



UNT PEACE CORPS PREP CERTIFICATE

STUDENT GUIDE

UNT's Peace Corps Prep Certificate 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:

- a. Training and experience in a Work Sector
- b. Intercultural competence
- c. Professional and leadership development
- d. Foreign language skills (optional)

1. TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN A SPECIFIC WORK SECTOR

REQUIREMENTS: 3 courses + 50 hours volunteer or work experience in the same work sector

Work Sectors: (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/)

- 1. Education
- 2. Health
- 3. Environment
- 4. Agriculture
- 5. Youth in Development
- 6. Community Economic Development

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 advanced courses** that align with a specific work sector. You also must accumulate **a minimum of 50 hours over a minimum of three months 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!

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.

3 Courses: *Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep*

Coordinator:

- Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education
- English (ENGL)
- Linguistics (LING)
- Mathematics (MATH)
- Computer Science (CSCE)
- Engineering
- Learning Technologies (LTEC)
- Information Science (INFO)
- Physical Sciences (PHYS, CHEM)
- Biological Sciences (BIOL)

50 Hours: *Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months 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.
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Elm Fork Education Center](#)
 - [UNT's Child Development Laboratory](#)
 - [UNT's Kristin Farmer Autism Center](#)
 - [UNT's Child and Family Resource Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

#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.

3 Courses: *Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep*

Coordinator:

- Health Promotion (HLTH)
- Kinesiology (KINE)
- Women and Gender Studies (WGST)
- Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)
- Biology (BIOL)
- Rehabilitation Studies (RHAB)
- Biomedical Engineering (BMEN)
- Psychology (PSYC)
- Public Health (PUBH)
- Sociology (SOCL)
- Social Work (SOWK)
- Behavioral Analysis (BEHV)
- Hospitality Management- family and consumer science; nutrition and food science (HMGT)

50 Hours: *Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months 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 as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Psychology Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Speech and Hearing Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Kristin Farmer Autism Center](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Sport Psychology](#)
 - [UNT's Child and Family Resource Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Play Therapy](#)
 - [UNT's Counseling and Human Development Seminar](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

#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.

3 Courses: *Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep Coordinator:*

- Ecology and Environmental Science (BIOL)
- Geology (GEOL)
- Geography (GEOG)
- Philosophy- Environmental Topics (PHIL)
- Biology (BIOL)

50 Hours: *Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months 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
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Elm Fork Education Center](#)
 - [UNT's Big Event \(environmentally focused project\)](#)

- [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

#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.

3 Courses: Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep

Coordinator:

- Ecology and Environmental Science (BIOL)
- Geology (GEOL)
- Geography (GEOG)
- Business (MGMT, MKTG, OPSM, DSCI, etc.)
- Economics (ECON)

50 Hours: Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months of related field experience through an activity such as:

- 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
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Elm Fork Education Center](#)
 - [UNT's Big Event \(environmentally focused project\)](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

#5 [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.

3 Courses: Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep

Coordinator:

- Social Work (SOWK)
- Psychology (PSYC)
- Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)
- Sociology (SOCL)
- Recreation and Sports Management (RESM)
- Health Promotion (HLTH)
- Public Affair and Community Service (PADM)
- Public Administration (PADM)

50 Hours: *Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months 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
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Psychology Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Child and Family Resource Clinic](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Play Therapy](#)
 - [UNT's Counseling and Human Development Seminar](#)
 - [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

#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.

3 Courses: *Take 9 advanced hours from the following areas in consultation with the Peace Corps Prep*

Coordinator:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ○ Business (MGMT, MKTG, OPSM, DSCI, etc.) | ○ Communication Design (ADES) |
| ○ Public Administration (PADM) | ○ Media Arts (MRTS) |
| ○ Public Affairs and Community Service (PACS) | ○ Converged Broadcast Media (CBCM) |
| ○ Computer Science (CSCE) | ○ Journalism (JOUR) |
| ○ Economics (ECON) | |

50 Hours: *Build 50 hours over a minimum of 3 months 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
- Volunteer work, such as:
 - [UNT's Center for Leadership and Service](#)
- [Study Abroad](#) (service learning and community engagement program)

2. INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

REQUIREMENTS: 3 courses (9 credit hours) from the approved course lists

Peace Corps *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.*

Tip!

Core Course: You'll take at least 1 course from the following courses:

- ANTH 1100 World Cultures
- ANTH 2300 Culture and Society
- COMM 3620 Intercultural Communication
- COUN 2620 Diversity and Cultural Awareness
- PSYC 4030 Multicultural Psychology

Elective Courses: You'll take an additional 2 courses from the list above or from the following courses:

Anthropology

- ANTH 1150 World Cultures Through Film
- ANTH 2200 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- ANTH 3110 Indigenous Peoples of North America
- ANTH 3120 Indigenous Cultures of the Southwest
- ANTH 3130 African-American Anthropology
- ANTH 3210 Meso America
- ANTH 3300 Peoples and Cultures of the Pacific
- ANTH 3400 Peoples and Cultures of Africa
- ANTH 3500 Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East
- ANTH 3700 Peoples and Cultures of South Asia
- ANTH 3710 Peoples and Cultures of East Asia
- ANTH 3720 Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia
- ANTH 4200 Health, Healing and Culture: Medical Anthropology
- ANTH 4210 Culture and Human Sexuality
- ANTH 4300 Migrants and Refugees
- ANTH 4750 Culture Change

Geography

- GEOG 1200 Global Societies
- GEOG 2170 Culture, Environment, and Society

Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 3153 The Impact of Culture on Individuals and Families

Philosophy

- PHIL 2070 Great Religions
- PHIL 3620 South Asian Philosophy and Religion
- PHIL 3625 Modern South Asian Philosophy and Religion
- PHIL 3655 Eastern Religion and the Environment
- PHIL 3680 Buddhism, Daoism, Shintoism
- PHIL 4650 Philosophy of Water

Political Science

- PSCI 3500 Introduction to Peace Studies

Sociology

- SOCI 4160 Developing Societies
- SOCI 4620 Sociology of Culture
- SOCI 4750 World Population Trends and Problems

Social Work

- SOWK 4540 Human Diversity for the Helping Professions

Women and Gender Studies

- WGST 2100 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Is there another course in the catalog that you feel meets this requirement? Please discuss it with your PC Prep Coordinator!

3. PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

REQUIREMENTS: Resume and Job Interview Activities + Leadership Experience

Students must complete the following requirements:

1. Have your **resume** critiqued by someone in [UNT Career Center](#).
2. Attend a workshop or class on **interview skills** at [UNT Career Center](#).
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. Students are encouraged to participate in globally-focused activities on campus, such as those associated with International Education Week, Great Global Citizens' Month, Global Grounds Cafes, the Intensive English Language Institute's conversation partner program, globally or service focused student groups, like Engaged Beyond Borders, and other opportunities.

4. FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS (OPTIONAL)

OPTIONAL: see below for more information

1. **Spanish for Latin America:** Students interested in serving in *Spanish-speaking* countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency, which is usually demonstrated by completing at least **four semesters** of Spanish (or the completion of at least **two 2000-level Spanish courses**): SPAN 1010, SPAN 1020 (or SPAN 1030), SPAN 2040, and SPAN 2050.
2. **French for West Africa:** Students interested in serving in *French-speaking* African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Romance Language), which is usually demonstrated through the completion of **three to four semesters** of French—or another Romance Language as applicable—(or the completion of at least **one 2000-level French or Romance Language course**): FREN 1010, FREN 1020, and FREN 2040
3. **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.
4. **Native Speakers:** If you are a *strong native speaker of Spanish or French* and want to serve in a country that speaks your native language, you are exempt from the language requirement.