Public and Social Policy + College of Arts and Sciences

Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses - in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University is celebrating its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>

Public and Social Policy

EMAIL | psp@slu.edu
PHONE | 314-977-2513
WEB | slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/public-and-social-policy

APPLICATION DEADLINE >>

Ph.D.

FALL | rolling
SPRING | rolling
SUMMER | rolling

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DEGREES & PROGRAMS >>

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

COURSES AVAILABLE >>

DAYS x | NIGHTS x | WEEKEND | ONLINE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS >>

- Application form and fee (if applicable)
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation (at least two of them from faculty in the applicant’s master’s program)
- GRE, GMAT or LSAT scores
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Personal goal statement and writing sample
- Interview (in-person or video-conference)

ADMISSION CRITERIA >>

- 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)
- Verbal and analytic GRE scores of at least 156
- An analytical writing sample that shows promise of the ability to conduct professional research and convey the results

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.

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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, 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.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• The public and social policy program at Saint Louis University provides a Catholic, Jesuit education to prepare students to engage with significant social and political problems.

• Students are exposed to multiple disciplinary perspectives, learn advanced methodological and computational skills, and develop skills to conduct original research in an academic or applied setting.

• A Ph.D. in public and social policy prepares students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research and public service organizations.

• Students learn how quality research can inform both basic and policy-related questions and then have the ability to share this knowledge with both academic and nonacademic audiences.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For full consideration for financial aid, including assistantships, applications must be received by Feb. 1.