Doctoral Program in Public and Social Policy

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Department of Political Science

College of Arts and Sciences
Table of Contents
INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................................................ 1
OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM .............................................................................................................. 1
ADMISSION ................................................................................................................................................ 2
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION .................................................................................................................. 3
CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS ........................................................................................................ 4
THE DOCTORAL ADVISOR ..................................................................................................................... 4
STUDENT REVIEW PROCESS ................................................................................................................ 4
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE ................................................................................................... 5
PUBLIC AND SOCIAL CURRICULUM .................................................................................................... 5
  Requirements for the Public Administration concentration ............................................................... 6
  Requirements for the concentration in Urban and Community Development .................................... 7
  Requirements for the concentration in International Development Policy ...................................... 8
  Requirements for the concentration in Health Policy .......................................................................... 9
  Requirements for the concentration in Policy and Geo-spatial Analysis ........................................ 10
RESIDENCY .............................................................................................................................................. 11
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ............................................................................................................ 11
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH ........................................................................................... 12
HUMAN SUBJECTS TRAINING ........................................................................................................... 12
CORE FACULTY ..................................................................................................................................... 13
INTRODUCTION

In September 2014, the Board of Trustees of Saint Louis University approved the establishment of a multidisciplinary Ph.D. program in Public and Social Policy. Drawing upon the diversity and strengths of departments and faculty at Saint Louis University, our program offers cutting-edge classes and research opportunities that will allow students to develop a competency in theoretical and methodological skills for Public and Social Policy studies. The program is firmly grounded in theory and applied research, and requires students to blend academic rigor with practical approaches to public and social analysis and administration. The Doctoral Program is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and is administered by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Department of Political Science.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM

The Doctoral Program in Public and Social Policy has two broad objectives.

1. To provide graduate students with the ability to utilize analytical, theoretical, and methodological techniques for advanced research in areas of Public and Social policy.

2. To provide graduate research training that will allow graduate students to enter or enhance careers in teaching, policy research, public administration and non-profit management, or a combination of these opportunities.

The Doctoral Program has several specific objectives for students admitted:

(1) Create an environment that fosters maturity of character and cultivation of leadership skills through a strong ethical commitment to service for the public good;

(2) Develop a sophisticated understanding of the complex nature of social challenges and the administrative skills required to address these challenges;

(3) Develop the ability to use conceptual and theoretical approaches for dealing with policy;

(4) Develop analytical and research skills for public policy problem solving;

(5) Develop the ability to identify and define researchable problems;

(6) Develop competence in systematic research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, and the technologies associated with these different methodologies;

(7) Develop the ability to lead and communicate with the wide range of actors involved in the policy process.
ADMISSION

The program is directed at well-qualified people who hold or show promise of holding responsible decision-making position in public, quasi-public, and non-profit settings. A mix of degree candidates from diverse academic and experiential backgrounds is highly desirable and enthusiastically sought by the program. In order to be admitted into the Ph.D. in Public and Social Policy, applicants must already hold a master's degree in the social sciences or a related professional degree. Candidates may apply for full-time or part-time admission.

Requirements for admission and achievement of degrees are identical for both full-time and part-time students. Both full-time and part-time students take the same courses, taught by the same faculty members. To accommodate both groups, most graduate-level courses in our department are offered in the evening.

Making the final decision on whether or not to attend full-time or part-time should be considered carefully, and faculty advisers can help you determine which is best for you. If you decide to attend part-time, then you should be sure to apply as a part-time student. Your enrollment status will be taken in consideration if you apply for extra time to complete your degree.

1. Full-time Students
   For those of you who are experiencing a career transition and have plenty of free time, you may take on a full, academic workload. Full-time students are expected to take nine hours of class each semester. For some full-time students, graduate assistantships are available. Assistantships require 20 hours of work each week in the department in assistant teaching, research, communications and/or technological applications.

2. Part-time Students
   Many of our graduate students are engaged in careers which require the majority of their time. So, pursuing a degree part-time works best for them. Part-time students at the graduate level normally take two courses per semester. Our programs can be catered to your schedule.
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

1. An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale

2. An M.A. in a social science or related discipline or a professional degree (M.B.A., M.P.A., J.D., M.S.W., etc.) with a GPA of at least 3.4. (Lower GPA's accepted for law schools where grading is on a forced mean.)

3. A completed application and fee.

4. Verbal and analytic GRE scores that are approximately 156.¹

5. Three strong letters of recommendation, at least two of them from faculty in the applicant's master's program.

6. A personal statement of purpose.

7. An analytical writing sample that shows promise of the ability to conduct professional research and convey the results.

8. An in-person or video-conference interview.

9. For international students, paper-based TOEFL (PBT) score of at least 550, an 80 on the computer-based TOEFL (iBT), a 6.5 on the IELTS, and a 4+ on SLU's own Writing Exam.

Pre-requisites:

1. At least 9 hours of undergraduate or graduate social science theory or methods classes.

2. Undergraduate microeconomics.

3. For students planning to take courses in economics, calculus is required.

4. A graduate-level research methods course.

5. Intermediate inferential statistics with use of a large dataset and competence in analytic software.

6. If pre-requisites have not been met before arrival at SLU, students may fulfill the pre-requisites at SLU, but the courses will not count toward the Ph.D. program.

¹ We will consider applications that have lower scores.
CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are considered for the fall or spring semester admission on a rolling basis. Students interested in being considered for an assistantship must submit a completed application to the department of public and social policy no later than March 1 of the enrollment year. Once admitted students can defer admittance for one year.

THE DOCTORAL ADVISOR

Upon admission, the student will meet with the Director of the Doctoral Program for preliminary advising. It is recommended that students enroll for core courses during their first year of study. When the student is close to finishing the core requirements he/she will consult with the Director of the Doctoral Program. The Director and the student determine the courses to be taken in the area of concentration. The selection of a permanent mentor is usually made after the student completes 12-15 hours of course work. The faculty mentor typically serves as chair of the doctoral dissertation committee.

STUDENT REVIEW PROCESS

A review of a student’s program and progress is done at regularly scheduled intervals—at the time of registration for courses each semester by the advisor, and at the end of the first two semesters of the student’s program (approximately 6 to 12 semester hours) and annually thereafter. A copy of the annual evaluation will be placed in the student’s file. Students are expected to maintain at least an A- average. B and B+ work overall is not a favorable indicator of ability to complete the program and a student may be counseled to withdraw if at the end of twenty four hours, the expected grade point average is not achieved.

Ordinarily, students with an incomplete grade will complete the work for the incomplete prior to beginning coursework for the next semester. Students that accumulate two incomplete grades will not be allowed to register for classes until the incomplete grades are changed to a letter grade. If a student fails to obtain a letter grade for an incomplete within one year, the grade will migrate to an F and students will be counseled to withdraw from the program, if the petition to change the letter grade of F to a passing grade is not successful.

TIME TO DEGREE

Full-time students should be able to complete the requirements within four years. Part-time students should be able to complete the requirement within eight years.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Saint Louis University fully subscribes to the association of Graduate School’s definition that the Ph.D. “is conferred in recognition of a candidate’s high level of scholarly competence and demonstrated ability to conduct and report significant research independently and effectively.”

The Ph.D. degree in Public and Social policy requires between 36-48 graduate semester credit hours beyond a Master’s degree. A typical student will need 45 graduate semester credit hours beyond a Master’s degree. Students that received a Master’s degree from SLU must complete at least 24 credits of post-baccalaureate work through SLU in preparation for and in anticipation of preliminary degree examinations. All students must complete 12 credit hours of dissertation research.

Students are cautioned, however, not to think in terms of the accumulation of credit hours, but rather in terms of the accumulation of conceptual, theoretical, and methodological skills that are required to achieve competency in the field of public and social policy analysis and administration.

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL CURRICULUM

All students complete seven core classes:

1. Core: Policy Analysis and Methods of Inquiry  
   SOC/POLS 5850 Policy evaluation and assessment  
   SOC/POLS 5060 Qualitative research  
   SOC/POLS 6100 Regression Analysis and Non-Linear Models  
   SOC 5650 Introduction to GISc

2. Core: Policy Theory  
   POLS 6310 Policy process  
   POLS 6330 Public finance theory

3. A core class specific to the area of concentration

4. Students complete four more classes (12 hours) in the area of concentration, selected in cooperation with their mentor and the program director.

5. Students must register for 12 hours of dissertation research.
Requirements for the Public Administration concentration
For a concentration in Public Administration all students are required to take the following course:

SOC 6320/POLS 6320 - Organization Theory & Behavior

Students are also required to take four of the following classes. Students are encouraged to choose the classes with the help of their mentor.

POLS 5130 - American Race Relations

POLS 5150 - Gender and American Politics

POLS 5300 - Administrative Law

POLS 5310 - Issues in U.S. Public Administration

POLS 5325 - Public Sector Budgeting

POLS 6710 - Leadership & Culture

SOC 5171/POLS 5171 - Law, Policy, Society

SOC 5520 - Social Psychology

SOC 5010/POLS 5010 - Organizational Theory and Administration

LAW 7060 - Anthropology of Law
Requirements for the concentration in Urban and Community Development
For a concentration in Urban and Community Development, all students are required to take the following course:

SOC 6200 Urban Social and Political Theory

Students are also required to take four of the following classes. Students are encouraged to choose the classes with the help of their mentor.

POLS 5130 - American Race Relations

POLS 5200 - Seminar in American State Politics

SOC 5200 - Cities, Suburbs, & Neighborhoods

SOC 5400 - Urban Crime, Violence, and Justice

SOC 5510 - Constructing Social Problems

SOC 5530 - Urban Ethnography

SOC 5500 - Social Stratification

SOC 5540 - Environmental Impact of City

SOC 5550 - Comparative Theories of Race / Ethnic Relations

SOC 6225 - Urban Community Development

SOC 6250/POLS 6250 - Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy

SOC 6350/POLS 6250 - Economic Development Policy
Requirements for the concentration in International Development Policy
For a concentration in International Development Policy, all students are required to take the following course:

POLS 5550 - Politics of Economic Development

Students are also required to take four of the following classes. Students are encouraged to choose the classes with the help of their mentor.

POLS 5510 - Democratization
POLS 5520 - Political Change
POLS 5530 - Authoritarianism: A Useful Concept?
POLS 5580 - Islam and Gender
POLS 5600 - War, Peace, and Politics
POLS 5620 - Global Diplomacy
POLS 5690 - Theories of World Politics
POLS 5840 - Global Health Politics & Policy
SOC 5540 - Environmental Impact of City
SOC 5550 - Comparative Theories of Race/Ethnic Relations
Requirements for the concentration in Health Policy

For a concentration in Health Policy, all students are required to take the following course:

SOC 6275 - Health and The Social Sciences

Students are also required to take four of the following classes. Students are encouraged to choose the classes with the help of their mentor.

ECON 6700 - Health Economics
EOH 5600 - Policy, Science and Decisions in Environmental Health
SOC 6300/POLS 6300 - U.S. Health Care Policy
HMP 5000 - Health Care Organization
HMP 5500 - Health Policy
HMP 5520 - Legislative Health Policy and Procedures
HMP 5550 - Global Health Management and Policy
POLS 5840 - Global Health Politics & Policy
SOC 5540 - Environmental Impact of City
HCE 5330 - Research Ethics for Health Outcomes
Requirements for the concentration in Policy and Geo-spatial Analysis

For a concentration in Policy and Geo-spatial Analysis, all students are required to take the following course:

SOC 5670 - Spatial Demography: Applied Statistics for Spatial Data

Students are also required to take four of the following classes. Students are encouraged to choose the classes with the help of their mentor.

SOC 5530 - Urban Ethnography

SOC 5640 - Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes

SOC 5660 - Intermediate GIS

SOC 5680 - Forensic GISc and Policy

SOC 5700 - Applied Spatial Analysis with R

SOC 5800 - Survey Design & Sampling

SOC 6200 - Nonparametric Statistical Analysis

SOC 6500 - Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis

POL S 5770 - Feminist Epistemologies

ECON 6050 - Econometrics I

ECON 6060 - Econometrics II

PSY 6600 - Structural Equations Modeling
RESIDENCY

The purpose of the residency is to inculcate in the student the ethics, values, attitudes, and behaviors of professionals in the field. Such exposure is essential to the development of a mature student and a responsible professional. Student must be registered for the fall and spring semester. Students can request a leave of absence to meet the residency requirement.

An annual faculty-student retreat is held over a weekend at the opening of the fall semester. The purpose of the gathering is both social and academic, providing ample opportunity for group and individual discussion.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

- Following the completion of twenty-one hours (usually the core requirements or some combination of the core and specialty area), students submit two papers that will eventually form the basis for two chapters of their dissertation. Students typically write the two papers over one semester.

- The first paper (chapter) will assess the student’s ability to formulate a researchable problem applying the foundational knowledge covered in the Policy Analysis and Methods of Inquiry block and in the Policy Theory block.

- The second paper (chapter) will provide a review and critique of the policy literature relevant to the problem and demonstrate how the student’s approach adds to the literature of both public policy and the specific field of inquiry.

- Papers are assessed by the core faculty of the PSP Ph.D. program. The assessment will be used to determine if the student demonstrates sufficient knowledge and skill to continue towards completion of the program and a dissertation. If the papers do not meet the threshold of skill/knowledge necessary to advance toward the dissertation stage, the student will be counseled as to what remedial work needs to be undertaken to remedy deficiencies (e.g., course work, readings, and projects).

- At the completion of these assigned tasks, ordinarily during the semester following the first paper submissions, the student will be allowed to resubmit the papers for a final assessment. Failure to meet threshold expectations at this point will result in termination from the program.

- During the semester when a student writes the papers, he/she must register for PSP 6950 – Special Study for Exams
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH

- The student is required to select a Doctoral Dissertation Committee and Chairperson of the Committee. Selection of a Committee and a Chair are important decisions and students are advised to seek appropriate mentors with the guidance of the Director of the Doctoral Program.

- At a minimum, the Doctoral Dissertation Committee is made up of three members.

- The Chair of the committee is typically a member of the core faculty of the Public and Social Policy Program.

- Students are strongly encouraged to identify and explore possible dissertation topics early in their coursework, and, as noted above, are required to develop a preliminary dissertation prospectus as part of the preliminary examination process.

- The Ph.D. is a research degree. To receive a Doctoral degree, the student’s must demonstrate a contribution to the existing knowledge in the field of Public and Social Policy Analysis.

- All Doctoral Candidates must write and defend the Dissertation proposal during an oral examination. The Dissertation Committee will evaluate the quality of oral examination and proposal. The Dissertation proposal will be based on the two preliminary examination papers with the addition of a comprehensive methods section and an expanded review of the literature pertaining to the specific problem under consideration. Protocols for the preparation of the Dissertation proposal can be obtained from Director of the program.

HUMAN SUBJECTS TRAINING

As part of a student’s professional training, all students are required to complete and successfully pass the Collaborative Institutional Review Board Training Initiative (CITI) for Human Subjects. This training will take about 5 hours. It is recommended that students complete the training during their first year of study. The training must be completed before the dissertation proposal defense.
CORE FACULTY

- Professor J.D. Bowen (Political Science)
- Professor Ellen Carnaghan (Political Science – Chair of Political Science)
- Professor Robert Croft (Political Science)
- Professor James Gilsinan (Political Science - Co-Director of PSP) - Phased Retirement
- Professor Richard Colignon (Sociology – Chair of Sociology and Anthropology)
- Professor Hisako Matsuo (Sociology)
- Professor Dan Monti (Sociology)
- Professor Ness Sandoval (Sociology – Co-Director of PSP)