



# A Commitment to Student Success, Civic Engagement and Real-World Problem Solving

St. Cloud State University's School of Public Affairs is recognized far and wide for its **innovative approaches to educating students and positively impacting society.**

We are proud to be **Minnesota's only school of public affairs that focuses on undergraduate as well as graduate students.** We combine instruction, research and community outreach to prepare students to become leaders.

You may know us for the research and analysis provided by the School of Public Affairs Research Institute, through our public opinion polling from our SCSU Survey Center or

from our economic analysis in the *St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report*. Perhaps you have attended our Winter Institute, an annual celebration of economic education.

But these achievements only begin to describe who and what we are. Incorporating research-based interpretation of public policy and management of the public interest, **the School of Public Affairs contains four distinct departments — Criminal Justice, Economics, Geography and Planning, and Political Science.** All share a commitment to student success, civic engagement and real-world problem solving.



**89%** School of Public Affairs graduates are employed in their fields.

**350+** Public Affairs grads working within a 25-mile radius of St. Cloud State.

**40,247** Hours served by our students in internships (across 82 organizations) during 2017-2018. 46% were paid internships, and 42% of internships led to permanent employment.

**2,143** Total undergraduate program completions (1,886) plus graduate program completions (257) since the School of Public Affairs was formed in 2011.

TOP EMPLOYERS OF  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
GRADS  
(listed alphabetically)

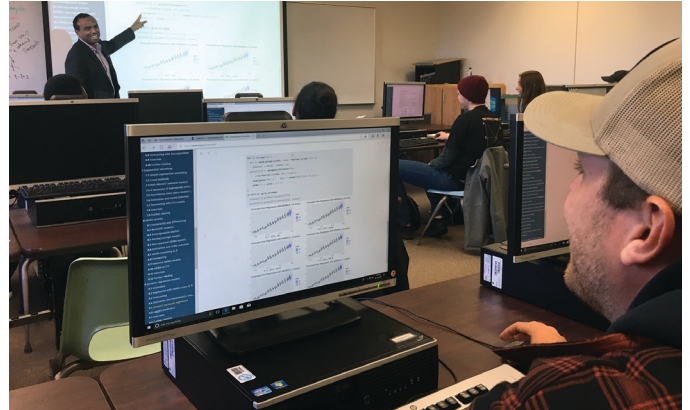
AmeriCorps  
Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools  
Capital One 360  
GeoComm  
MN Department of Corrections  
St. Cloud Police Department  
State of Minnesota  
US Bank  
U.S. Army  
Wells Fargo

## Criminal Justice



The Criminal Justice degree programs develop students' foundational knowledge and skills by producing graduates who are ready for meaningful careers in the 21st Century criminal justice system. Their classroom knowledge is enhanced through practical field experiences. Curriculum equips students to be producers and consumers of research and knowledge. Students are taught about new technologies and policies that can be used to build trust and legitimacy within their communities through ethical public service.

## Economics



Economics students study changes in the global economy over the last 40 years and their impact on the economic future. Students are trained in practical problem-solving techniques that work across public and private sectors, helping them develop analytical skills to understand private, nonprofit and government influences on the economy. Active student organizations and internships offer opportunities to build leadership skills and connect with professionals and alumni at businesses and government agencies around the world.

## Geography and Planning



Our Geography and Planning department is one of Minnesota's most comprehensive. Students can specialize in geographic information science (GIS), hospitality and tourism, land surveying, planning and community development, social studies education or cultural/physical/regional geography. Much of the learning takes place outside the classroom. Opportunities range from using drone-mounted cameras to map rough terrain to addressing challenging community issues such as suburban sprawl, aging neighborhoods, heritage preservation, redevelopment and traffic congestion.

## Political Science



Political science students learn the theories and practices of government and politics locally, nationally and internationally. They learn about the institutions of government and the practices of political discourse and interactions, which prepare them for a variety of careers in government and nonprofit organizations. To meet this end, the department offers undergraduate major and minor programs in Political Science and International Relations and our signature graduate program, Master of Public Administration.

# Our Refreshed Strategic Goals and More

## Strategic Goals

The School of Public Affairs, formed in 2011, adopted its first strategic plan in 2014. As the school's purpose and emphasis became clearer by our work with students and in our communities, we refreshed our strategic plan by consolidating and focusing earlier strategies on six goals, adopted in 2018.

- 1 Establish efficient and effective pathways for our students' success in school and post-graduation and be responsive to the changing community and employer needs.
- 2 Create memorable experiences for our students.
- 3 Infuse civic engagement into our programs and into education that reaches across the campus.
- 4 Be well known in the community and on campus for success in mission accomplishment and our effective branding and marketing strategies.
- 5 Create opportunities and incentives for reciprocal relationships between our programs, our Research Institute and community organizations that result in authentic human connections and leave lasting, favorable impressions for all participants.
- 6 Create and develop an innovative, interdisciplinary and creative collaborative learning space.

## Mission

Through active, experiential and global learning opportunities, we prepare our students to be stewards of the public interest and practitioners and leaders in the public and private sectors.

## Vision

We provide the highest quality and most comprehensive undergraduate and graduate public affairs education in the upper Midwest by engaging our students and faculty in the study and critical analysis of public policy and by serving as a rich source of knowledge for our stakeholders, both local and global.

## Core Values

**Applied & Experiential Research & Learning** – We value our Research Institute and community partnerships as a means to provide students with applied, simulated and service learning opportunities where they apply theoretical knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Collaboration: People, Cultures & Disciplines** – We value demographic, cultural and disciplinary diversity in our faculty, staff and student populations and encourage collaboration among these diverse groups.

**Integrity** – We value being intellectually rigorous, personally responsible and civically engaged.

**Student-Centered** – We value students as our most important stakeholder and actively work to facilitate student success.

**Leadership** – We value the transformation of students into well-informed leaders in the local and global communities in which they live and work.

# UNLEASH *LEADERSHIP*

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## More About the School of Public Affairs

The four departments in the School of Public Affairs offer a dozen undergraduate and five graduate programs, plus several certificates. We are the only school in central Minnesota to offer a master's in public administration (MPA).

### **Criminal Justice**

- Criminal Justice (BA, MS)
- Minnesota Law Enforcement Licensure Training (POST Skills)
- Pre-law
- Public Safety Executive Leadership (PSEL) (MS)

### **Economics**

- Applied Economics (MS) (5yr BA/MS)
- Business Economics
- Data Analytics Certificate
- Economics
- Mathematical Economics

### **Geography and Planning**

- British Studies (Minor)
- Geography
- Geographic Information Science Concentration (MS)
- Geographic Information Science (Minor)
- Heritage Preservation (Minor)
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Land Surveying and Mapping Sciences
- Land Surveying Certificate
- Planning and Community Development
- Social Studies Education
- Tourism Planning and Development Concentration (MS)

### **Military Science** (Minor)

### **Political Science**

- Health Administration Certificate
- International Relations
- Latin American Studies
- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Political Science
- Pre-Law

Our Research Institute engages students and faculty in real-world problem solving for governments and businesses. We have overseas partnerships on four continents that bring international faculty to our campus and send students and faculty abroad.

**We invite  
your suggestions!**

Our refreshed Strategic Goals reflect both our aspirations and the opportunities we see for service. We welcome your ideas for new opportunities and collaborations.



**King Banaian**

*Dean of the School of Public Affairs  
and Professor of Economics*



**SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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**MINNESOTA STATE**

St. Cloud State University, a member of Minnesota State. St. Cloud State University is committed to legal affirmative action, equal opportunity, access and diversity of its campus community.