Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

If I am a RPCV Coverdell Fellow, do I have to complete an internship?

No, RPCV Fellows are exempt from the internship if it is required for your MA degree, unless you opt to complete a certificate with an internship requirement (in which case, you must complete an internship).

All RPCV Fellows are required to complete a 75-hour practicum. RPCVs have the option to register a non-required internship through the Office of Career and Professional Development.

What are the parameters of the RPCV Fellows Practicum?

The RPCV Fellows Practicum is designed to (1) bridge the Peace Corps experience with academic study at the Josef Korbel School; (2) meet the needs of underserved U.S.A. communities; and (3) be completed within the U.S.A. or its territories.

In order to be approved, all RPCV Fellows must undertake a practicum that aligns with these parameters.

Can I complete my Practicum abroad?

No. All practicums must be completed within the United States of America or its territories.

What is the approval process for my Practicum?

1. Familiarize yourself with the Handbook and all relevant policies and deadlines.
2. Secure an appropriate practicum based on the guidelines outlined above.
3. Complete the online Peace Corps Practicum Agreement Survey for review and approval by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.
4. Begin practicum after approval has been granted.

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5. Within two weeks of completing the practicum, ask your supervisor to complete the “Practicum Verification and Supervisor Evaluation” form located on the our Portfolio Community site and submit it to the Director of Graduate Student Affairs via email or fax. Verification forms will not be accepted directly from RPCV Fellows.

Is there a pre-approved list of Practicum sites?

No, every practicum is reviewed and approved on an individual basis. A sample of previous Practicum sites can be found in the MA Handbook.

May I earn academic credit for my Practicum?

No, it is not possible to earn academic credit for the RPCV Practicum requirement.

How do I register my Practicum?

RPCV Practicums are not registered, nor graded. Rather they are approved and verified by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs on the basis of relevancy to established parameters and total hours completed.

Is it possible to substitute an Internship for the Practicum?

No, it’s not possible to substitute an internship for a practicum.

Occasionally an RPCV Fellow may choose to pursue both, completing 150 hours for the internship and 75 hours for the practicum. In this scenario, the Fellow would need to (a) register the internship with the Office of Career and Professional Development via KorbelCareers, (b) have the Practicum approved by the Office of Academic Student Affairs, and (c) fulfill requirements for both programs separately.

A student may want to do this if s/he’s seeking to register the internship for credit, applying for a funding award, or completing an internship for a certificate requirement.

If I choose to pursue an internship, in addition to the required Practicum, how many credits can I register for?

As outlined by the Office of Career and Professional Development, students that matriculated prior to Summer Quarter 2014 may register INTS 4981 - Internship for zero credits only. Students that matriculated in or after Summer Quarter 2014 are eligible to register INTS 4981 for either zero credits or five credits.
I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, but I am not a named Coverdell Fellow. Am I required to complete the foreign language proficiency requirement and the internship requirement?

Only RPCVs that are named and admitted to the Coverdell Fellows Program are exempted from the foreign language proficiency requirement and internship requirement for MA degrees.

RPCVs that are not named and admitted Coverdell Fellows must complete all required elements of their respective graduate degree program, including the foreign language proficiency requirement and the internship requirement if applicable.

I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, but I am not a named Coverdell Fellow. Am I required to complete a Practicum?

No. RPCVs that are not named and admitted Coverdell Fellows are not required to complete the RPCV Practicum.

How do I subscribe to the student managed DU Peace Corps Community listserv in order to receive important updates and remain in the loop?

Please email peace-corps@du.edu in order to request that your address be added to the DU Peace Corps Community listserv.