



Photo courtesy of the United States Peace Corps Media Library.

Peace Corps Prep: Get Ready for International Service

Peace Corps Prep is a certification program open to all UMass Boston undergraduates. It builds your job skills and cultural competence, and makes you a strong candidate for Peace Corps or other international service and careers after graduation.

How does it work?

The program uses courses you're already planning to take, plus volunteer or internship opportunities, to help you build 4 competencies essential for Peace Corps service:

1. **Sector-specific skills.** You'll choose one of the 6 Peace Corps sectors: education, health, environment, agriculture, youth in development, or community economic development. You'll take 3 courses, which can come from your major or from electives, and complete 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in the sector you choose.
2. **Foreign language proficiency.** If you're interested in volunteering in Latin America, you'll study Spanish. If you're a native speaker of Spanish or French, you meet this requirement already! There's no language requirement for most Peace Corps countries, but it helps.
3. **Intercultural competence.** You'll take courses on topics like gender studies, diversity, human rights, and inclusion. Again, these can come from your major or be electives you're already taking.
4. **Professional savvy and leadership.** You'll get your resume reviewed, take interviewing workshops, and prepare for the job market.



What happens if I apply?

You'll get a detailed guide on how to hit the certificate requirements. This works for students with any major, and you don't need to take extra courses. We'll help you make sure the courses you're taking fulfill the certificate requirements.

If you apply to the program and complete the required work, you'll get a certificate when you graduate, and have an advantage if you apply to the Peace Corps. The certificate doesn't guarantee acceptance into the Peace Corps, but it gives you an edge.

Through this program, you'll build a strong foundation for international service and employment. You'll also be prepared to start a career in development or policy work here in the US.

What will I get out of it?

- Build marketable skills for working in the US or internationally
- Have an advantage when applying to Peace Corps
- Get more involved with your community through volunteering or internship

Anything else I should know?

- While Peace Corps Prep is open to all students, you must be a U.S. citizen to become a Peace Corps volunteer.
- You can join the program at any point during your time at UMass Boston. Just talk to us to make sure you have time to cover the requirements.

Interested in learning more or applying?

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