

# 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 within political science.

SLU's M.A. in political science and public affairs is open to individuals who have 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 in St. Louis may choose one of four concentration areas—American politics, international affairs, public policy and administration, or political thought. All M.A. students at Saint Louis University-Madrid (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/>) complete a concentration in international relations and crisis.

Students enrolled at either St. Louis or Madrid may take elective courses at the other location.

### 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.

### Political Thought Concentration

This concentration provides substantive grounding in the history of Western political thought, and the opportunity to explore issues in contemporary political theory and philosophy.

### Public Policy and Administration Concentration

This concentration is designed for students interested in 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, nonprofits and the private sector.

### International Affairs Concentration

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

### International Relations and Crisis Concentration (SLU-Madrid)

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.

## 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, and future graduate study. Possible careers include campaign aide, diplomat, nonprofit manager and labor relations specialist. Students seeking admission to a Ph.D. program may also bolster their prospects with an M.A. from Saint Louis University.

## Admission Requirements

Bachelors degree 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 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: <https://gradapply.slu.edu/apply/>
- 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 which 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/>)
- 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.
- In order to be issued an I-20 for your F-1 visa application, students must submit financial documents. 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

## 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

A committee of political science department faculty members reviews applications. **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	\$1,370

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 offers partial funding in the form of tuition-hours scholarships. Tuition hours provide recipients tuition for one or more courses in the semester they are awarded.

The department awards tuition hours based on merit and/or need. New applicants to the program who wish to be considered for funding 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, is available from the Office of Graduate Education (<https://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/graduate-scholarships-fellowships-assistantships-awards.php>).

Information on need-based financial aid is available from the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

## 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 four formal concentrations. 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.

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 in order to receive course credit. Students may substitute up to 3 hours of POLS 5910 Graduate Internship (1-6 cr) for a concentration attributed course, and an additional 3 hours of POLS 5910 Graduate Internship (1-6 cr) for elective courses.

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.

## Non-Course Requirements

- 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.

## 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
	American Politics Foundation attributed course (p. 4)	3
	American Politics attributed courses (p. 4)	9
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
POLS 5750	American Political Thought: Meanings of Citizenship	3
POLS 5970	Research Topics in Political Science	3
	Skills attributed course (p. 6)	3
	Political Science Elective Courses (p. 5)	6
Six credits may be an internship or MA thesis *		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

\* Students who conduct a Thesis (6 credits of POLS 5990 Thesis Research (3 cr)) will use 3 credits of Thesis to replace the POLS 5970 Research Topics in Political Science (1-3 cr) requirement.

## Public Policy and Administration Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
	Policy Foundation attributed course (p. 5)	3
	Policy Elective attributed course (p. 4)	9
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods (linkurl^#skills^Skills attributed course)	3
	Skills attributed course (p. 6)	3
POLS 5970	Research Topics in Political Science	3
	Political Thought Foundation course (p. 5)	3
	Political Science Electives (p. 5)	6
Six credits may be an internship or M.A. thesis *		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

\* Students who conduct a Thesis (6 credits of POLS 5990 Thesis Research (3 cr)) will use 3 credits of Thesis to replace the POLS 5970 Research Topics in Political Science (1-3 cr) requirement.

## Political Thought Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
	Thought Foundation attributed courses (p. 5)	6
	Thought Elective attributed courses (p. 5)	6
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
	Skills attributed course (p. 6)	3
POLS 5970	Research Topics in Political Science	3
	Political Science Elective Courses (p. 5)	9
Six credits may be an internship or M.A. Thesis *		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

\* Students who conduct a Thesis (6 credits of POLS 5990 Thesis Research (3 cr)) will use 3 credits of Thesis to replace the POLS 5970 Research Topics in Political Science (1-3 cr) requirement.

## International Affairs Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
	International Relations Classes (p. 4)	6
	Comparative Politics Classes (p. 4)	6
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods	3
	Skills attributed course (p. 6)	3
POLS 5970	Research Topics in Political Science	3
	Political Thought Foundation (p. 5)	3
	Political Science Electives (p. 5)	6
Six credits may be an internship or M.A. thesis *		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

† POLS 5840 Global Health Politics & Policy (3-6 cr) can count as a Comparative Politics course or an International Relations course, but it cannot count as both.

\* Students who conduct a Thesis (6 credits of POLS 5990 Thesis Research (3 cr)) will use 3 credits of Thesis to replace the POLS 5970 Research Topics in Political Science (1-3 cr) requirement.

## International Relations and Crisis Concentration (SLU-Madrid)

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

<sup>†</sup> Madrid campus only

<sup>‡</sup> St. Louis campus only

<sup>\*</sup> Offered on both St. Louis and Madrid campuses

## Political Science - American Politics (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

## Political Science - American Politics Foundation (Graduate) Attributed Courses

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 5100	Seminar in American Politics	3

## 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 5760X	Feminist Theories	3

### Political Science - Thought Elective (Graduate) Attributed Courses

Code	Title	Credits
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 5760X	Feminist Theories	3
POLS 5770X	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 5760X	Feminist Theories	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 in Political Science	1-3
POLS 5980	Graduate Independent Study in Political Science	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	1-3
POLS 6980	Graduate Independent Study in Political Science	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

## Political Science - Skills (Graduate) Attributed Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ABA 5774	Measurement & Experimental Design	3
BSH 5000	Behavioral Science and Public Health	3
BST 5020	Theory of Biostatistics	3
BST 5025	Theory of Biostatistics II	3
CMM 5340	Language, Equity and Inclusion	3
CMM 5400	Contemporary Issues in Media	3
CMM 5600	Strategic Communication	3
CMM 5802	Qualitative Inquiry for Communication and Social Justice	3
CSCI 5001	Object-Oriented Programming	3
CSCI 5002	Data Structures	3
ENGL 5110	Literary Theory	3
EPI 5020	Epidemiology Methods II	3
GIS 5010	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3
GLOH 5200	Global Health and Implementation Science	3
HDS 5210	Programming for Health Data Scientists	3
HIST 5000	Theory & Practice of History: An Introduction	3
PHIL 5300	Problems in Ethical Theories	3
PHIL 6200	Philosophy of Science	3
PUBH 5030	Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health	3
PUBH 5040	Generating Evidence from Public Health Data	3
SOC 5060	Qualitative Research Methodology	3
SOC 5850	Policy Evaluation and Assessment	3
SOC 6100	Regression Analysis & Non-linear Models	3
STAT 5084	Time Series	3
WGST 5030	Feminist Research Design	3
WGST 5050	Program Evaluation	3

Additional Language courses (taught in the foreign language)  
4XXX level or higher, with department approval

*Some Skills courses have prerequisites*

## 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.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Concentration course		3
POLS 5020	Advanced Topics in Research Methods (Methods Requirement)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Concentration course		3
Skills attributed course		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Concentration course		3
Thought Foundations attributed course (or elective, if Political Thought concentration)		3
POLS 5970	Research Topics in Political Science (independent research paper)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Concentration course		3
Elective		3
<b>Comprehensive Exam</b>		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## Madrid

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

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

## Contact Us

For additional information, please contact [pols-admin@slu.edu](mailto:pols-admin@slu.edu) or call 314-977-3149 and ask to be directed to the graduate program coordinator.