



## Peace Corps Prep @ **FIU**

# STUDENT PLANNING 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, and the component of the Peace Corps Prep program that support each one are listed in the table below. **Review each section of this guide to plan the specific courses and experiences that will make up your Peace Corps Prep @ FIU experience.**

Learning Objective	Corresponding Peace Corps Prep Requirement
Training and experience in a work sector	Global Engagement Project
Foreign language skills	Language Requirement
Intercultural competence	Global Learning Course Requirement
Professional and leadership development	Informational, Networking, and Mentorship Opportunities

## Before You Begin: Identifying Your Sector

Peace Corps Volunteers serve in one of six sectors. Read about each sector here and identify the sector you are most interested in. The following sections will help you identify Global Learning courses and Global Engagement Project opportunities that are most relevant to your sector.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

**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.*

Your Peace Corps Sector:

# 1. Global Learning Course Requirement

FIU's GL courses are designed to enhance your global awareness, skill of global perspective, and attitude of global engagement. Ultimately, these courses provide an opportunity to work collaboratively on real world problems.

**Requirement Details:** Pass any 3 Global Learning-designated courses with a C or higher. Global Learning Courses are any of the 160+ courses found at <http://goglobal.fiu.edu/courses/>

**Important Notes:** 1) They must be taken at FIU. 2) Classes taken before that particular course was granted Global Learning designation by the University will not count. 3) **Consult your academic advisor to choose courses that can count toward a major, minor, certificate, and/or the elective requirements of your degree program** to avoid state excess credit surcharges.

Use the table below to keep track of your GL course progress.

	Course Number	Semester	Scheduled (✓)	Completed (✓)
GL Course #1				
GL Course #2				
GL Course #3				

Any 3 GL courses can count. However, it is ideal to choose courses that align to your Peace Corps sector. Suggestions of courses for each sector are below:

- **Education:** EDF 3251, EDF 4604, EDF 4953/4, LAE 4405, DIE 3434, MAE 4394/SCE 4194, SSE 4380, TSL 3080, TSL 4081, TSL 4324, TSL 4340
- **Health:** IDS 3183, IDS 3189, CLP 4314, HSA 4113, HSA 4150, NUR 3668, NUR 4667, DIE 3434, HUN 3191, MCB 2000
- **Environment:** EVR 1001, EVR 1017, GEO 3510, IDS 3211, IDS 3214, OCB 2003, OCE 3014, CES 4580, EGN 4070, ENV 3001, GEO 3001, GLY 4734, GLY 4881, HFT 3701, PHI 3640
- **Agriculture:** PCB 4667, PCB 4553, ECO 4713
- **Youth in Development:** EEC 3400, SOW 3233, SOW 3620
- **Community Economic Development:** FIN 4604, FIN 4634, HFT 3703, HFT 3704, HFT 3503, MAN 4720, MAR 3023, COM 4430, ECO 471

## 2. Language Requirement

**Requirement Details:** All Peace Corps Prep students must complete 2 college-level courses in the same foreign language. In addition, one of the following must be completed:

- Additional semester of a College-level foreign language of the same language
- Foreign Language Education course (FLE 4375 and/or FLE 4314)
- International service trip to a location where studied language is spoken
- Approved non-English-focused linguistics course

**Important Notes:** 1) Students intending to serve in Latin America should study Spanish. Student intending to serve in Francophone African nations should study French. 2) Education majors may take TSL courses in place of FLE courses if it is required for their major. 4) CLEP and AP/IB credits do not count toward this requirement.

5) College-level language courses must be in the same language. 6) **Consult with your academic advisor to choose courses that can count toward major, minor, certificate, and/or elective requirements of your degree program** to avoid state excess credit surcharges for extra courses.

Visit the Department of Modern Languages at <http://dll.fiu.edu/> for more information on FIU Foreign Language offerings.

Use the chart below to keep track of your language requirement progress:

**MANDATORY:**

	Course No.	Semester	Scheduled (✓)	Completed (✓)
College-Level Language Course #1				
College-Level Language Course #2				

**COMPLETE ANY 1:**

	Course No.	Semester	Scheduled (✓)	Completed (✓)
Additional Language Course				
FLE Course				
Approved Linguistics Course				
Service Abroad Experience				

### **3. Global Engagement Project**

The FIU Peace Corps Prep Global Engagement Project is designed to prepare you for extended, issue-focused service with the Peace Corps and other international development agencies. The 80-hour engagement requirement can be completed locally or internationally. The **project page** at <https://goglobal.fiu.edu/pcp/global-engagement-project/> provides extensive resources to assist you in choosing the right project for you, or designing your own.

**Projects must be approved by the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.** Submit your project proposal through the online form on the project page, or email [pcprep@fiu.edu](mailto:pcprep@fiu.edu) to ensure your project is fully approved in time to begin tracking hours. Once your project is approved, you will be given access to an online tracking system called *CourseSites*. You will be prompted to upload a log of your hours, as well as to respond to a reflection question, for every 20 hours of work.

Here are some things for you to consider and fill out after reviewing the project page:

- In what semester prior to graduation will you complete your project? \_\_\_\_\_
- Will you design your own project or sign up for existing opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_
- Will you complete your project locally or internationally? \_\_\_\_\_
- With what community/nonprofit agencies are you interested in working with? \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Informational, Networking, and Mentorship**

Each semester, the Peace Corps Prep program schedules programs to meet Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Peace Corps Recruiters, as well as to get to know one another and have all of your Peace Corps-related questions answered. It is strongly recommended that you attend at least one program per semester while you complete your course and project requirements. You are welcome to as many as you can attend. Find a full schedule for each semester at <https://goglobal.fiu.edu/pcp/program-schedule/>.

Additionally, it is vital that you check all emails coming to you from [pcprep@fiu.edu](mailto:pcprep@fiu.edu). We announce significant opportunities to become highly involved including chances to apply to become a Peace Corps Campus Intern or to visit the Peace Corps offices in Washington, D.C.

Finally, **all Peace Corps Prep students should meet with the on-campus Peace Corps Recruiter located in the Career Services Office prior to beginning their official Peace Corps Application.**

*Some images and text in this document and on PC Prep Web pages and social posts are courtesy of Peace Corps.*