

Alternative Careers & Gap Year Options

AmeriCorps – www.americorps.gov

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. Each year, AmeriCorps offers more than 80,000 opportunities at 21,600 unique sites for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, helps tackle educational inequity, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps.

A number of AmeriCorps participating organizations post positions on KnightJobs at www.geneseo.edu/career_development

Teach for America – www.teachforamerica.org

Teach for America's mission is to eliminate educational inequity by recruiting the nation's best and brightest future leaders. Individuals from all backgrounds and career interests commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools. Teach for America corps members are trained and receive ongoing support to lead their students to significant academic achievement regardless of the challenges of poverty and the capacity of the school system.

Teach for America holds information sessions on the SUNY Geneseo campus approximately once per semester. Watch your email for announcements on their next visit.

Peace Corps – www.peacecorps.gov

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship. Collaborating with local community members, volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, health, the environment, agriculture, HIV/AIDS, business & information and communications technology.

The traditional time commitment for a Peace Corps assignment is 2 years plus 3 months of training. The Peace Corps holds information sessions on the SUNY Geneseo campus once per semester. Watch your email for announcements on their next visit. The Peace Corps application process can take up to one year. It is important to begin exploring this option as early as first semester of your junior year.

City Year – www.cityyear.org

City year brings young people together from all backgrounds for a year of full-time service building skills and developing future leaders. Corps members work as tutors, mentors, and role models to help children stay in school and on track, and transform schools and communities across the United States. During a year of service, a corps member also develops civic leadership skills that they will use throughout their lifetime of community service. City Year is an AmeriCorps program.

Green Corps- www.greencorps.org

Green corps mission is to train organizers, provide field support for critical environmental campaigns and graduate activists who are committed to fighting and winning environmental battles. The Green Corps program includes a two-week classroom training followed by field work at an environmental organization. After completing the program, Green Corps connects graduates to groups looking to hire full-time staff. Program participants receive compensation and a competitive benefits package. Green Corps is not affiliated with AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps.

Fellowships are an option:

Geneseo students are eligible for major external scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate study and travel in many parts of the world. Preparing for these important opportunities requires work well in advance of submission deadlines to:

- 1) find fellowships/scholarships that are a good match for your interests and experience, as well as for your academic and extracurricular life, and
- 2) to sharpen and focus your qualifications by the time you apply.

Some options for fellowships include:

Carnegie Junior Fellows- <http://carnegieendowment.org/about/jr-fellows>: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace offers 12-14 fellowships each year to graduating seniors and individuals who have graduated during the past academic year. The fellows work as research assistants to Carnegie's senior scholars for a year.

NYC Urban Fellows- http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/work/program_info.shtml: The Urban Fellows Program is a highly selective, nine-month fellowship which combines work in Mayoral office and City agencies with volunteer service opportunities and a seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. The fellows are diverse and come from all over the country to work in New York City.

Fulbright Fellows- <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-us-student-program>: The Fulbright U.S Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs. The fellows will live and work for a year during their grants in the host country.

National/International Hunger Fellows- <https://www.hungercenter.org/fellowships>: A social justice program that combines field work and policy work on a national or international level.

International, national and Geneseo scholarships are highly competitive and the information in the links listed at https://www.geneseo.edu/fellowships_and_scholarships will help you to begin the process.

Additional Resources for Alternative Careers and the Gap Year:

(All available in the Career Library, Erwin 116)

The Gap Year Guidebook 2013, Alex Sharratt

Taking a Gap Year, by Susan Griffith

The Career Guide for Creative and Unconventional People, by Carol Eikleberry, Ph.D.

Making a Living While Making a Difference, by Melissa Everett

Work Your Way Around the World, by Susan Griffith

The Insider's Guide to the Peace Corps: What to know before you go, by Dillon Banerjee

Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Guide to Global Volunteer Opportunities, by Caitlin Huckmyer