Political scientists study power, politics and a variety of political processes, systems and behaviors. Politics can be understood broadly as the process by which groups of people make decisions about how they will live and act together. As such, political action is the essential underpinning of all human communities and social life.

The discipline of political science covers many topics, from campaigns and elections in the United States, to economic development and democratization around the world, and to diplomacy and globalization. Political science majors learn how to address big questions, such as what makes a government legitimate or what constitutes a good society. They also come to understand causes and mechanisms for addressing major global challenges like terrorism, poverty, climate change and war.

Saint Louis University’s political science major can prepare students for advanced study in a variety of areas: law, public administration, international relations, urban affairs, business and political science. Political science students pursue jobs in government, international organizations, nonprofit organizations, education, law, journalism, diplomacy, survey research and fields related to the promotion of social justice.

Additional program highlights include:

- Undergraduates can start taking graduate classes before they earn their B.A. in political science and quickly finish an M.A. in political science as part of the accelerated M.A. program.
- The political science program at SLU is distinctive in its commitment to preparing students to become engaged citizens both locally and globally. Students grapple with some of most important social justice problems of the time, from racism and poverty at home to war, persistent underdevelopment, and oppression abroad.
- The SLU political science department is big enough to offer a wide range of classes and small enough that students get individual attention from faculty.

Curriculum Overview

Students can study the politics of most areas of the world as well as issues of global security and economic development. They can augment their study of politics with work in a variety of distinctive interdisciplinary programs, including programs devoted to area studies (Asia, Russia and East Europe), global and local social justice, foreign service, political journalism, African American Studies, gender studies and more.

Students can choose among five options for their B.A.:

**General Major**

The general major covers American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political thought and allows students the flexibility to choose classes that reflect their particular interests.

**International Affairs Concentration**

The international affairs concentration permits students to study topics such as economic development, international security, and political change around the world.

**International Relations Concentration (Madrid)**

The international relations concentration is an innovative and rigorous course of study designed to enhance knowledge and understanding of global affairs offered at the Saint Louis University Madrid, Spain campus.

**Public Law Concentration**

The public law concentration focuses attention on law and courts and the relationship of both to larger issues of justice, social change and democracy.

**Public Policy Concentration**

The public policy concentration examines the practical application of knowledge to governance and social problems.

**Fieldwork and Research Opportunities**

Undergraduate students majoring in political science at SLU may take six credits of electives through internships offered in areas such as political campaigns, foreign service, state and federal government, and overseas fieldwork. These internships permit students to gain professional experience working with elected officials, organizations that serve immigrants or disadvantaged communities, law firms, nonprofit organizations or other groups working toward the public good. Students have interned in St. Louis, in Washington D.C. and in many countries around the world.

Students can participate in faculty research projects, or they can complete an independent honors thesis examining a topic of their choice.

**Careers**

Graduates with an undergraduate degree in political science are prepared for jobs in government, international organizations, community and nonprofit organizations, education, law, NGOs, journalism, diplomacy, survey research and fields related to the promotion of social justice.

An undergraduate degree in political science also provides marketable skills in empirical data analysis and practical problem-solving. It is a traditional major for students interested in law school or planning a career in politics.

**Admission Requirements**

Begin Your Application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application.

**Freshman**

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

**Transfer**

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen
admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- Scholarships: Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- Financial Aid: Financial aid is provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to identify the structure and operation of political systems in the U.S., across a variety of countries, and multinational organizations.
   - Madrid campus: Graduates will be able to identify and compare political systems in the Western world, international trends at the global level and multinational organizations.
2. Graduates will be able to distinguish among various approaches to studying political phenomena.
3. Graduates will be able to read carefully and evaluate and construct analytical arguments in clear and logical prose.
4. Graduates will be able to identify and gather information from credible primary and secondary sources.
5. Graduates will be able to design original research to test arguments and hypotheses with qualitative and/or quantitative approaches.
6. Graduates will be able to assess the effects of various social and political structures and public policies to determine which are more likely to promote equality, justice, freedom, or other values important to them.
   - Madrid campus: Graduates will be able to use knowledge of other cultures and languages to one's own in order to conduct culturally-sensitive analyses of local, regional, global and international issues.
7. Graduates will be able to use their knowledge of political systems to engage effectively in political and social life.

Requirements

Political Science students must complete a minimum total of 34 credits for the major.

Political science majors may not count more than six credits of independent study (POLS 4980 Advanced Independent Study (1-6 cr)) and/or internship work toward the major. The two 4000-level seminars and the methods class must be completed at Saint Louis University, not by transfer credit. Only 15 credits of transfer credit can apply toward the political science major. Students may not count more than four 1000 level courses toward the major and must take at least four 3000 or higher level courses.

To give some focus to a major, students are encouraged to take three or four courses in at least one of the four sub-fields or a cross-sub-field area of interest in political science (like social justice, democratization or legal studies). Students should consult with department faculty advisors in selecting courses.

No one class can fulfill more than one requirement in the major.

Research Project Option

As an alternative to one of the 4000-level seminars, students having a grade-point average of 3.30 or better may, with department chair approval, take POLS 4960 Senior Research (3 cr), an individual research project under the supervision of a political science faculty member.

Honors Thesis Option

The political science honors thesis option is for qualified and highly motivated students. These students need to inform the coordinator of undergraduate studies of their interest by the spring of their junior year if they want to write the thesis during their senior year or by the fall of the junior year if they want to start a semester earlier.

Students doing an honors thesis must have a political science GPA of 3.50 and an overall GPA of 3.40. This program involves a full year, two-course sequence: POLS 4990 Research Design (3 cr) and POLS 4991 Political Science Honors Thesis (1-6 cr). Students doing honors theses will have a 37-credit major. POLS 4990 Research Design (3 cr) fulfills one 4000-level seminar requirement.

Internships

The political science department encourages majors to take political science internships as part of their degree programs. These provide excellent practical experience that potential employers appreciate. Internships often help majors select a future career. Students select internships in consultation with their mentors.
The department offers a variety of internships, which may satisfy up to six credits of electives. Students may contact the coordinator of undergraduate studies for more information.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 3910</td>
<td>Federal Government Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 3911</td>
<td>State or Local Government Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 3912</td>
<td>Public Service Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 3914</td>
<td>Foreign Service Internship</td>
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<td>Legal Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 3916</td>
<td>Campaign Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 3917</td>
<td>Research Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 4910</td>
<td>Political Science Internship</td>
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### General Major

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<td><strong>Core Requirements</strong></td>
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<td>College core requirements (p. 5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>American Politics Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>POLS 1150</td>
<td>American Political Systems</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Comparative Politics Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>Choose two classes from the range POLS 1500-1599, 2500-2599, 3500-3599, 3810, for example:</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 1510</td>
<td>Politics of Developing World</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2520</td>
<td>Introduction to African Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2560</td>
<td>The Politics of Asia</td>
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<td><strong>International Relations Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>Choose one class from the range POLS 2600-2699, 2820, 3600-3699, 3810, for example:</td>
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<td>POLS 1600</td>
<td>Introduction to International Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2600</td>
<td>Introduction to International Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2640</td>
<td>International Terrorism</td>
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<td>POLS 3620</td>
<td>International Organization and the Management of World Problems</td>
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<td>POLS 1700</td>
<td>Foundations of Political Theory</td>
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<td>POLS 2700</td>
<td>Fundamental Issues in Political Philosophy</td>
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<td>POLS 3710</td>
<td>Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought</td>
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<td>POLS 3720</td>
<td>Renaissance and Modern Political Theories</td>
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<td>POLS 3770</td>
<td>Feminist Theory: Gender Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Research Methods Requirement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2000</td>
<td>Methods in Political Science (Must be completed at Saint Louis University, not by transfer credit.)</td>
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<td><strong>Political Science Electives</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Senior Seminar Requirement</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Choose two classes from the range POLS 4000-4899, POLS 4990, POLS 4930. With permission, students may substitute graduate classes in the range POLS 5000-5899, or POLS 5930. To register for a senior seminar, students must have completed at least one course in the same sub-field and they must have fulfilled the methods requirement. The two 4000-level seminar classes must be completed at Saint Louis University, not by transfer credit.</td>
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### International Affairs Concentration (St. Louis)

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<td>POLS 2590</td>
<td>Politics of the Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 3500</td>
<td>East Asian Political Economy</td>
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<td>POLS 3520</td>
<td>Communism, Capitalism and Social Justice</td>
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<td><strong>International Relations Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>POLS 1600</td>
<td>Introduction to International Politics</td>
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<td>Choose one class from the range POLS 2600-2699, 2820, 3600-3699, 3810, for example:</td>
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<td>POLS 3600</td>
<td>Problems of Globalization</td>
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<td>POLS 3640</td>
<td>International Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 3810</td>
<td>Latin American-U.S. Relations</td>
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<td><strong>Political Thought Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>Choose one course from the following:</td>
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<td>POLS 2000</td>
<td>Methods in Political Science (completed at SLU, not by transfer credit)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Political Science Electives</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Senior Seminar Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>Choose one class from the range POLS 4500-4699 or POLS 4840.</td>
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<td>Choose one additional class from the range POLS 4000-4899, POLS 4930. With permission, students may substitute graduate-level seminars.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>International Relations Concentration (Madrid)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Comparative Politics Requirement</strong></td>
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<td>POLS 1500</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
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<td><strong>International Relations Requirement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 1600</td>
<td>Introduction to International Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

| Code   | Title                                | Credits |
Political Thought Requirement
POLS 1700  Foundations of Political Theory  3

Research Methods Requirement
POLS 2000  Methods in Political Science  4

Economics Requirement
ECON 1900  Principles of Economics  3

Communications Requirement
Select one of the following:
CMM 2400  Media and Society  3
CMM 3060  Political Communication
CMM 4460  Global Media

Political Science Elective Courses
Select five courses  15

Senior Seminar Requirement
POLS 4610  International Relations: Theory and Practice  3
POLS 4630  The European Union: Politics and Political Economy  3

General Electives  11-20
Total Credits  120

Public Law Concentration

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>1150</td>
<td>American Political Systems</td>
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</table>

Core Requirements
College core requirements (p. 5)  57-66
For additional information about core courses

American Politics Requirement
POLS 1150  American Political Systems  3

Comparative Politics Requirement
Choose one class from the range POLS 1500-1599, 2500-2599, 3500-3599, 3810

International Relations Requirement
Choose one class from the range POLS 1600-1699, 2600-2699, 2820, 3600-3699, 3810

Political Thought Requirement
Choose one course from the following:
POLS 1700  Foundations of Political Theory
POLS 2700  Fundamental Issues in Political Philosophy
POLS 3710  Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought
POLS 3720  Renaissance and Modern Political Theories
POLS 3770  Feminist Theory: Gender Justice

Research Methods Requirement
POLS 2000  Methods in Political Science  4

Required course hours for the Public Law concentration  9
Select 3 of the following 5 courses:
POLS 2100  The American Constitution
POLS 2230  Mass Incarceration
POLS 3100  Judicial Politics
POLS 2710  Theories of Justice
POLS 4300  Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy

Elective courses for the Public Law Concentration  6
Select two courses with the Public Law Elective attribute, for example:
POLS 1300  Introduction to Law
POLS 3130  Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
POLS 3640  International Law
POLS 3880  Violence Against Women
POLS 3915  Legal Internship
POLS 3340  Foundations of Law
POLS 4120  Civil Rights: A Moot Court Seminar
POLS 4171  Law, Policy, Society
POLS 4126  Sexuality and the Law

Senior Seminar Requirement
Students in the concentration must take at least one 4000-level seminar with the Public Law Seminar attribute: for example, POLS 4120 Civil Rights: A Moot Court Seminar; POLS 4171 Law, Policy, and Society; POLS 4125 Women and the Law; POLS 4126 Sexuality and the Law; POLS 4200 Race, Class, and Punishment; or POLS 4300 Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy. This class will fulfill a concentration requirement or elective.

With permission, students may substitute 5000-level seminars taught by full time Political Science faculty for the required 4000-level seminars.

Students must take a second 4000-level seminar, either from those offered in the concentration or from among other seminars offered in the department. All seminars require POLS 2000, at least junior level standing, a previous course in the same subfield, or instructor permission.

General Electives  20-29
Total Credits  120

Public Policy Concentration

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<tr>
<td>1150</td>
<td>American Political Systems</td>
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</table>

Core Requirements
College core requirements (p. 5)  57-66
For additional information about core courses

Comparative Politics Requirement
Choose one class from the range POLS 1500-1599, 2500-2599, 3500-3599, 3810, for example:
POLS 1510  Politics of Developing World
POLS 2520  Introduction to African Politics
POLS 2560  The Politics of Asia

International Relations Requirement
Choose one class from the range POLS 1600-1699, 2600-2699, 2820, 3600-3699, 3810

Political Thought Requirement
Choose one course from the following:
POLS 1700  Foundations of Political Theory
POLS 2700  Fundamental Issues in Political Philosophy
POLS 3710  Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought
POLS 3720  Renaissance and Modern Political Theories

Research Methods Requirement
POLS 2000  Methods in Political Science  4

Required course hours for the Public Law concentration  9
Select 3 of the following 5 courses:
POLS 2100  The American Constitution
POLS 2230  Mass Incarceration
POLS 3100  Judicial Politics
POLS 2710  Theories of Justice
POLS 4300  Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy

Elective courses for the Public Law Concentration  6
Select two courses with the Public Law Elective attribute, for example:
POLS 1300  Introduction to Law
POLS 1700  Foundations of Political Theory
POLS 2700  Fundamental Issues in Political Philosophy
POLS 3710  Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought
POLS 3720  Renaissance and Modern Political Theories
POLS 3770 Feminist Theory: Gender Justice

**Concentration Requirement**

Select two courses from the following:

- POLS 2200 U.S. State and Urban Politics
- POLS 2220 State and Local Politics
- POLS 2600 Introduction to International Political Economy
- POLS 3300 U.S. Public Policy

**Elective Courses**

Select two courses from the following:

- POLS 1510 Politics of Developing World
- POLS 2010 Ethics and Politics
- POLS 2300 Public Administration
- POLS 2350 Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll: Morality Politics in the United States
- POLS 2820 American Foreign Policy
- POLS 3330 Metropolitan Environment
- POLS 3350 East Asian Political Economy
- POLS 3600 Problems of Globalization
- POLS 3800 The Structure of Poverty: Globally and Locally
- POLS 3810 Latin American-U.S. Relations
- POLS 3910 Federal Government Internship
- POLS 3911 State or Local Government Internship
- POLS 3912 Public Service Internship

**Senior Seminar**

Students must take two seminars, one of which must be from the following list:

- POLS 4150 Gender and Politics
- POLS 4171 Law, Policy, Society
- POLS 4300 Law, Politics, and Regulatory Policy
- POLS 4340 Issues in Public Policy
- POLS 4650 War, Peace, and Politics
- POLS 4840 Global Health Politics and Policy
- POLS 4960 Senior Research
- POLS 4980 Advanced Independent Study
- POLS 4990 Research Design

**General Electives**

- 20-29 credits

**Total Credits**

120

† May not double count for the International Relations Requirement

**Continuation Standards**

Students in the Political Science major must maintain a 2.00 GPA in Political Science coursework.

**Bachelor of Arts Core Curriculum Requirements**

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<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>POLS 2350</td>
<td>Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll: Morality Politics in the United States</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Global Citizenship**

- 3 credits

**Foreign Language**

- 0-9 credits

**Fine Arts**

- 3 credits

**Literature**

- 6 credits

**Mathematics**

- 3 credits

**Natural Science**

- 6 credits

**Philosophy**

- 9 credits

**Social Science**

- 6 credits

**Theology**

- 9 credits

**World History**

- 6 credits

**Total Credits**

57-66

**Graduation Requirements**

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).
- Complete either the College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Core Curriculum Requirements
- Complete major requirements: minimum 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate, and/or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Courses listed under the intensive English program do not count toward graduation requirements. EAP 1500 College Composition for International Students (3 cr), EAP 1900 Rhetoric & Research Strategies (3 cr) and EAP 2850 Nation, Identity and Literature (3 cr) count toward graduation requirements as equivalents to Department of English courses.
- In addition to those courses, six credits from EAP/MLNG courses at the 1000 level or higher may count toward graduation requirements.
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s) and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
- Complete department/program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

**Roadmap**

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.
# General Major

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### International Affairs Concentration

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### Public Law Concentration

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<td>POLS 1700</td>
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**Credits**: 15

**Total Credits**: 121
## Public Policy Concentration

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## Political Science (Madrid Campus)

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1. Minor course is required only if needed.
2. Principles of Economics is a required course only if needed.
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**Spring**

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**Year Four**

**Fall**

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**Spring**

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<td>POLS 4610</td>
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<td>POLS 4630</td>
<td>The European Union: Politics and Political Economy</td>
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**Total Credits** 125

1 The number of courses required may vary depending on minor
2 Prerequisite: MATH 1200 College Algebra (0,3 cr).

**Program Notes**

- A minor (or second major) is required.
- Diversity in the EU courses:

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- Global Citizenship courses:

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**Madrid**

Students can complete the international relations track of the political science program at SLU’s campus in Madrid.

Learn More [here](http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/degrees-and-programs/political-science.php)