INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND PEACE CORPS PREP PROGRAM (ISPCPP) AT SSU

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the ISPCPP?
The International Service and Peace Corps Prep Program was developed through a cooperative agreement between SSU and the U.S. Peace Corps. SSU is one of only 7 universities in the nation to offer this program. Its purpose is to provide students with the necessary skills, experience, and academic background to be well prepared to work with international volunteer service organizations, including the Peace Corps, after graduation. The curriculum includes academic coursework, language study, community service, and cross-cultural experience. While completion of the ISPCPP does not guarantee that applicants will be accepted into the Peace Corps, the specialized curriculum and experience will make them very strong candidates.

Who can apply?
Any student, of any major, who has completed at least one semester at SSU (or another college, if a transfer student) may apply. Students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher to apply, and must maintain this GPA throughout the program.

Why should I apply?
The ISPCPP will provide you with valuable training in cross-cultural skills, a foundation of knowledge about global poverty and international development issues, and practical experience in interacting with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Successful completion of the ISPCPP will appear on your official SSU transcript. For students interested in pursuing international service work or Peace Corps service after graduation, this program will provide excellent preparation. For students who plan to work in the U.S. after graduation (in any field), completion of this program will demonstrate to potential employers that you have the skills and experience necessary to work effectively in a multicultural environment.

When should I apply?
Students may apply as early as the second semester of their freshman year. Students should apply NO LATER than the first semester of the junior year, as it will take about 2 years to complete the program. Because some courses are only offered in alternate years, interested students should apply as early as possible. Applying early will allow you more time to arrange your schedule to include all the courses you want to take.

What if I'm starting too late to finish the program? What if I don't want to do the whole program, but I do want to take some of the courses?
All students are welcome to enroll in the courses, take part in community service, engage in cross-cultural experiences, and serve as international student mentors -- or any combination of the above that interests you -- regardless of whether or not you enroll in the ISPCPP. However, only students completing ALL program requirements will have the ISPCPP program completion appear on your official SSU transcript. If you have less than two years left at SSU, but are interested in pursuing international service work or application to the Peace Corps, you are encouraged to complete as much of the program as possible before you graduate.
What are the program requirements?
Requirements for completion of the ISPCPP include:

**Course Work:**
- 2 semesters of college-level language study (2 courses in the same language, preferably Spanish or French)
- ISPC 1100 International Service Seminar I: Basic Cross-Cultural Skills (1 credit)
- ISPC 2100 International Service Seminar II: The Service Role in Cross-Cultural Context (1 credit)
- ISPC 3100 International Service Seminar III: The Peace Corps Application Process (1 credit) *(Required ONLY for students who plan to apply to the Peace Corps)*
- ISPC 2200 Global Poverty and International Development (3 credits)
- TWO of the following core courses. (Choose your core courses based on your areas of interest in international service):
  - ANTH 2250: Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)
  - ISPC 4300: Global Food Security and Agricultural Development (3 credits)
  - ISPC 4400: Global Public Health Issues (3 credits)
  - LING 4460: Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language (3 credits)
  - NTSC 3860: Environmental Science: A Regional and Global Perspective on Sustainability (4 credits)

**Community Service**
You will need to engage in 100 hours during your time at SSU, documented through the Center for Community Service. Service hours used to meet requirements for other programs will also count for the ISPCPP. (In other words, double-dipping is ok.)

**Cross-Cultural Experience Requirement**
This can be met in a number of ways, including study abroad, an international service trip or internship, a domestic (U.S.) cross-cultural service trip, or a domestic (U.S.) internship involving work in a cross-cultural environment.

**International Student Mentoring**
Serve for at least three semesters as a peer mentor to a new international student. Show them around and help them get settled in to their new culture at SSU. To be arranged through the Center for International Programs and Activities (CIPA).

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the program coordinator, Dr. Tracey Henderson, at thenderson@shawnee.edu. You may also call the Center for International Programs and Activities at 740-351-3127.

We hope you will take part in this exciting new opportunity!