Communication

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

Saint Louis University's master's program in communication is designed to teach students to be conscientious thinkers and leaders who communicate effectively in a diverse world and who understand the social implications of media and communication technology.

Coursework options allow students to deepen their understandings of communication theory, research, criticism and ethics within a variety of areas of study, including:

• Health communication
• Intercultural communication
• Interpersonal communication
• Media studies
• Organizational communication
• Rhetoric and public dialogue
• Strategic communication

Students have three options for completing the Master of Arts degree: comprehensive exams, thesis and applied project.

M.A. students who choose the comprehensive exam option complete 30 credit hours of coursework (including nine credit hours of core courses), plus comprehensive written and oral examinations.

M.A. students who choose the thesis option complete 24 credit hours of coursework (including nine credit hours of core courses) and six credit hours of thesis research, resulting in a master's thesis and a final oral examination.

M.A. students who choose the applied project option complete 27 credit hours of coursework (including nine credit hours of core courses) and three credit hours of applied project work, resulting in an applied project and a final oral examination.

Each student works out her or his own program with the graduate director and a faculty mentor according to her or his individual goals. All students are required to take:

• CMM 5000: Graduate Studies in Communication
• CMM 5010: Reading Foundations in Communication Theory
• CMM 5800: Research Methods in Communication

Many students also take:

• CMM 5020: Interpersonal Communication
• CMM 5090: Health Communication
• CMM 5200: Organizational Communication
• CMM 5400: Contemporary Issues In Media
• CMM 5600: Strategic Communication

Additional electives are also available and vary from year to year.

Students are encouraged to explore the relationship between communication and other University departments and disciplines. Students can take a maximum of six credit hours in coursework outside of the department.

Career Paths:

The program prepares students for greater responsibilities in a range of professions including advertising, corporate communications, higher education, human resources, journalism, politics, public relations, and training and development. Recent graduates are working for companies such as Maritz, Monsanto, eateria (St. Louis-based startup), the Carolina Hurricanes, the National Catholic Reporter, SLU and Express Scripts. In addition, the department has an excellent track record of placing graduates in top-ranked Ph.D. programs for students who want to continue their graduate work in communication.
Communication

FACULTY

Diana B. Carlin, Ph.D.: Political communication (U.S., international), gendered communication, public sphere
Matt Carlson, Ph.D.: Journalism and media studies, cultural perspectives on journalism, new media technology
Kathleen Farrell, Ph.D.: Rhetorical theory and criticism, political communication
Mary Gould, Ph.D.: Cultural studies and critical theory, digital storytelling, urban studies and popular culture
Cynthia Graville-Smith, M.Ed.: Youth development, participatory media, community outreach
Amber Hinsley, Ph.D.: Media management, social media, newsroom psychology
Tim Huffman, Ph.D.: Organizational communication, social justice and communication
Amber Johnson, Ph.D.: Intercultural communication; intersections of sexuality, race, class, geography, education, religion and beauty
Ilwoo Ju, Ph.D.: Advertising theory and technique, health communication
Dan Kozlowski, Ph.D.: First amendment law and free expression issues, journalism and media studies
Hyunmin Lee, Ph.D.: Strategic communication (PR), social media, health communication
Jon Mabee, M.F.A.: Media production, theory and analysis
Avis Meyer, Ph.D.: History of journalism, editing
Jennifer Ohls, Ph.D.: Aging and communication, health communication, interpersonal communication
Elizabeth Richard, Ph.D.: Rhetorical theory and criticism, organizational identity
Karla Danette Scott, Ph.D.: Language, race, identity, culture, black women’s communicative practices, interracial dialogue
April Trees, Ph.D.: Interpersonal communication, family communication, nonverbal communication
Nancy Wilson, Ph.D.: Strategic communication, with a focus on persuasive communication, entrepreneurship and the creative process

DEGREES OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.) in Communication

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Application form and fee
• Three letters of recommendation
• Transcript(s)
• Personal statement
• GRE scores
• Personal Potential Index (PPI)
• Résumé

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students who want to be considered for an assistantship must submit their application along with the request to be considered for an assistantship by Jan. 15. Students need to submit their application for graduate assistantships to the director of graduate studies in the department of communication.