Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service. Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The public and social policy program provides a Catholic, Jesuit education to prepare students to engage with significant social and political problems. The program prepares students to tackle some of the biggest problems of our times, including persistent poverty both in American cities and in poor countries around the world, urban renewal, racial and ethnic inequality, and health disparities.

The Ph.D. in public and social policy prepares students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research and public service organizations by providing them with multiple disciplinary perspectives, advanced methodological skills, and the ability to conduct original research in an academic or applied setting. Students will learn how quality research can inform both basic and policy-related questions, and they will have the ability to share their knowledge with both academic and nonacademic audiences.

The doctoral degree in public and social policy requires 33 hours of graduate courses above previous master’s level work and 12 hours of dissertation credit.

Career Paths:
Alumni have gone on to become leaders in the private and public sectors, excelling in such areas as business, commerce, governmental affairs, health and human services, criminal justice and academia.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE, GMAT or LSAT scores
• Résumé
• Statement of personal goals

• An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
• 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)
• A completed application and fee
• Verbal and analytic GRE scores of at least 156
• Three strong letters of recommendation, at least two of them from faculty in the applicant’s master’s program
• A personal statement of purpose
• An analytical writing sample that shows promise of the ability to conduct professional research and convey the results
• An in-person or video-conference interview

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.

DEGREES OFFERED

• Doctorate in Public and Social Policy (Ph.D.)

COURSES AVAILABLE

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE, GMAT or LSAT scores
• Résumé
• Statement of personal goals

• An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
• 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)
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FACULTY |

J.D. Bowen, Ph.D., Political Science  
Political development, sustainable development, Latin America

Ellen Carnaghan, Ph.D., Political Science  
Democratization, political change, communist and postcommunist politics

Richard Colignon, Ph.D., Sociology  
Organizational theory, research methodology

Robert Cropf, Ph.D., Political Science  
Public finance, public policy analysis, urban policy analysis

James Gilsinan, Ph.D., Political Science  
Criminal justice, qualitative methods, public sector organization

Hisako Matsuo, Ph.D., Sociology  
Qualitative and quantitative research methods, survey methods

Dan Monti, Ph.D., Sociology  
Urban community, culture, and redevelopment, education policy

Onésimo Sandoval, Ph.D., Sociology  
Urban sociology, demography, racial inequality, spatial demography and statistics

The program also draws affiliated faculty from the schools of law, social work, business and public health and the departments of psychology, communications and more.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS |

• Transcript(s)  
• Three letters of recommendation  
• GRE, GMAT or LSAT scores  
• Résumé  
• Statement of personal goals

Applications for assistantships must be received by Feb. 1.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT |

Applications for assistantships must be received by Feb. 1.