PEACE CORPS PREP STUDENT APPLICATION

Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Major(s): _____ Minors(s): _____

Expected Graduation (month and year): _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

1. Training and Experience in a Specific Work Sector

Please check the box of the sector in which you would like to serve:

❑ Education   ❑ Environment   ❑ Youth in Development
❑ Health   ❑ Agriculture   ❑ Community Economic Development

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

(1) Specific Work Sector Coursework:

List the number, name, and semester/year of 3 courses that you plan to take or have taken. (The courses you include on this application are permitted to change as long as they are still relevant to the specific sector for which you plan to apply)

Course 1: _____ Semester and year: _____

Course 2: _____ Semester and year: _____

Course 3: _____ Semester and year: _____

(2) Specific Work Sector Hands-on Experience (minimum 50 hours total):

Provide 250-word minimum explanation of the hands-on experience you completed or plan to complete.

2. Foreign Language Skills

Peace Corps placement in Spanish-speaking countries require two 200-level courses.

Placement in French-speaking countries requires one 200-level course in any Romance Language.

Requirements depend upon desired Peace Corps volunteer placement site. While most Peace Corps assignments have no language prerequisite, you will be required to learn a language upon arrival to your site, so practicing language learning now will set you ahead.

(1) Foreign Language Coursework:

List the number, name, and semester/year of 3 courses that you plan to take or have taken.

Course 1: _____ Semester and year: _____

Course 2: _____ Semester and year: _____

(2) Digital Badge:

3. Intercultural Competence

List the number, name, and semester/year of approved electives you plan to take or have taken:

Core course: _____ Semester and year: _____

Elective 1: _____ Semester and year: _____

Elective 2: _____ Semester and year: _____

4. Professional and Leadership Development

(1) Professional resume feedback:

Meet with Career Services for a one-on-one resume review.

Planned month and year: _____

(2) Professional interview prep:

Complete Big Interview Peace Corps Prep assignment.

Planned month and year: _____

(3) Leadership & Civic Engagement Digital Badge:

For example, leading a work or volunteer project, serving on the executive board of a student organization, or organizing a big campus event.

_____   _____

Signature of Student   Date

_____   _____

Signature of Peace Corps Prep Coordinator   Date

PEACE CORPS PREP CURRICULUM GUIDE

The Peace Corps Prep program will prepare you for Peace Corps service and international development careers both overseas and in the U.S. To accomplish this, you'll build four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience (experiential learning), and professional development support. These four competencies or "learning objectives," are the following:

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

This document serves as a guide to map your Peace Corps Prep course of study and explains the requirements in detail. You'll need this document when completing your PC Prep application should reference it frequently to help guide you if your path changes or zig zags.

1. Training and Experience in a Specific Work Sector

> **3 Courses + 50 Hours Related Experience**

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

You are required to complete at least **3 courses** that align with a specific work sector (they 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.

The list below is not comprehensive of all qualifying classes. If there is a class that you plan to take that is not listed that you feel may qualify, please consult the Peace Corps Prep Coordinator.

> *Peace Corps Tip!*
>
> *The best way to assure that you will be a strong candidate is to identify the type of assignments in which you'd like to serve by learning about [current available positions](). Review the positions desired qualifications and build your skillset/experiences as they relate while fulfilling PC Prep experiential requirements! (www.peacecorps.gov/openings)*

Below are the six sectors in which Peace Corps serve. **Choose one or two sectors to focus on** then complete required 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 (https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/#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:

AYA Education	Math
Computer Science	Middle Childhood Education
Communications	Museum Studies
Early Childhood Education	Physical or Biological Sciences
Education (non-licensure)	Special Education
English	

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

- Teaching in one these or a similar form: in a classroom, with a community outreach organization, or in a formal tutoring capacity
- Walsh University community partner examples (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Asia Inc.	Micah's Way Family Program Skyline
Canton City Schools	North Canton City Schools
Early Childhood Resource Center	Portage Collaborative Montessori School
Fairness Local Schools	Salvation Army Child Care Program
Green Local Schools	Terrace Public Housing
International Institute of Akron	Tiqvah Hands of Hope After School Program
Lake Local Schools After School Program	YMCA
Lighthouse Ministries	

- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
  - **The Uganda Experience** – Since 2007 students have been visiting central and northern Uganda for study, research, service and the sharing of culture.
  - **The Uruguay Experience** – Education students travel to Maldonado Nuevo and Montevideo, Uruguay where students discover what it means to live out the Brothers of Christian Instructions' work. At the youth center, students take responsibility for the children's daily activities with an eye toward encouraging students to continue their education, learning functional English, and supporting the youth center's activities.

#2 HEALTH (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/health/assignments/)

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:

Applied Family Studies	Pre Professional
Biology	Pre-PT
Exercise Science	Psychology
Nursing	Spanish for Healthcare
Pre-OT	

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 as a resident advisor in a dormitory, as a peer nutritionist, or as a sexually transmitted infections counselor.
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Akron Children's Hospital	International Community Health Center (ICHC)
Aultman Medical Center	International Institute of Akron
Axess Pointe Health	LifeCare (formerly Canton Community Clinic)
Catholic Charities	Mercy Medical Center
Coleman Behavior Health	Ohio Guidestone
CommQuest	Quest Recovery Center
House of Loreto Senior Center	Total Living Center

- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
    - **Global Healthcare in Tanzania** –Students explore the state of healthcare and nursing education in Tanzania while working alongside Tanzanian nurses and nursing students. Students will visit hospitals, clinics, explore life in Moshi, the hills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and other natural splendors.
    - **Pediatric Care in Haiti** – Senior nursing students work in conjunction with Akron Children's Hospital in Port Au Prince, Haiti. Students participate in clinical rotations with St. Damien Pediatric Hospital and St. Luke's Adult Hospital.
    - **Comparative Healthcare in Guadalajara** – Pre-healthcare and nursing students head to Guadalajara, Mexico to learn from one of Mexico's most respected Catholic Universities, Universidad del Valle de Atemajac (UNIVA). Students develop a deeper understanding of the state of healthcare of one of the US's closest neighbors and allies.

#3 ENVIRONMENT (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/env/assignments/)

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:

Biochemistry	Clinical Lab Science
Biology	Comprehensive Science
Chemistry	

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Akron Zoo	Holden Arboretum
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Parks	Oceans Ohio
	Stan Hywet Gardens
Crown Point Ecology Center	Stark Parks
Cuyahoga Valley National Parks	Stark Soil & Water Conservation District
Environmental Protection Agency	Summit County Public Health Department

#4 AGRICULTURE (www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/agr/assignments/)

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:

Biology	Government and Foreign Affairs
Business	International Relations
Chemistry	

And build 50 hours 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, 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 of a commercial farm

- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Asian Services in Akron, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)
Countryside Conservancy
Crown Point Ecology Center
Deli Ohio
Food Design Institute
Holden Arboretum
Let's Grow Akron

Ohio State Extension Office
Rid-All Farms
Shanti Farms
Stan Hywet Gardens
Stark Fresh
Summit County Food Coalition
Stark Fresh

#5 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT
(www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/youth/assignments/)

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:

Behavioral Science/Counseling
Community/Clinical Psychology
Criminal Justice
Education

Family Studies
Government and Foreign Affairs
International Relations

And build 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:
- Teaching or counseling 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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Project REBUILD
North Canton YMCA
Canton Martin Center for Boys & Girls

Boys & Girls Club of Massillon
TomTod Ideas

- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
  - **The Uganda Experience** – Since 2007 students have been visiting central and northern Uganda for study, research, service and the sharing of culture.
  - **The Uruguay Experience** – Education students travel to Maldonado Nuevo and Montevideo, Uruguay where students discover what it means to live out the Brothers of Christian Instructions' work. At the youth center, students take responsibility for the children's daily activities with an eye toward encouraging students to continue their education, learning functional English, and supporting the youth center's activities.

– **CAPA Service Learning in** London – students have the chance to work 12-15 hours a week with a community based organization in London; studying multiculturalism and social services

#6 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/busdev_01/assignments/)

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:

Accounting or Finance	Global Business	International Relations
Computer Science	Government and Foreign	Management
Communication	Affairs	Marketing
Corporate Communication	Graphic Design	

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
- Walsh University community partners (students may choose any site(s) to earn the 50 hours of related field experience):

Asian Services in Akron, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)	Habitat for Humanity
Alliance Catholic Worker	JRC's Mahoning Neighborhood Corridor Project
Arts in Stark	
Centro San Jose Immigrant Worker Project	Massillon Museum
Community Building Partnership	Refuge of Hope
Greater Canton Chamber of Commerce	StarkFresh
International Institute of Akron	Summit Bridges (formerly Bridges Out of Poverty Summit County Collaborative)
IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program	

- Walsh University Global Learning Programs:
    - **The Uganda Experience** – Since 2007 students have been visiting central and northern Uganda for study, research, service and the sharing of culture.
    - **The Uruguay Experience** – Education students travel to Maldonado Nuevo and Montevideo, Uruguay where students discover what it means to live out the Brothers of Christian Instructions' work. At the youth center, students take responsibility for the children's daily activities with an eye toward encouraging students to continue their education

- **The CAPA International Internship Experience International Business Experience** – location of experience changes each year, overall goal of the program is to provide students with experience in the global market place (Previous locations: Rome, London, Milan)

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 Region

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 conversational intermediate proficiency. Spanish-speaking countries are some of the most competitive countries and therefore should:
  - Complete **two 200-Level Spanish courses** *plus* a **Digital Badge in Effective Communication or Intercultural Fluency** (https://www.walsh.edu/merit)
  - We strongly encourage global learning and international internships to Spanish-speaking countries. For example, study abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico with UNIVA, Intern aboard in Barcelona with CAPA etc.

- **West Africa***:* Individuals wanting to serve in *French-speaking* African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Language) and therefore should:
  - Complete two **100-Level French courses** *plus* a **Digital Badge in Effective Communication or Intercultural Fluency**

- **Everywhere else***:* The Peace Corps has **no explicit language requirements** for individuals applying to serve in most other countries.
  - Complete two **100-Level language courses (of your choice)** *plus* a **Digital Badge in Effective Communication or Intercultural Fluency**

Effective Communication   Intercultural Fluency

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

3. <u>Intercultural competence</u>

> 3 Approved Courses

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** 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. Some example courses:

<u>You'll take at least 1 of these core courses **(This list is not comprehensive. Discuss other classes that may qualify with your PCP Advisor.)**:</u>

GFA 209 World Regional Geography	PHIL 203 Moral Philosophy
HIST 101/102 World Civilization	SOC 202 Cultural Anthropology
PEAC 201 Introduction to Peace Studies	SOC 205 Social Cultural Diversity
PEAC 301 Conflict Resolution	

<u>And choose 2 additional electives **from the above list or these below:**</u>

COM 210 Mass Communication and Society	GFA 401 Poverty and Prosperity in the Developing World
COM 305 Intercultural Communication	
EDUC 206 Exceptionalities and Multiculturalism in a Global Society	HIST 336 Modern Latin America
	HIST 338 History of Africa
ENG 200-6 On Food	PHIL 350 Philosophy of Medicine
ENG 200-3 Body and Pain	SOC 204 Social Problems
ENG 315 African American Literature	SOC 207 Population

(This list is not comprehensive. Discuss other classes that may qualify with your PCP Advisor.)

> *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.*

Peace Corps Prep participants are encouraged to choose one Global Learning Experience to participate in during their 4 year course work. Choices include but may not be limited to:

- The Rome Experience
- CAPA International Internship Programs (Locations: London, Shanghai, Buenos Aires)
- Central Europe Experience
- Comparative Healthcare in Mexico
- Global Healthcare in Tanzania
- The London Experience
- Pediatric Care in Haiti
- U.S./Mexico Border Program
- The Uganda Experience
- The Uruguay Experience

4. Professional and leadership development

Resume Review + Practice Interview + Leadership & Civic Engagement Digital Badge

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International development is a highly professional sector. It is difficult to break into and demands great initiative and leadership to advance professionally within the field. PC Prep requires **three specific activities** that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

1. Resume Review
   a. Create your resume based on recommendations from this link. (https://www.peacecorps.gov/stories/does-my-resume-matter-when-i-apply-to-the-peace-corps/)
   b. Have your resume reviewed by the Career Center by making an appointment on Handshake.
2. Interview
   a. Visit https://walsh.biginterview.com/members/assignments and enter assignment code 16a76d to complete the mock interview questions. Notify your PCP Advisor when complete.
3. Develop at least one significant leadership experience to receive a **Leadership & Civic Engagement Digital Badge.** For example, organizing a campus event, leading a work or volunteer project, or serving on the executive board of a student organization. This can be on or off campus and should showcase the development of something new and impactful. Simply serving will not qualify, this should be innovative.

   On campus leadership include, but are not limited to:
   - Serving as a Resident Assistant
   - Serving as a Peacemaker
   - Serving on Walsh University Student Government
   - Participating in the Walsh University Social and Justice for Peace club
   - Becoming a member of the University Program Board.

Leadership & Civic Engagement

Digital Badges: The Walsh Advantage
Rubric for Leadership & Civic Engagement

	Not Present	**BRONZE (Developing)**	**SILVER (Adequate)**	**GOLD (Proficient)**
Leadership	The artifact does not demonstrate that the student collaborated with others.	The artifact demonstrates the student successfully collaborated with others to create a finished product / project.	Artifact proves the student took on a leadership role in the project while collaborating with others.	The artifact highlights that the student initiated a group program/ project that successfully moved the group's mission forward.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

With your approval, the Walsh University Peace Corps Preparatory (PC Prep) program will release information on a regular basis to the Peace Corps, including details about the participants in this program and other relevant data that help the Peace Corps evaluate the effectiveness of PC Prep. These educational records are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student's educational records. This Act prohibits college officials from disclosing any records, including grade reports, academic standings, transcripts of records, or any other records, which contain information directly related to the student and from which the student can be individually identified without the student's consent. Consistent with FERPA guidelines, Walsh University will not release records related to your performance in the PC Prep program, other than those enumerated in this disclosure agreement.

I hereby permit Walsh University to disclose personally identifiable information to Peace Corps regarding my participation in the Peace Corps Preparatory program for the purposes of evaluating PC Prep. This information will be limited to my name, date of admission to PC Prep, the coursework and other activities I pursued to satisfy PC Prep requirements, date of graduation, and whether I successfully completed the PC Prep upon graduation. If I do not ultimately enter the Peace Corps, Walsh University may report post-graduation career information to the extent that Walsh University has that information.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature_____

Date_____