COUGAR PEACE CORPS PREP PROGRAM *CP³* GUIDE

The Cougar Peace Corps Prep Certificate Program (*CP³*) will prepare you for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service. To accomplish this, you will build the following four core competencies through interrelated coursework, hands-on experience, and professional development support:

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

Use this CP³ Guide to design your Peace Corps Prep course of study. Refer to this when completing your [Peace Corps Prep application](#) to document how you plan to fulfill each *CP³* requirement.

You may align coursework, experiential learning, intercultural competence and leadership develop with the requirements for WSU's [Global Leadership Certificate](#).

Contact [Global Learning](#) for more information at *ip.globallearning@wsu.edu*. Be sure to type "*CP³*" in the subject line of your email.

1. Training *and* Experience in a Specific Area of Work

3 courses + 50 hours related experience

For *CP³* you need to complete at least 3 courses that align with a specific area of Peace Corps related work. They can, but do not need to, be from your academic major or minor. You must also accumulate a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer or work experience in that *same* work area, preferably in a teaching or outreach capacity.

There are six work sectors in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve. Each area is detailed below.

Choose one area to focus on then complete at least 3 courses + 50 hours of related experience in that specific area.

Tip! Visit the [ASCC](#) or the [Center for Civic Engagement](#) for opportunities in all area of work

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 identify the type of assignments in which you'd like to serve through this [interactive tool](#), then review the positions' desired qualifications and build them up accordingly. In the process, you should fulfill these PC Prep experiential requirements!*

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 http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/edu_youth/

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 the following areas:

- Elementary, Secondary or Special Education
- English or Linguistics
- Math
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Any Physical or Biological Science

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

- Teaching or tutoring in one of these areas in a classroom or with a community outreach organization
- Resources for teaching and tutoring opportunities on campus include the International Center, ASCC and the Center for Civic Engagement

#2 HEALTH http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/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 3 courses from the following areas:

- Pre-Nursing
- Nutrition
- Pre-med
- Biology
- Neuroscience

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
- Teaching health subjects
- Volunteering for Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse
- Volunteering as a Health and Wellness Facilitator
- Working as a resident advisor

#3 ENVIRONMENT http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/env/

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 3 courses from the following areas:
- o Environmental Science or related field
- o Natural Resources Sciences
- o Wildlife Ecology
- o Forestry
- o Biology, Botany, or Ecology
- o Geology

And build 50 hours of related field experience through an activity such as:
- Volunteering with PCEI to educate the public on environmental or conservation issues, or help restore Palouse ecosystems
- Conducting biological surveys of plants or animals
- Working with the WSU Organic Farm for experience in organic gardening or with the Paluthe Farm Project on international development projects
- Providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management

#4 AGRICULTURE http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/agr/

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 3 courses from the following areas:
- o Horticulture
- o Botany
- o Entomology
- o Agricultural Science
- o Agribusiness
- o Agricultural Economics
- o Business or economics
- o Biology
- o Crops and Soils Sciences

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 side of a commercial farm
- Working with the WSU Organic Farm for experience in organic gardening or with the Paluthe Farm Project on international development projects, or PCEI on sustainability projects

#5 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/youth/

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.

If you choose Youth in Development, take 3 courses from the following areas:

- o Developmental Psychology o Teaching and Learning
- o Human Development
- o Sociology

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
- Participation in Camp Adventure

#6 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/busdev_01/

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 3 courses from the following areas:

- o Business or Public Administration
- o Entrepreneurial Studies
- o Sociology
- o Accounting or Finance
- o Computer Science
- o Digital Technology Culture
- o Communications
- o International Business

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 organization, school-based organization or business club

Tip! Visit the ASCC or the Center for Civic Engagement for opportunities in all work areas!

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. <u>Foreign Language Skills</u>

2 courses in the same 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 CP^3.

Where would you like to serve? CP^3 minimum course requirements align with those needed by applicants to the Peace Corps itself, which vary by linguistic region.

- <u>*Latin America*</u>: Individuals wanting to serve in Spanish-speaking countries must apply with strong intermediate proficiency. This typically means completing two 200-level courses.
- <u>*West Africa*</u>: Individuals wanting to serve in *French-speaking* African countries should be proficient in French (or, in some cases, any Romance language), usually through one 200-level course.
- <u>*Everywhere else:*</u> 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. That is why CP^3 requires completion of at least two classes in the same foreign language.

WSU offers courses in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.

3. <u>Intercultural Competence</u>

3 approved courses

Engaging thoughtfully and fluidly across cultures begins with one's own self-awareness. You should 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 the capacity to shift perspectives and behaviors around relevant cultural differences.

Fulfilling requirements for the Global Leadership Certificate would also provide you with an opportunity to gain intercultural competence!

<u>Choose 1 of the following core courses</u>:

     UNIV 497 – Leadership in a Global Contest
     COMSOC 321 – Intercultural Communication

<u>Choose 2 additional electives</u>:

UNIV 497 – Leadership in a Global Contest	COM 105 Communication in Global Contexts
COMSOC 321 – Intercultural Communication	COMSOC 421 Intercultural Communication and Globalization
COM 471 Stereotypes in communication	HD 350 Family Diversity

Peace Corps Tip! *Rich Intercultural experiences - such as studying, volunteering or working abroad, working with new immigrants or refugees, or volunteering is diversely populated schools – would significantly strengthen your Peace Corps application!*

Tip! *Contact Global Learning at ip.globallearning@wsu.edu for more information about Education Abroad!*

4. Professional and Leadership Development

> **Resume development, interview skills and leadership experience**

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. CP^3 requires three specific activities that will strengthen your candidacy for the Peace Corps (or any other professional endeavor):

1. Write a professional resume
2. Have your resume critiqued by someone in ASCC or WSU's Campus Peace Corps Recruiter
3. Attend a workshop or class on interview skills at ASCC
4. 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

Tip! *The significant leadership experience you acquire to fulfill the requirement for the CP^3 may be appropriate to apply to your Global Leadership Certificate!*

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Go Cougs!