Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in political science
+ Accelerated Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts (B.A./M.A.) in political science
+ Minor in global and local social justice
+ Minor in political science
+ Minor in Asian studies
+ Minor in political journalism
+ Minor in foreign service

Program Overview
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 students 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. The 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.

The department of political science at Saint Louis University analyzes the exercise of political power as it relates to governance, citizenship and justice at all levels: local, national and international. The department aims to enable SLU students to assess the root causes of political phenomena, thereby preparing them to be truly men and women for others: informed and engaged world citizens and effective leaders able to make positive contributions to society.

About the Faculty
Faculty members have expertise in the presidency, U.S. state and local politics, Asian politics, Middle East politics, international security and terrorism, polling, administrative law, democratization, revolution and ethnic conflict, political leadership, public policy, civil liberties, race and gender, feminist theory, disability theory, the history of political thought, post-communist systems and African and Latin American development.

Curriculum
The Bachelor of Arts in political science requires a total of 34 credit hours, including the following:
+ One course in American politics — POLS 1150: American Political System
+ One course in comparative politics
+ One course in international relations
+ One course in political thought chosen from among the following — POLS 1700: Foundations of Political Theory, POLS 2700: Issues in Political Philosophy, POLS 3710: Ancient and Medieval Political Thought, POLS 3720: Renaissance and Modern Political Thought, and POLS 3770: Feminist Theory, Gender Justice
+ POLS 2000: Methods
+ Two 4000-level seminars
+ Four political science electives

A total of 18 credit hours are required for the minor in political science.

Students have the option to write an honors thesis, and they also can receive course credit for completing a research project with a faculty member. Many undergraduate political science students participate in internships as part of their major experience. Students study abroad at our sister campus in Madrid, as well as in China, France, Belgium and many other countries.

Students with at least a 3.4 GPA also have the option to apply during their junior year for admission to an accelerated B.A./M.A. program. The accelerated B.A./M.A. in political science allows SLU undergraduate political science majors to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in five years.

Contact
Department of Political Science
314-977-3038
carnagep@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
+ Master of Arts (M.A.) in political science
+ Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
+ Doctorate (Ph.D.) in public and social policy

For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x14353.xml.

Revised April 2015
Admission Requirements
Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on 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. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from 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.

Scholarships and Financial Aid
There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

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

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should 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 finaid.slu.edu.

Internships and Careers
The department of political science encourages students to take political internships as part of their degree programs. These provide excellent practical experience that potential employers appreciate. Internships often help students select a future career. Students select internships in consultation with their mentors.

The department offers 11 different internships, which may satisfy up to six credit hours of electives:

+ Administrative
+ Aldermanic
+ Campaign practicum
+ Federal government
+ Foreign service
+ Overseas fieldwork
+ Political science
+ Research internships
+ State or local government
+ Washington
+ Women leaders

The government plays a central role in the United States’ economy; it employs over 20 percent of the nation’s workforce. If you add to this the number of private sector workers whose careers involve direct dealings with government agencies in terms of contracts, legislative lobbying, or bureaucratic rulings, fully one-third of the labor force is involved in some form of public service. Political science provides one of the best training, at the undergraduate level, for employment in this vast sector.

Graduates are employed by the government, international organizations or the private sector, entering careers that involve policy choices or direct dealings with government agencies in terms of contracts, legislative lobbying and bureaucratic rulings.

Political science is the traditional major for those students interested in attending law school. It is the best preparation for students who are intent on a political career.