

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, M.A.

Saint Louis University's Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Affairs program allows academically talented students to advance their knowledge and analytical skills by focusing on an interdisciplinary problem-oriented area of interest within political science.

SLU's M.A. in political science and public affairs is open to individuals who have previously earned a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in political science or a related social science discipline from an accredited university and demonstrate outstanding potential.

Curriculum Overview

The M.A. in Political Science and Public Affairs requires 30 credits.

M.A. students on the St. Louis campus may choose one of three formal concentration areas—American politics, international affairs or public policy and administration. Alternatively, they may design an individual plan of study in consultation with a faculty mentor and the coordinator of graduate studies. All M.A. students on SLU's Madrid Campus (<http://www.slu.edu/madrid/>) complete a concentration in international relations and crisis.

Students enrolled on either the St. Louis or the Madrid campus may take elective courses on the other campus.

Graduate Handbook (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/political-science/pdfs/ma-handbook.pdf>)

American Politics Concentration

This concentration provides a substantive grounding in the academic study of American politics, strong methodological skills, and options to focus on particular areas of interest, such as public law. This concentration is appropriate for students with a variety of interests and goals, including additional graduate study in political science and related fields or law school.

International Affairs Concentration

This concentration provides theoretical and substantive grounding in international relations and comparative politics. Some of the topics covered are the process of democratization, international security, warfare, and economic development.

International Relations and Crisis Concentration (Madrid Campus)

This concentration familiarizes students with the key theoretical, political, and social dimensions of the global governance of insecurity, and the emergence, management and consequences of crises today.

Public Policy and Administration Concentration

This concentration is designed for students interested in gaining a practical understanding of how political and social policies are developed and administered. Like a Master of Public Administration, it prepares students to work in local and national government, non-profits and the private sector.

Careers

An M.A. in political science and public affairs prepares students for careers in government, foreign service, national or international business, nonprofit organizations and NGOs, as well as future graduate study. Possible careers include campaign aide, diplomat, nonprofit manager and labor relations specialist.

Admission Requirements

A B.A. or B.S. with at least 18 credits of undergraduate courses in political science or a related social science field is strongly encouraged.

Successful applicants usually possess a GPA of 3.40 (overall and in political science courses) and a sufficient TOEFL score (for international applicants).

Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores but may do so if they wish to have them considered as part of their application.

Application Requirements

- Online application and fee.
- Two letters of recommendation written by people who can speak to your academic and/or professional skills. These letters should come from someone in a supervisory position, for example a professor, academic advisor or workplace supervisor.
- Transcript(s). Provisional offers of acceptance can be made based on unofficial transcripts. Admitted students will need to submit an official transcript upon enrollment.
- A statement of purpose in which you detail why you wish to pursue a Master's degree, how your background prepares you for this academic program, and how you plan to use the skills or knowledge you learn in the program to achieve your future goals. **Please also include a brief note if you wish to be considered for departmental need- or merit-based funding.** The total statement of purpose should not exceed 4 double-spaced pages and may be shorter.
- A writing sample that demonstrates your academic writing abilities. This may be a term paper you wrote for a course, an honors thesis or other independent research or a policy brief. If you do not have a suitable writing sample, please choose a policy area or research topic in which you are interested and write a research memo in which you introduce the topic, identify a compelling research question or questions, explain how you might go about conducting research on the topic and identify implications of studying this topic. Writing samples should be at least 5 double-spaced pages and may be longer.
- Curriculum vitae or résumé.

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students. International students must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- Financial documents are required to complete an application for admission and be reviewed for admission and merit scholarships.
- Proof of financial support that must include:
 - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the student's 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 the student's study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include:
 - 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
 - Any honors or degrees received.

WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Assistantship Application Deadline

For full consideration for a University-wide fellowship or assistantship, applicants should submit their application by Jan. 10. For consideration for a Department of Political Science graduate assistantship or tuition hours, applicants should submit their application by March 1 (for enrollment beginning in August).

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by a committee of political science department faculty members. **Complete applications received by March 1 (for enrollment beginning in August) or November 1 (for enrollment beginning in January) will receive full consideration.** We will continue reviewing applications after these deadlines if space allows. If applying after the priority deadline, you are welcome to contact the graduate program coordinator to see whether applications are still being considered.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Graduate Tuition	\$1,310

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

The Department of Political Science has two sources of funding available for graduate students, tuition hours and graduate assistantships. Tuition hours provide recipients with free tuition for one or more courses in the semester they are awarded. Graduate assistantships provide tuition for full-time study, a stipend to cover living expenses and health insurance. In return, graduate assistants work up to 20 hours per week within the department on tasks like faculty research.

The department awards tuition hours and graduate assistantships based on merit and/or need. New applicants to the program who wish to be considered for these funding sources should submit their application for

admission by the listed priority deadline and mention in their Professional Goals Statement that they wish to be considered for funding. There is no separate process for applying for funding. Funding decisions will be made at the same time as admissions decisions, and it is not possible to guarantee funding before an offer of admission has been made.

The university has additional sources of funding for graduate students. Information on these sources as well as instructions for applying can be found here: <https://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/graduate-scholarships-fellowships-assistantships-awards.php>

Information on need-based financial aid is available here: <https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>

Students wishing to request a waiver of the university's application fee should submit their request to graduate@slu.edu, as application fees are not charged by individual departments.

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to explain how political systems operate within the context of their chosen M.A. concentrations.
2. Graduates will be able to critique competing theoretical explanations and produce a comprehensive review of the scholarly literature in their chosen field of study.
3. Graduates will be able to design original research and seminar projects that investigate political processes with appropriate methodologies and contribute to ongoing scholarly debates.
4. Graduates will be able to explain the results of their research in public forums and justify their methodological choices.
5. Graduates will be able to analyze the values that inform political institutions, behavior and policies.
6. Graduates will be able to demonstrate honest and ethical research practices.

Requirements

Students on SLU's St. Louis campus will choose one of the three formal concentrations, or they may choose a general M.A. designed around an individualized plan of study. All students on SLU's Madrid campus (<http://www.slu.edu/madrid/>) complete the concentration in international relations and crisis.

All students will complete a total of 30 credits for the M.A. degree. All students are required to pass a field exam on their formal concentration or individual topic of interest administered at the beginning of the student's final semester of coursework.

No more than 12 credits of the M.A. may be taken outside political science, and no more than 6 credits may be independent study classes or internships. Some classes have prerequisites. Depending on their undergraduate preparation, students may be required to take specific undergraduate classes prior to enrolling in post-baccalaureate classes. Exceptions will be allowed only with the approval of the coordinator of graduate studies for the department.

Individualized Concentration in Political Science and Public Affairs

Students are encouraged to explore courses outside the department related to their field of study, for example, courses in Women's and

Gender Studies, Geographic Information Systems, and regional studies courses offered by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Culture.

All students are required to select a concentration. If a student wishes to pursue a topic that is not covered by one of the formal concentrations, they may propose an individualized course of study that can be formalized through a "contract" concentration. All contract concentrations must be approved in advance by the student's advisor and the graduate program coordinator. Students wishing to consider a contract concentration should work with their advisor and/or the program coordinator as early as possible. All contract concentrations cover 30 credit hours and must include the following components:

1. A foundational course or courses on the content of the student's topic of interest
2. A foundational course on methods of inquiry with the Graduate Methods attribute (p. 4)
3. A course with the Graduate Thought Foundations attribute (p. 5)
4. A range of elective courses (p. 5) constituted as a coherent domain of study

American Politics Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
POLS 5100	Seminar in American Politics	3
POLS 5750	American Political Thought: Meanings of Citizenship	3
Research Methods		
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
Other Required Courses		
<i>Three more American or Policy Foundation courses</i>		
American attributed courses (p. 4)		
Policy Foundation attributed courses (p. 4)		
Political Science Elective Courses (p. 5)		
Six credits may be an internship or MA thesis		
Total Credits		30

International Affairs Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Comparative Politics Classes (p. 4)		
International Relations Classes (p. 4)		
Choose an additional course in either Comparative Politics or International Relations †		
Research Methods		
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
Political Thought Foundation (p. 5)		
Political Science Electives (p. 5)		
Six credits may be an internship or M.A. thesis		
Total Credits		30

† POLS 5840 can count as a Comparative Politics course or an International Relations course, but it cannot count as both.

International Relations and Crisis Concentration (Madrid Campus)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
POLS 5590	Crisis of Leadership †	3
POLS 5610	International Relations: Theory & Practice †	3
POLS 5630	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy †	3
POLS 5662	International Contemporary Challenges †	3
POLS 5663	Key Contemporary Crises †	3
POLS 5910	Graduate Internship *	3
<i>Students must complete a 3 credit graduate internship with a national or international, governmental or non-governmental body.</i>		
Research Methods		
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods *	3
Political Science Electives		
<i>Select 9 credits</i>		
POLS 5100	Seminar in American Politics *	
POLS 5320	Environmental Politics and Policy-Making *	
POLS 5510	Democratization †	
POLS 5520	Political Change †	
POLS 5530	Authoritarian Politics: Rigging Elections and Clinging to Power †	
POLS 5550	Politics of Economic Development *	
POLS 5650	War, Peace, and Politics †	
POLS 5661	Shifting Trends in Regional and Interregional Politics †	
POLS 5664	International Political Economy in Times of Crisis †	
POLS 5665	Historical Perspectives on Crisis: The 30 Years' European Crisis †	
POLS 5690	Theories of World Politics †	
POLS 5730	Contemporary Political Ideologies *	
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy †	
POLS 5990	Thesis Research *	
<i>For students conducting a Thesis, 6 credits are required.</i>		
Total Credits		30

† Madrid campus only

‡ St. Louis campus only

* Offered on both St. Louis and Madrid campuses

Public Policy and Administration Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
POLS 5100	Seminar in American Politics	3
Policy Foundation course (p. 4)		
Research Methods		
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
Political Thought Foundation course (p. 5)		
Other Required Courses		
<i>Select six credits of the following:</i>		

ECON 5010	Economics for Managers	
POLS 5310	Issues in U.S. Public Administration	
POLS 5325	Public Sector Budgeting	
POLS 5350	Issues in Public Policy	
POLS 5360	Urban Economic Development	
POLS 5850	Policy Evaluation and Assessment	
POLS 6310	Policy Process	
POLS 6320	Organization Theory & Behavior	
POLS 6330	Public Finance Theory	
Political Science Electives (p. 5)		12
<i>Six credits may be an internship or M.A. thesis</i>		
Total Credits		30

Non-Course Requirements

- Students may complete an internship for up to six credits as part of the M.A. in political science and public affairs. Students will work under the direction of a preceptor at the internship location and a faculty member in the department. The internship should involve 200 hours of work central to the organization students are working with, and students will also need to write a paper related to the work.
- Students who choose to write master's theses will work closely with a faculty director and a committee of two other faculty members chosen with the director's guidance. The M.A. thesis is a two-semester project. Students will complete a thesis proposal in the first semester and the thesis itself during the second semester. Students who are not able to defend their proposal successfully during the first semester will not be allowed to continue to the second semester of thesis work.
- All students in the political science M.A. program must take and pass a field exam during their last semester of coursework. All students must pass the written portion of the exam. An additional oral exam will be required at the discretion of the exam committee.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Political Science - American (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5140	Political Parties	3
POLS 5150	Gender and American Politics	3
POLS 5170	Electoral Politics	3
POLS 5171	Law, Policy, Society	3
POLS 5310	Issues in U.S. Public Administration	3
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy	3-6

Political Science - Comparative Politics (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5500	Russian Political Culture	3
POLS 5510	Democratization	3
POLS 5520	Political Change	3

POLS 5530	Authoritarian Politics: Rigging Elections and Clinging to Power	3
POLS 5550	Politics of Economic Development	3
POLS 5590	Crisis of Leadership	3
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy	3-6

Political Science - International Relations (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5610	International Relations: Theory & Practice	3
POLS 5630	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3
POLS 5650	War, Peace, and Politics	3
POLS 5661	Shifting Trends in Regional and Interregional Politics	3
POLS 5662	International Contemporary Challenges	3
POLS 5663	Key Contemporary Crises	3
POLS 5664	International Political Economy in Times of Crisis	3
POLS 5665	Historical Perspectives on Crisis: The 30 Years' European Crisis	3
POLS 5670	Politics of International Trade and Finance	3
POLS 5690	Theories of World Politics	3
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy	3-6

Political Science - Methods (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3

Political Science - Policy Elective (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5300	Law and Regulatory Policy	3
POLS 5310	Issues in U.S. Public Administration	3
POLS 5320	Environmental Politics and Policy-Making	3
POLS 5325	Public Sector Budgeting	3
POLS 5330	Public Sector Economics	3
POLS 5350	Issues in Public Policy	3
POLS 5360	Urban Economic Development	3
POLS 5850	Policy Evaluation and Assessment	3
POLS 6310	Policy Process	3
POLS 6320	Organization Theory & Behavior	3
POLS 6330	Public Finance Theory	3
SOC 5010	Organizational Theory and Administration	3

Political Science - Policy Foundation (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5310	Issues in U.S. Public Administration	3
POLS 5350	Issues in Public Policy	3
POLS 6310	Policy Process	3

Political Science - Thought Foundations (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5730	Contemporary Political Ideologies	3
POLS 5740	Marx's Capital	3
POLS 5750	American Political Thought: Meanings of Citizenship	3
POLS 5760	Feminist Theories	3
POLS 5760X	Feminist Theories	3
POLS 5770	Feminist Epistemologies	3

Political Science - Elective (Graduate) attributed courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5010	Cultural Methods: Gender, Politics, and Power	3
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
POLS 5100	Seminar in American Politics	3
POLS 5130	Race, Class, and Punishment	3
POLS 5131	Race, Class, and Punishment	3
POLS 5140	Political Parties	3
POLS 5150	Gender and American Politics	3
POLS 5170	Electoral Politics	3
POLS 5171	Law, Policy, Society	3
POLS 5300	Law and Regulatory Policy	3
POLS 5310	Issues in U.S. Public Administration	3
POLS 5320	Environmental Politics and Policy-Making	3
POLS 5325	Public Sector Budgeting	3
POLS 5330	Public Sector Economics	3
POLS 5350	Issues in Public Policy	3
POLS 5360	Urban Economic Development	3
POLS 5500	Russian Political Culture	3
POLS 5510	Democratization	3
POLS 5520	Political Change	3
POLS 5530	Authoritarian Politics: Rigging Elections and Clinging to Power	3
POLS 5550	Politics of Economic Development	3
POLS 5590	Crisis of Leadership	3
POLS 5610	International Relations: Theory & Practice	3
POLS 5630	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3
POLS 5650	War, Peace, and Politics	3
POLS 5661	Shifting Trends in Regional and Interregional Politics	3
POLS 5662	International Contemporary Challenges	3
POLS 5663	Key Contemporary Crises	3
POLS 5664	International Political Economy in Times of Crisis	3
POLS 5665	Historical Perspectives on Crisis: The 30 Years' European Crisis	3
POLS 5670	Politics of International Trade and Finance	3
POLS 5690	Theories of World Politics	3
POLS 5700	Historical Western Political Thought	3
POLS 5710	Citizenship and Social Difference	3

POLS 5730	Contemporary Political Ideologies	3
POLS 5740	Marx's Capital	3
POLS 5750	American Political Thought: Meanings of Citizenship	3
POLS 5760	Feminist Theories	3
POLS 5760X	Feminist Theories	3
POLS 5770	Feminist Epistemologies	3
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy	3-6
POLS 5850	Policy Evaluation and Assessment	3
POLS 5910	Graduate Internship	1-6
POLS 5911	Graduate Capstone Internship	3-6
POLS 5913	Field Service	1-6
POLS 5930	Special Topics	3
POLS 5960	MPA Capstone	0-3
POLS 5970	Research Topics	1-3
POLS 5980	Graduate Independent Study	1-3
POLS 5990	Thesis Research	3
POLS 6310	Policy Process	3
POLS 6320	Organization Theory & Behavior	3
POLS 6330	Public Finance Theory	3
POLS 6930	Special Topics	0
POLS 6980	Independent Study	1,3
SOC 5010	Organizational Theory and Administration	3
SOC 5060	Qualitative Research Methodology	3
SOC 5600	Research Methodology	3
SOC 5850	Policy Evaluation and Assessment	3
SOC 6100	Regression Analysis & Non-linear Models	3
WGST 5010	Feminist Theories	3
WGST 5020	Feminist Epistemologies	3
WGST 5050	Program Evaluation	3

Roadmap International Affairs Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
POLS 5690	Theories of World Politics ¹	3
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods ²	3
POLS 5550	Politics of Economic Development ³	3
Credits		9
Spring		
POLS 5510	Democratization ¹	3
POLS 5730	Contemporary Political Ideologies ⁴	3
POLS 5840	Global Health Politics & Policy ³	3
Credits		9
Summer		
POLS 5910	Graduate Internship ⁵	3
Credits		3
Year Two		
Fall		
IA Concentration Field Exam ⁶		0
POLS 5650	War, Peace, and Politics ³	3

POLS 5350	Issues in Public Policy ³	3
POLS 5530	Authoritarian Politics: Rigging Elections and Clinging to Power ³	3
Credits		9
Total Credits		30

¹ International affairs concentration core requirement; students choose two core courses from a list of comparative politics courses and two courses from a list of international relations courses.

² IA concentration required research methods course.

³ Elective.

⁴ IA concentration political theory requirement; students choose one course from a list.

⁵ Elective. (As an alternative, these three elective credits may be taken in a fourth semester.)

⁶ Students take the field exam for their concentration at the beginning of their final semester in the program.

Program Notes

The Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Affairs offers a number of concentrations, including international affairs, public policy and administration and American politics. Each concentration combines core requirements and electives.

The roadmap above is for the international affairs concentration. Core courses (in boldface in the shaded areas above) can be taken in a different order, but students should plan to complete core requirements during the first two semesters in the 30-hour M.A.

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact:

Matthew Nanes, Ph.D.

Coordinator of Graduate Studies

pols-admin@slu.edu

314-977-3035

Madrid

SLU-Madrid offers an M.A. in political science and public affairs, with a concentration in international relations and crisis.

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