.org/get-involved/>  
Big Brothers Big Sisters: <http://www.bbbstampa.org/Default.aspx?navigationid=2>  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay: <http://www.bgctampa.org/>  
Metropolitan Ministries: <http://www.metromin.org/>  
Volunteering with Tampa Bay Sports: <http://tampabaysports.org/Volunteer/Info>

## #6 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**Harness 21<sup>st</sup>-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 Dev., take three courses from one of the following areas:*

- Business
- Public Administration
- Nonprofit Management
- Accounting, Banking or Finance
- Computer Science and related majors
- Graphic Design
- Mass Communications
- International Business

*Recommended courses:*

EDG 3801 Cybersecurity and the Everyday Citizen

*College of Engineering Undergraduate Catalog: <http://ugc.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/15Engineering.pdf>*  
*College of Business <http://ugc.usf.edu/pdf/cat1617/13Business.pdf>*

And build 50 hours of **related** field experience through an activity such as:

- 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

**Study Abroad Options include:**

<http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ListAll>

**Get involved:**

USF Undergraduate Business Student Organizations:

<http://www.usf.edu/business/undergraduate/student-organizations.aspx>

USF Net Impact: <http://studentorgs.usf.edu/netimpact/>

Enactus: <https://enactususf.wordpress.com/>

**Participate in:**

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The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE): <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

**Join:**

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

Merge Tampa Bay: <http://mergetosuccess.org/>

Emerge Tampa Bay: <https://www.tampachamber.com/Emerge.aspx>

Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.habitathillsborough.org/>

Student Innovation Incubator at USF: <http://www.research.usf.edu/rf/sii/>

I-Corps: <http://innovation.usf.edu/icorps/>

MOSI Museum of Science and Industry: <http://www.mosi.org/get-involved/>

Toastmasters: <http://www.tampatoastmasters.org/>

The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE): <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

**Join:**

Volunteer MATCH website: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>

Merge Tampa Bay: <http://mergetosuccess.org/>

Emerge Tampa Bay: <https://www.tampachamber.com/Emerge.aspx>

Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.habitathillsborough.org/>

Student Innovation Incubator at USF: <http://www.research.usf.edu/rf/sii/>

I-Corps: <http://innovation.usf.edu/icorps/>

MOSI Museum of Science and Industry: <http://www.mosi.org/get-involved/>

Toastmasters: <http://www.tampatoastmasters.org/>

***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.*

## 2. Foreign language skills

Requirements vary by language

Working across cultures often entails verbal and nonverbal languages distinct from your own. Building foreign language skills is thus a second key component of the PC Prep curriculum.

*Where would you like to serve?* PC Prep minimum course requirements align with those needed by applicants to the Peace Corps itself, which vary by linguistic region.

*Latin America:* Individuals wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. This typically means completing **two 2000-level intermediate courses:**

- SPN 2240 Conversation I
- SPN 3300 Advanced Spanish for Native Speakers I

*West Africa:* Individuals wanting to serve in French-speaking African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Romance Language) through **two 2000-level intermediate courses:**

- FRE 2240 Intermediate Spoken French in Cultural Context
- FRE 2241 Spoken French in Cultural Context

*Everywhere else:* The Peace Corps has **no explicit language requirements** for individuals applying to serve in most other countries. However, you will still likely learn and utilize another language during service, so it is only helpful to have taken at least one foreign language class.

- LIN 4721 Second Language Acquisition

*Note:* If you are a strong native speaker and hope to serve in a country that speaks your same language, you can skip this requirement!

For information about all the language courses offered at USF, review the Department of World Languages Undergraduate Programs: <http://languages.usf.edu/undergraduate/>

The USF Office of National Scholarships (ONS): <https://ons.usf.edu/> encourages students to apply for one of the scholarships below. Gilman Scholarships facilitate international engagement by Pell Grant recipients and language acquisition can be funded through the Critical Language or Boren Scholarships.

1. Gilman Scholarships - ONS will certify all Gilman scholarship applicants who have also expressed an interest in the Peace Corps Prep Program:  
<http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman-scholarship-program#.WC9adLrLIU>
2. The Critical Language Scholarships: <http://www.clscholarship.org/about>
3. Boren Scholarships under Boren Awards: <https://www.borenawards.org/>

### **3. Intercultural competence and Global citizenship**

**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 including Study Abroad** in which you learn about others while reflecting upon your own self in relation to others. The goal is for you to build your capacity to shift perspective and behavior around relevant cultural differences.

#### **Intercultural Competence for USF Peace Corps Prep Program:**

**For this competency, you will need to take three courses: one core course in Diversity and Inclusion and two relevant electives OR you have the option of engaging in substantive intercultural experiences in place of one or both electives.**

##### **1. Core Courses: Select one in Diversity and Inclusion:**

- Diversity and Inclusion offering that helps you to increase cultural self- and other-understanding, building adaptability around relevant cultural differences.
- Intercultural Communication, Multicultural Counseling, or courses that integrate self-reflection into the study of marginalized groups (i.e., classes focused on race, gender, sexuality, or disabilities).

##### **2. Electives: Select two relevant electives:**

- To fill out this competency, you will need to take two more courses of the above type or more globally-oriented classes such as: International Development, area studies (i.e., African Studies, Latin American Studies, etc.), the Economics of Poverty, Peace Studies, Cultural Anthropology, Emerging Markets, World Literature, etc.

**3. Optional: Intercultural experience in place of elective(s): You have the option of substituting intercultural experiences for one or both electives.**

**a. Studying or volunteering abroad** may count if you visit a country that has at some point hosted Peace Corps Volunteers (see the list of current and past countries [here](http://www.peacecorps.gov/countries) [www.peacecorps.gov/countries]). Studying or volunteering abroad in these countries from one week to a summer may substitute for one course. Experiences that last a full semester may substitute for both electives.

**b. Other intercultural experiences**, such as helping new immigrants/refugees acculturate to the U.S. or volunteering in diverse schools, may also count. If they also align with one of Peace Corps' six sectors, these experiences may simultaneously count for that hands-on experiential requirement. Each distinct intercultural experience lasting at least forty hours may substitute for one elective.

**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.*

**Examples of Substantive Intercultural Experiences:**

The iBuddy Program managed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is a free 9-week program that takes place during both the fall and spring semesters. The program partners international and domestic students to increase cultural awareness and build lasting friendships through a series of campus events and social programs. The iBuddy program enhances and encourages out of classroom student engagement that assists participants in becoming global citizens. The Office of Multicultural Affairs has a partnership with the Global Citizens Project where students can gain **20 hours towards the GCP Award**. For more information about the iBuddy Program: <http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/multicultural-affairs/programs/ibuddy.aspx>

Safe Zone and UndocuALLY Training offered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Safe Zone Ally Training is a free three-hour interactive certification on LGBTQ+ culture, advocacy, and how to be an ally. Upon completion of the training, you will receive a certificate that can be added to your co-curricular transcript. UndocuALLY Training is a free three-hour interactive certification on the Undocumented student experience, federal and state policies and how to be an ally. Upon completion of the training, you will receive a certificate that can be added to your co-curricular transcript.

*Connect with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Global Citizens Project to learn about more opportunities to hone your intercultural competency skills.*

## 4. 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 **three specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

1. Have your resume reviewed by USF Career Services in the Student Services Center, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SVC 2088, Tampa, FL 33620.
2. Attend a workshop or enroll in a class to improve your resume writing or interview skills offered by USF Career Services: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/>
3. Develop at least one significant leadership experience and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully. For example, organizing a campus event, leading a work or volunteer project, or serving on the executive board of a student organization.

### **Resume and Interview Skill-Building**

As a Peace Corps Prep student, you are required to have your resume reviewed by USF Career Services. You may choose to visit a “Career Peer” for an evaluation. Career Peers are available during “Career Express” hours 9:30 AM -4:30 PM Monday through Thursday on the second floor of USF’s Student Services Center (SVC) in room 2088. You can also serve your fellow students as a “Career Peer.”

You must also attend one of the Career Services Workshops on Resume Writing or Interview Skills. See: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/events/workshops.aspx> USF Career Services also offers two courses that can be taken for academic credit to help you prepare for your future: “Career Development Today” and “Job Search.” These courses may be taken online or in-person on the Tampa campus. See: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/courses.aspx>

## **Leadership Experience**

Host a Peace Corps Prep workshop for students to share their experiences during the *Intercultural Student Leadership Conference* (Office of Multicultural Affairs) as a way to gain professional experience and energize others about your passion for global service:

<http://multicultural.usf.edu/islc/>

Join the USF Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE):

<http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/> Explore the many leadership development opportunities that the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement has to offer! The CLCE provides courses, one day workshops, weekend retreats, and yearlong leadership development programs that can meet any student need. Students are able to earn a minor in Leadership Studies by enrolling in a sequence of course approved by the CLCE. Or, attend a workshop or event during the Lunchtime Leadership Series.

The Certified Student Leader Program is a co-curricular certification available to students who are interested in enhancing their leadership knowledge, application, and skills through a variety of leadership opportunities. These opportunities may be tailored to students' own interests, many of which are offered over the course of the academic year. Students may join this program at any point during their college career and will be enrolled as part of a cohort. Students who complete the program and are in good academic standing will receive a certificate and will have the achievement noted on their co-curricular transcript. For more information, visit: <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/leadcsl.php>

Become a Peace Corps Ambassador: <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSF/> Get to know USF's dedicated Peace Corps Recruiter and help spread the word about the unique opportunities available through Peace Corps service.

Assume a leadership position in a student organization. There are over 600 registered student organizations at USF. From academic and professional organizations and special interest groups to fraternities and sororities and multicultural student organizations, there are so many ways to get involved in a student organization. All registered student organizations can be found on BullSync. USF BullSync is a system-wide intranet that connects student organizations, community service partners, and campus engagement: <https://orgsync.com/login/university-of-south-florida>

Serve on a university-wide committee: Black Affairs, Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Ethics and Integrity, Status of Latinos, Student Green Energy Fund, Title IX, Women Status. Or run for office (Student Government). Senators (Legislative Branch) are elected once a semester - during the general election (February) and midterm election (October). The Student Body President and Vice President (Executive Branch) are elected during the general elections and serve a one-year term beginning in late Spring. <http://www.sg.usf.edu/>

Connect with the Center for Student Involvement. Its departments strive to provide a purposeful and positive out-of-class experience for USF students and student organizations. This is achieved in many ways and always complements the educational mission of the University of South Florida. The uniqueness and variety of these programs, services, and activities allows for all members of the campus community to interact with others and be involved in meaningful ways of their choosing. <http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/involvement/>

Not sure how to get involved? Here's your roadmap: <http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/involvement/documents/csi-get-involved-web.pdf>

