

COMMUNICATION, B.A.

Messages matter, and the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program at Saint Louis University teaches students to design, deliver and analyze messages so students can influence, connect and inform. In a world where information is plentiful, technology changes rapidly and globalization connects cultures, studying communication gives students the flexibility to adapt and the skills to succeed in their academic, professional and personal lives.

The Department of Communication at SLU (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/communication/>) integrates the study of human communication, media and strategic communication in innovative ways to prepare students for careers in journalism and media; advertising; public relations; and corporate, government and nonprofit settings. Students develop skills to be culturally competent and ethically responsible communicators in their fields. At SLU, communication students learn to create, engage and think critically.

Create

Students develop writing, speaking and digital production skills that prepare them for professional success. Studies consistently show that employers value these skills in the workplace.

Engage

Students are given opportunities to participate in service learning opportunities as part of their coursework experiences. They explore ways that communication contributes to the greater good and learn to use communication principles to promote social justice.

Think Critically

Students learn about communication theories and research tools. They develop critical skills for analysis and application of theory to practice, and they hone their ability to gather and analyze data in professional contexts.

Curriculum Overview

Our multimedia resources offer students the opportunity to explore the latest communication technologies. Faculty members help students become lifelong learners of technology, able to adapt to inevitable change and think critically about the social implications of technological changes.

Program highlights include:

- Small class sizes and close connections to faculty along with many professional development opportunities
- An emphasis on the role communication plays in promoting social justice
- International campus connections with the communication program on our Madrid campus

Across concentrations, students develop strong oral, written and digital communication skills. Students in the program choose one of three concentrations:

Communication Studies

In the communication studies concentration, students study human interaction in interpersonal, organizational and public contexts. They develop skills for communicating effectively within and across cultures

in a diverse society and functioning effectively in informal and formal leadership roles in various settings. These skills include working in teams, solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in advocacy and developing relationships.

Integrated Strategic Communication

In the integrated strategic communication concentration, students develop a portfolio showcasing their skills in content creation, campaign research and strategic planning, and print and digital design. Coursework in this concentration helps develop students' critical thinking so they can understand and evaluate all aspects of the campaign process and make decisions based on the strategic needs of an organization, corporation or agency. Students leave the program with campaign creation and implementation expertise for local, regional and national clients.

Journalism and Media Studies

In the journalism and media studies concentration, students develop essential skills to succeed in a constantly evolving media landscape. Courses in this concentration teach students to evaluate and adapt to changes in media and expose them to a wide range of technologies, theoretical perspectives, ethical decision-making principles and storytelling skills across media platforms.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

In addition to internships, students participate in several activities and media organizations outside the classroom, such as:

- KSLU radio, The University News, OneWorld and Her Campus
- The Strategic Communication Club

Depending upon the classes they take, students also have opportunities to work with community organizations to develop solutions for communication-based problems, create social media plans, develop integrated communication campaigns, engage in strategic planning and create a variety of print and digital materials for community organizations.

Careers

More than 90% of graduates from the undergraduate program begin a career in their chosen field. SLU students majoring in communication have successful careers in advertising or public relations agencies, large corporations, nonprofits, small businesses and media organizations.

Some of the positions they hold include:

- Agency account executive
- Broadcast news reporter
- Community relations specialist
- Content data analyst
- Content development specialist/strategist
- Copywriter/editor
- Corporate giving director
- Corporate responsibility manager
- Creative director
- Digital marketing coordinator
- Event coordinator
- Graphic designer
- Human resources specialist
- Lawyer

- Magazine writer
- Market researcher
- Media relations specialist
- Multimedia producer
- Multiplatform journalist
- Online content creator
- Public information officer
- School district communication liaison
- Social media coordinator/strategist
- Television producer
- Video editor

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take 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 or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all 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. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$54,760

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2023, 99% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$459 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by December 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to create oral, written and digital messages relevant to the audience, purpose and context.
2. Graduates will be able to apply communication theory.
3. Graduates will be able to engage in communication research.
4. Graduates will be able to critically analyze messages.
5. Graduates will be able to demonstrate cultural communication competence.
6. Graduates will be able to apply ethical communication principles and practices.
7. Graduates will be able to recognize and address systemic injustice and inequity in pursuit of a just society.

Requirements

Communication students must complete a minimum total of **39 credits** for the major.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
Major Requirements		
CMM 1000	Human Communication and Culture	3
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
CMM 2400	Media and Society	3

CMM 2800	Communication Research	3
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Communication Elective Courses

Select two additional courses (6 credits) with a CMM subject code, as long as they have not been used to meet other major requirements. 6

Concentrations

Select one of the following Concentrations or the Madrid-Only Option: 21

- Communication Studies Concentration (p. 3)
- Integrated Strategic Communication Concentration (p. 3)
- Journalism and Media Studies Concentration (p. 3)
- Media Production, Journalism and Culture (Madrid) (p. 4)

General Electives 46-49

Total Credits 120

Communication Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
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Writing Requirement

CMM 2120	Message Design	3
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Foundations Requirements 9

Select three courses (9 credits) with the 'CMM Studies Explorations' attribute, such as:

- CMM 3000 Interpersonal Communication
- CMM 3200 Organizational Communication
- CMM 3300 Intercultural Communication
- CMM 4070 Social Justice Communication
- CMM 4300 Gender and Communication

Production Requirement 6

Select two courses (6 credits) with the 'CMM Production Course Req' attribute, such as:

- CMM 2510 Video Production and Design
- CMM 2550 Photojournalism
- CMM 3530 Documentary Production
- CMM 3560 Publication Design
- CMM 4100 Multiplatform Journalism
- CMM 4810 Digital Storytelling

Communication Inquiry Requirement 3

Select one course (3 credits) with the 'CMM Studies Comm Inquiry' attribute, such as:

- CMM 4820 Community-based Inquiry
- CMM 4830 Investigating Complexities in Health Communication: Collaborative Research in Action

Total Credits 21

Integrated Strategic Communication

Code	Title	Credits
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Writing Requirement

CMM 2100	Journalism: News Writing	3
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Advanced Writing Elective

CMM 3610	Writing for Public Relations	3
or CMM 3710	Copywriting	

Foundations Requirement

CMM 3500	Integrated Strategic Communication Principles	3
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Production Requirement 6

Select two courses (6 credits) with the 'CMM Production Course Req' attribute, such as:

- CMM 2510 Video Production and Design
- CMM 2550 Photojournalism
- CMM 3530 Documentary Production
- CMM 3560 Publication Design
- CMM 4100 Multiplatform Journalism
- CMM 4810 Digital Storytelling

Advanced Research Requirement

CMM 4700	Applied Research and Campaign Planning	3
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Practicum Requirement

CMM 4600	Integrated Communications Campaigns	3
or CMM 4720	NSAC Advertising Competition	

Total Credits 21

Journalism and Media Studies Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
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Writing Requirement

CMM 2100	Journalism: News Writing	3
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Advanced Writing Elective 3

Select one course (3 credits) with the 'CMM JAMS Advanced Writing' attribute, such as:

- CMM 3110 Feature Writing
- CMM 4100 Multiplatform Journalism
- CMM 4150 Advanced Reporting for Social Justice
- CMM 4160 Editing

Foundations Requirement 6

Select two courses (6 credits) with the 'CMM JAMS Foundations' attribute, such as:

- CMM 3440 Media Ethics
- CMM 3840 Analysis of Popular Culture
- CMM 4350 Stereotyping and Bias in the Mass Media
- CMM 4420 Free Expression: Law and Practice
- CMM 4490 Race, Media and Technology

Production Requirement 6

Select two courses (6 credits) with the 'CMM Production Course Req' attribute, such as:

- CMM 2510 Video Production and Design
- CMM 2550 Photojournalism
- CMM 3530 Documentary Production
- CMM 3560 Publication Design
- CMM 4100 Multiplatform Journalism
- CMM 4810 Digital Storytelling

Advanced JAMS Elective

Select one additional course (3 credits) with either the 'CMM JAMS Advanced Writing' attribute OR the 'CMM Production Course Req' attribute. 3

Total Credits 21

Media Production, Journalism and Culture (Madrid)

Code	Title	Credits
Writing Requirement		
CMM 2100	Journalism: News Writing	3
Production Requirement		
CMM 1500	Introduction to Digital Media Production	3
Foundations Requirements		
Select one course from each attributed area		9
<i>Select one course (3 credits) with the 'Mass Media and Representation' attribute, such as:</i>		
CMM 1400	Film Criticism	
CMM 3060	Political Communication	
CMM 3460	International Cinema	
CMM 3840	Analysis of Popular Culture	
CMM 4460	Global Media	
<i>Select one course (3 credits) with the 'Theories: Discourse, Relating & Community' attribute, such as:</i>		
CMM 3000	Interpersonal Communication	
CMM 3300	Intercultural Communication	
CMM 4010X	Introduction to Linguistics	
CMM 4050	Theories of Persuasion	
<i>Select one course (3 credits) with the 'Production: Journalism & Visual Communication' attribute, such as:</i>		
CMM 2550	Photojournalism	
CMM 2510	Video Production and Design	
CMM 3110	Feature Writing	
CMM 4100	Multiplatform Journalism	
CMM 4620	Transmedia Storytelling	
Advanced Research Requirement		3
CMM 4480	Media Audiences	
or CMM 4800	Introduction to the Ethnography of Communication	
Additional Communication Elective Courses		3
Select three additional courses (3 credits) with a CMM subject code, as long as they have not been used to meet other major requirements.		
Total Credits		21

Continuation Standards

After completing 18 credits in the major, a student must maintain a 2.00 GPA in the major. Failure to meet this standard will result in the student being placed on probation. If the student's GPA in the major does not reach 2.00 after two additional semesters, the department may dismiss the student from the program.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).
- Complete the University Undergraduate Core curriculum requirements.
- Complete major requirements: minimum of 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.

- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s), and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate or related elective credits.
- Complete department- and program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Communication Studies Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CMM 1000	Human Communication and Culture	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Course		3
Credits		16
Spring		
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CMM 2400	Media and Society	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6
Credits		15
Spring		
CMM 2120	Message Design	3
CMM 2800	Communication Research	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		3
Credits		15

Year Three

Fall

Communication Studies Explorations Course (p. 6)	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	6

Credits 15

Spring

Communication Studies Explorations Course (p. 6)	3
Communication Elective or Internship	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
Communication Production Course (p. 6)	3

Credits 15

Year Four

Fall

Communication Studies Explorations Course (p. 6)	3
Communication Production Course (p. 6)	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3

Credits 15

Spring

CMM Studies Comm Inquiry Course (p. 6)	3
Communication Elective	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3

Credits 15

Total Credits 121

Integrated Strategic Communication Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
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Year One

Fall

CMM 1000	Human Communication and Culture	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		3

Credits 16

Spring

CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6

Credits 15

Year Two

Fall

CMM 2400	Media and Society	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6

Credits 15

Spring

CMM 2800	Communication Research	3
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CMM 2100	Journalism: News Writing	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3
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Credits 15

Year Three

Fall

CMM 3500	Integrated Strategic Communication Principles	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	6
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Credits 15

Spring

Communication Production Course (p. 6)	3
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Communication Elective or Internship	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3
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Credits 15

Year Four

Fall

CMM 3610	Writing for Public Relations or CMM 3710 or Copywriting	3
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CMM 4700	Applied Research and Campaign Planning	3
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Communication Production Course (p. 6)	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Credits 15

Spring

CMM 4600	Integrated Communications Campaigns or CMM 4720 or NSAC Advertising Competition	3
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Communication Elective	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3
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Credits 15

Total Credits 121

Journalism and Media Studies Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
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Year One

Fall

CMM 1000	Human Communication and Culture	3
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CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	3
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CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	3
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Credits 16

Spring

CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
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University Undergraduate Core Courses	6
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Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses	6
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Credits 15

Year Two**Fall**

CMM 2400	Media and Society	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6
Credits		15

Spring

CMM 2800	Communication Research	3
CMM 2100	Journalism: News Writing	3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		3
Credits		15

Year Three**Fall**

Journalism and Media Studies Foundations Course (p. 6)		3
Communication Production Course (p. 6)		3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		3
Credits		15

Spring

Journalism and Media Studies Foundations Course (p. 6)		3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		6
Credits		15

Year Four**Fall**

Journalism and Media Studies Advanced Writing Course (p. 6)		3
Communication Elective or Internship		3
Communication Production Course (p. 6)		3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Credits		15

Spring

Advanced Journalism and Media Studies Elective Course (p. 7)		3
Communication Elective		3
University Undergraduate Core Courses		6
Minor/2nd Major/Elective Courses		3
Credits		15

Total Credits 121**Attributed Courses****Communication Studies Inquiry Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 4820	Community-based Inquiry	3
CMM 4830	Investigating Complexities in Health Communication: Collaborative Research in Action	3

Communication Studies Explorations Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 3000	Interpersonal Communication	3
CMM 3060	Political Communication	3
CMM 3090	Health Communication	3
CMM 3200	Organizational Communication	3
CMM 3300	Intercultural Communication	3
CMM 3840	Analysis of Popular Culture	3
CMM 4000	Family Communication	3
CMM 4050	Theories of Persuasion	3
CMM 4070	Social Justice Communication	3
CMM 4200	Leadership and Teams	3
CMM 4300	Gender and Communication	3
CMM 4310	Dialogue Facilitation: Communication Strategies to Support Social Justice	3
CMM 4320	Communicating Across Racial Divisions	3
CMM 4430	Culture, Technology and Communication	3

Communication Production Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 1500	Introduction to Digital Media Production	3
CMM 2510	Video Production and Design	3
CMM 2550	Photojournalism	3
CMM 3120	Media Scriptwriting	3
CMM 3510	Studio Production	3
CMM 3530	Documentary Production	3
CMM 3560	Publication Design	3
CMM 4100	Multiplatform Journalism	3
CMM 4500	Digital Portfolios and Professional Practice	3
CMM 4810	Digital Storytelling	3

Journalism and Media Studies Foundations Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 3420	Literary Journalism	3
CMM 3440	Media Ethics	3
CMM 3840	Analysis of Popular Culture	3
CMM 4350	Stereotyping and Bias in the Mass Media	3
CMM 4420	Free Expression: Law and Practice	3
CMM 4430	Culture, Technology and Communication	3
CMM 4460	Global Media	3
CMM 4470	Media and Politics	3
CMM 4490	Race, Media and Technology	3

Journalism and Media Studies Advanced Writing Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CMM 3110	Feature Writing	3
CMM 3120	Media Scriptwriting	3
CMM 3130	Editorial and Opinion Writing	3
CMM 4100	Multiplatform Journalism	3
CMM 4150	Advanced Reporting for Social Justice	3
CMM 4160	Editing	3

Advanced Journalism and Media Studies Elective Courses

Select one additional course (3 credits) with either the 'CMM JAMS Advanced Writing' attribute or the 'CMM Production Course Req' attribute.

Madrid

The concentration in media production, journalism, and culture in the Communication, B.A. is offered at SLU-Madrid.

Learn More (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/degrees-and-programs/communication.php>)

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

- Communication, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2pluslu/stlcc/communication/>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact commdept@slu.edu or call 314-977-3510.