Sample Plan for an MA with 42-45 credit hours
This MA starts in Fall. A similar plan would be followed for starting in Spring.

Peace Corps Master’s International (PCMI)

Step 1: Applying to start an MA program in Fall 2016: admission process
May 1, 2016 – Submit degree-seeking application to UAB Graduate School (Absolute deadline, July 1st)
May 15, 2016 – Participate in an initial interview with School of Education’s PCMI selection committee
May 20, 2016 – Inquire about competitive graduate assistantship: Dr. Susan Spezzini, spezzini@uab.edu
June 15, 2016 – Be admitted to Graduate School and be accepted as PCMI candidate in education
June 20, 2016 – Participate in an interview (in person or via Skype) for a graduate assistantship
August, 2016 – Start taking MA courses in a program with 42-45 credit hours

Step 2: Applying as a PCMI student to the Peace Corps for going overseas in Summer 2018
June 2017 – Submit Peace Corps application
Aug. 2017 – Participate in a final interview with the UAB/SOE’s PCMI selection committee
Sept. 2017 – Receive letter from PCMI selection committee confirming final selection as PCMI student
Dec. 2017 (approx.) – Be informed by Peace Corps of being considered for a specific country
Feb. 2018 (approx.) – Be invited by Peace Corps to serve in that country; Receive targeted departure date
June 2018 (approx.) – Depart for host country and start Peace Corps service

On campus at UAB: August 2016 – April 2018 (projected dates)

Approximately 42-45 semester credit hours

     Fall 2016 (August 22-December 9) 
     4 courses (10 credit hours) 
     Spring 2017 (January 9 – April 27) 
     3 courses (9 credit hours) 
     Summer 2017 (May 7 – August 12) 
     3 courses (9 credit hours) 
     Fall 2017 (August 21-December 8) 
     3 courses (9 credit hours) 
     Spring 2018 (January 8 – April 26) 
     Internship courses (7 credit hours) 
     Graduation

Practicum Activities
- Field Experiences and Student Teaching Internship
- Volunteer in outreach projects at SOE partner schools
- If awarded a graduate assistantship through the department, work about 10 hours a week at UAB and be eligible for reclassification of residency and corresponding in-state tuition.

Prior to Departure
- Submit Non-degree seeking application to the Graduate School for Summer 2020
Knowledge that will change your world

Overseas: June 2018 - October 2020 (projected dates)

- Participate as Peace Corps trainee during 3 months of training in the host country
- Serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) for 2 years working in a career related to the MA
- Complete a graduate course that can be used towards another degree (3 credit hours)
  Complete coursework from July 2018 to February 2020
  Enroll in coursework for UAB’s summer 2020 term

Example of a course to be completed overseas by PCMI students

This example is for an MA program with 42-45 credit hours.

Practicum, field study, independent study, and/or elective course

After completing their on-campus MA program and probably also graduating, PCMI students go overseas and take a course in conjunction with their Peace Corps experience. This course is usually a practicum, field study, independent study, or elective. Here are three potential assignments for a course such as this.

First Potential Assignment: PCMI students meet the expectations for the first assignment by completing 3 months of required Peace Corps training in their host country and submitting a 5-page paper about their experiences learning a new language and adjusting to life in a new culture. They will submit this paper to their UAB course instructor, either electronically or by courier.

Second Potential Assignment: The PCMI students’ second course assignment can consist of several parts: working in their career as a primary PCV responsibility for one year, maintaining correspondence with their UAB course instructor (either electronically or by mail), communicating actively with their fellow PCMI students in other countries via UAB’s online Discussion Board (if internet accessibility is available in their host country), posting a monthly blog, and creating a teaching portfolio based on their overseas teaching. They will submit this portfolio to their UAB course instructor, either electronically or by courier.

Third Potential Assignment: Shortly after starting their second year serving in the Peace Corps, PCMI students can be expected to complete their final course assignment. For this assignment, they can be asked to diagnose specific needs in their respective sites based on what they had experienced during their first year in site and on what they had learned in their MA program. They can then develop an action plan and targeted materials to meet those needs. For example, part of their action plan could entail developing a program to train host country teachers. They will complete this final assignment about 18 months after having arrived in their host country.

NOTE: If PCMI students are pursuing a 42-45 hour MA degree, they will probably have already graduated from UAB before starting their overseas service. If they wish, they could take this course in anticipation of using it towards an advanced degree such as an EdS. If they arrive in their host country in June 2018, they will probably submit their final course assignment about 18 months later, which would be January 2012. In April 2020, these PCMI students will actually enroll in this course, which would be for the summer 2020 term. They will have completed all course requirements before actually enrolling in this course. This approach is followed because of frequent interruptions with online communication in remote parts of the developing world. By first completing the coursework and then enrolling in this course, PCMI students will be ensured that a grade can be posted during the term in which they are enrolled.