

http://msubillings.edu/internationalstudies/peace_corps_prep.htm

Uniting student coursework with practical international field experience

As a component of an undergraduate curriculum, the Peace Corps Prep Program consists of selected courses paired with community service to help prepare students for work in international development, potentially with the Peace Corps. This program is a formal partnership between the Peace Corps and MSU Billings. Its intent is to motivate students as they progress through school with an eye to how their studies can apply after graduation. When combined with service abroad as a Peace Corps Volunteer, this program enhances the career opportunities of graduates.

Students apply to the program through the school and participate for two or more years. A year before graduation, or anytime thereafter, they apply to the Peace Corps and include their Peace Corps Prep Program experience in their application. While this does not guarantee acceptance into Peace Corps, students participating in the program will gain skills which are an advantage in the competitive Peace Corps application process and in other international development work.

Peace Corps:

- Provides suggested curriculum and guidance to prepare students for international service.
- Provides recruitment support to students interested in applying to Peace Corps to work overseas following graduation.
- Offers five decades of experience in building peace and friendship through service to others. Its mission has remained the same since 1961:
 - To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
 - To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
 - To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.
- Offers a 27-month work, cultural immersion, and skills development experience in over 75 countries. Volunteers work in one of six general program areas:

Benefits of serving in the Peace Corps

- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel costs covered to and from the country of service
- Stipend for overseas living and housing expenses
- Medical and dental coverage
- Student loan deferment and partial cancellation of some loans
- Vacation time
- Transition funds of \$7,425 (before taxes) following 27 months of work
- Career and transition assistance after service
- Graduate school opportunities through Peace Corps partners
- No fee to participate



"There are times in life when you choose to be a part of something bigger than yourself. When you decide to embrace the adventure and set out for new places. During my Peace Corps experience, I met new and wonderful people and was able to share with them stories and information about my home in Montana. Peace Corps gave me the opportunity to experience new cultures, learn new skills, and to see a different corner of the world. I will forever be thankful for that opportunity."

Dr. Kari Dahle-Huff, PC Prep Program Coordinator
College of Education, Room 212
(406) 657-2317
kari.dahle@msubillings.edu



For more information contact:
Office of International Studies
McDonald Hall, Room 150
Phone: 406.657.1705
Fax: 406.896.5907

Peace Corps Prep
 What helps make a volunteer effective?
 - transferable skills
 - adaptability
 - volunteer experience
 - language studies