The *Seton Hall University Style Guide* is a tool to facilitate clear and consistent communications. It provides guidelines and standards for the periodicals, brochures, emails, newsletters, web pages, social media posts and other electronic communications that Seton Hall University generates.

**Clarity and consistency are important because they:**

- protect and nurture our Seton Hall identity
- allow our messages and values to be communicated without distraction
- foster quality in what we produce
- ease the editorial process

The Department of University Relations has based this *University Style Guide* on *The Associated Press Stylebook* and *Briefing on Media Law* (AP Stylebook) and *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (Merriam-Webster). This guide is a supplement to the AP Stylebook. Arranged in alphabetical order, it documents rules of grammar, style and consistency unique to Seton Hall University and supersedes the AP Stylebook when there are differences between the two.

Merriam-Webster is the dictionary of choice. It is the dictionary most used by editors and publishers in commercial publishing. This dictionary should be used for all spelling issues and supersedes the AP Stylebook in determining proper spelling.
a, an

Use the word a before a pronounced ‘h’ or consonant sound.

    a historic occasion, a one-year sabbatical (sounds as if it starts with w).

Use an before an unpronounced ‘h’ or vowel sound.

    an annual event, an honest person, an NBA game (sounds as if it begins with e).

abbreviations and acronyms

Use only universally accepted abbreviations and acronyms, but use them sparingly in deference to your readers. Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th edition and the AP Stylebook for standard abbreviations.

When an acronym can be used with or without periods, use it without. On first reference, spell out the full, formal title and place the acronym in parentheses after the title (a departure from AP style). Do not italicize the shortened form.

    National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Acronyms may be used on first reference if they are well known.

    GPA, YMCA, GRE

Do not include an acronym if it is not used in the body of the text in a second reference.

academic degrees

Capitalize the formal name of a degree (Master of Arts in Education), but lowercase the informal and less precise name (master’s degree in education).

When abbreviating a degree after a person's last name, use letters and periods with no intervening spaces (B.A., M.A., M.B.A., Ed.D., Ph.D., etc.). Offset the degree with commas.

    Paul Kozakski, B.S.,
    Sharon Abelard, Ph.D.,

Note the correct use of doctorate (a noun) and doctoral (an adjective).

    He earned his doctorate in theology. She received her doctoral degree.

Identify alumni who appear in external university publications text by the formats described and illustrated below. Do not reference associate degrees.

In text, Seton Hall undergraduate and graduate years should not be followed by a comma.

    Kate Valenta ’95 jokes about trying to observe more traffic lights.
    Ronald J. Riccio ’68/J.D. ’81 is appointed dean.

For those with an undergraduate degree from Seton Hall, after the last name insert a space followed by an apostrophe and the last two digits of the undergraduate year.

    Armando M. Brigandi ’96
For those with a Seton Hall graduate degree, place a comma after the last name, followed by the abbreviation for the graduate degree, then a space, followed by an apostrophe and the year of attaining the graduate degree.

Pamela M. Knitowski, M.A. ’92
Kimberly A. Capadona ’98/J.D. ’01

Seton Hall undergraduate and graduate years should be separated with a slash (/).
Rodger C. Bernhammer ’93/J.D. ’96

For alumni with three or more Seton Hall degrees, list degrees in chronological order separated by slashes.
Patrick Pelosi ’66/M.A. ’71/Ed.D. ’93

Alumni who belong to religious orders should be referred to as follows:
Name, Year of Seton Hall Graduation, Religious Order (identified by initials separated by periods).

Examples:
Father Jacob Jones ’93, O.P., (Dominican priest with Seton Hall undergraduate degree only)
Father John Smith, M.A.’92, S.J., (Jesuit priest with Seton Hall graduate degree only)
Sister Roberta Nelson ’93/Ph.D. ’02, O.S.B. (Benedictine nun with Seton Hall undergraduate and graduate degrees)

OBSERVE THESE OTHER FORMS
Alumnae who have married and changed last name:
Christine (Reilly) Andreotti, M.A. ’93

Hyphenated names:
Lisa O’Connor-Black ’01
James Avalon-Johnson ’95/M.S. ’08

Alumnus and non-alumna wife:
Garrett ’93 and Bridget D’Antonio
Bridget and Garrett D’Antonio ’93

Alumna and non-alumnus husband:
Doug and Sara (Barker ’89) Sullivan
Sara (Barker ’89) and Doug Sullivan

Married alumna and alumnus:
Seth Carlson ’05 and Grace (Nguyen ’03) Carlson (different class years)
Grace (Nguyen ’05) and Seth Carlson ’05 (same class years)

Alumnus or alumna using two last names:
Elizabeth Rizolli Gorman ’92

In multiple listings of names, order alphabetically by last name.
academic departments

See **departments, divisions, schools, colleges.** Refer to https://www.shu.edu/academics/index.cfm for current details on academic programs, schools and colleges.

academic majors

Refer to https://www.shu.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs.cfm for a listing of all academic majors along with accompanying links to websites.

academic ranks and specialties

The academic degrees and titles of most University faculty are listed in the “Directory” section of the *Seton Hall University Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogues*, available from the provost’s office. If information is not listed, contact the school, college, division or area where the faculty member works for clarification. Academic ranks and specialties are typically reserved for formal uses, such as invitations or program brochures.

accept/except

Accept means to receive. Except means to exclude.

accommodate

(not accomodate)

acknowledgment

(not acknowledgement)

acronyms

See **abbreviations and acronyms**

addresses

Spell out elements of an address, including the state, when used in running text.

*She resided in Minot, North Dakota, before moving to New Jersey.*

(Set off the state name with commas.)

**Exception:** “News & Notes” in the alumni magazine, where state abbreviations should be used as in AP style for datelines. (Do not use the postal code abbreviations.)

If space is limited, use abbreviations for Street (St.), Avenue (Ave.) and Boulevard (Blvd.). Do not abbreviate road, circle, court, alley, drive, terrace, lane.

Use abbreviations, including postal abbreviations for the state (for example, NJ not N.J.) on forms, address blocks, etc.
ad nauseam (not ad nauseum; not italicized)

adviser/advisor Use “advisor” in all instances. This differs from AP style.

affect/effect Affect is typically a verb and means to influence. Effect, as a verb, means to cause. Effect, as a noun, means result.

  Her speech affected their voting.
  He effected a series of reforms.
  The pattern is considered an effect of climate change.

after Do not use a hyphen when this word acts as a prefix to form a noun, but use a hyphen when it is part of a compound adjective.

  after effect, afterthought
  after-dinner stroll

afterward (not afterwards)

ages Always use figures and hyphenate as an adjective:

  The 35-year-old man sold his painting to the highest bidder.
  The boy is 5 years old.
  The boy, 7, has a sister, 5

All-America/All-American An individual team member is an All-American, the entire team is All-America. The award itself is referred to as an All-America honor.

all right (not alright) Two words. Hyphenate if serving as part of a compound adjective.

  That is all right with me. She is an all-right player.

a lot (not alot)
alma mater  
Latin for “dear mother,” this is a term of endearment that refers to a school or college. Do not italicize or capitalize.  
Elmhurst College is my alma mater.

alum/alums  
Use this informal construction sparingly.

alumna, alumnae, alumnus, alumni  
Alumna is feminine singular.  
Alumnae is feminine plural.  
Alumnus is masculine singular.  
Alumni is masculine or mixed-gender plural.

Americans with Disabilities Act  
ADA is acceptable on second reference.  
Please note that flyers and invitations for on-campus events should include the following statement: “Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Support Services at 973-313-6003 at least two weeks in advance.”

ampersand  
Do not use an ampersand (&) for the word and in text. Only use it as part of a formal name or composition title.  
AT&T  
Procter & Gamble  
House & Garden  
An ampersand is used in this heading in *Seton Hall* magazine:  
Alumni “News & Notes”  
An ampersand is *not* used in Seton Hall academic and administrative unit names: e.g., College of Arts and Sciences, School of Health and Medical Sciences.

a.m., p.m.  
See *time* and *order of events*.

angry  
One is angry *at* or *with* someone.

annual  
Lowercase unless part of the official name of an event. Do not use the term first annual. An event must take place at least two succeeding years to be considered annual.
anybody/anyone (singular)

apostrophe

Note that the tail of the apostrophe points left when used to indicate omitted letters or figures (I’ve, it’s, ’tis, ne’er-do-well, rock ‘n’ roll, Class of ’62, John Doe ’78, styles of the ’20s).

archaeology

Archbishop

Capitalize before a proper name or immediately after first reference; lowercase standing alone. On first reference:

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda

On subsequent references:

Archbishop Hebda

Standing alone in text:

The remarks by the archbishop made news.

These are exceptions to AP style and exceptions to other general rules found here.

archdiocese

Capitalize before a proper name; lowercase standing alone.

ashes

Blessed and distributed, not given out.

Ash Wednesday

as if/like

As if is used to introduce a clause:

It looks as if it will rain.

Like takes a simple object:

It looks like rain.

associate degree

Not associate’s.
as well as

A phrase introduced by as well as, in addition to, besides, accompanied by, together with, plus, such as, or a similar expression should be set off by commas when it falls between the subject and the verb:

Our faculty and administrators, as well as our staff, supported the decision.

Louis, as well as Mark, is going to Vancouver during summer break.

When the phrase occurs elsewhere in the sentence, commas may be omitted if the phrase is closely related to the preceding words.

The decision was acclaimed by our executives as well as our staff.

author

Reserve for use as a noun, not as a verb.

He is a renowned and acclaimed author.

award

Capitalize formal awards and decorations.

Mother Seton Award for Presidential Leadership.

awhile/a while

The word awhile is an adverb; the words a while complete a prepositional phrase.

Please stay awhile.

I will visit for a while.

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Arts or B.A./Bachelor of Science or B.S. can be used interchangeably. When describing formal degrees, use Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science:

Bachelor of Arts in English

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Informal usage of degree titles are lowercase:

bachelor’s degree in English

bachelor’s degree in science

Also see academic degrees.

bachelor’s degree

Use an apostrophe.

backward

(not backwards)
baptism  See sacraments.

be sure to  (not be sure and)

benediction  The blessing a priest gives at the conclusion of various events such as Charter Day, Commencement Exercises, conferences, receptions, etc.

beside/besides  The first word means “at the side of”; the second means “in addition to.”

between/among  Between is used with two items or when a definite relationship is clear:

Between you and me, this contract will never be signed.

The fight was between Lora’s sister and brother.

Among is used with three or more, to imply distribution, or when no explicit relationship is stated:

You are among friends.

The coupons were passed out among the shoppers.

Negotiations have broken down among the government, the union workers and management.

biannual/biennial  Biannual denotes twice per year; biennial means every two years.

Bible  Capitalize Bible and related terms such as the Gospels, Gospel of St. Mark, the Scriptures, etc. Lowercase biblical in all uses. Do not abbreviate books of the Bible.

Lowercase bible when used in a nonreligious context:

My style guide is my bible.

bimonthly  Refers to every other month. Semimonthly means twice a month.
**bishop**

See *archbishop* and *religious titles*.

**Bishop Dougherty University Center**

Use University Center on second reference.

**BIG EAST Conference**

Refers to the athletic conference to which Seton Hall belongs as the BIG EAST Conference. BIG EAST is acceptable on second reference.

Seton Hall also is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. (NCAA acceptable in all references.)

**biweekly**

Refers to every other week. *Semiweekly* means twice a week.

**Blessed Sacrament**

**Board of Trustees, Board of Regents**

Capitalize when referring to a Seton Hall University entity on first reference; otherwise lowercase.

The Seton Hall University Board of Trustees voted unanimously; then the board adjourned.

The Board of Regents accepted the resignation.

The corporation’s board meets quarterly.

**book titles**

See *titles of works*.

**Brother**

Do not abbreviate. See *religious titles*.

**Brownson Speech and Debate Team**
buildings

The proper names and spellings of buildings, facilities and prominent locations on campus are as follows:

- Alfieri Hall
- Alumni Hall
- Aquinas Hall
- Arts and Sciences Hall
- Bayley Hall
- Bethany Hall
- Bishop Dougherty University Center
- Boland Hall
- Cabrini Hall
- Caroline D. Schwartz College of Nursing Building
- Chapel of the Immaculate Conception
- Corrigan Hall
- Duffy Hall
- Fahy Hall
- Fahy Pedestrian Gate
- Farinella Gate
- Father Vincent Monella Arts Center
- Galleon Lawn
- George M. Ring Building
- Gerety Hall
- Health Services
- Jubilee Hall
  - Jubilee Hall Auditorium
  - Jubilee Hall Atrium
- Lewis Hall/Immaculate Conception Seminary
- Marshall Hall
- Mooney Hall
- McNulty Gate
- McNulty Hall
- McQuaid Hall
- Neumann Hall
- Ora Manor
- Physical Plant
- Power Plant
- Presidents Hall
- Public Safety and Security
- Richie Regan Recreation and Athletic Center
  - Richard and Sheila Regan Field House
  - Arthur E. Imperatore Natatorium
  - Jack and Charlotte Lavery Coaching Center
- Saint Andrew’s Hall
- Science and Technology Center
  - Helen Lerner Amphitheatre,
  - Patrick M. and Mary Ann P. Murray Atrium
- Serra Hall
- Stafford Hall
- Theatre-in-the-Round
- Turrell Manor
- Walsh Library
- Ward Place Gate
- University Green
- Xavier Hall

Do not abbreviate the word building.
bullet points

Use bullets to highlight points or facilitate readability. Only use a period after each item if the item is a complete sentence; otherwise, do not use any punctuation at the end of each point. Make each bullet the same grammatical construction (for example, noun phrase or command verb). Lowercase the first word of each bulleted item unless the item is a complete sentence or the word is a proper noun.

The program offers:

• experienced educators
• cultural enrichment
• language immersion
• university credit

campus

campuswide

can/may

Can denotes ability. May denotes possibility and permission.
cancel, canceled, canceling, cancellation

cannot

capital

Refers to the city that is the seat of government, as in a state.

We visited two state capitals, Harrisburg and Trenton, during our vacation.

Do not capitalize this word that denotes the city. (See capitol/Capitol)

The word also refers to money, equipment or property used for investment purposes.
As with AP style, avoid unnecessary capitals. This “down style” applies primarily to text but may also apply to some headings, especially subheadings. This guide provides direction on many words and phrases requiring particular direction regarding capitalization.

If no guidance is provided, consult either the AP Stylebook or Merriam-Webster.

Basic principles of capitalization are reviewed below.

Capitalize proper nouns, or the unique identification of a person, place or thing.

- South Orange, Christianity, Julio, Pepsi (no trademark insignia needed)
- Maple Street, Passaic River
- But Maple and Oak streets; Passaic and Hackensack rivers

Capitalize the first word in a sentence, whether in narrative text or a bullet item that is a sentence.

Do not capitalize words in titles with four or fewer letters unless the word is the first or last word in the title or a proper noun or pronoun.

For additional guidance, see entries on abbreviations and acronyms, academic departments, buildings, course titles, courtesy titles, headlines, majors, minors, professional titles, titles of works.

capitol, Capitol

Refers to a building housing the seat of government. Capitalize when referring to the building in Washington, D.C., or to specific state buildings.

- Congress meets in the Capitol.
- State legislators negotiated at the Capitol in Trenton.
- He admired the style of the dome of the state capitol.

captions

See photography identification.

Cardinal

Capitalize before a proper name; lowercase standing alone. On first reference:

- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark

On subsequent references:

- Cardinal Tobin

Standing alone in text:

- The remarks by the cardinal were well-received.
Caroline D. Schwartz College of Nursing Building

Use Nursing Building as second reference. The college itself is referred to the College of Nursing, not the Caroline D. Schwartz College of Nursing. It may be referred to as the college on second reference.

catalogue

A departure from AP style.

Catholic references

Priest Community
Blessed Mother
Our Lady (acceptable first or second reference to the Blessed Mother)
Her Son (always capitalize when referring to Jesus, Son of the Blessed Mother)
Him (Always uppercase “H”)
Our Lord
Our Savior
Pope Francis
Holy Father (acceptable first or second reference to the pope)
the pope (acceptable second reference to the pope)
Holy See/Apostolic See
Mass (Mass is celebrated; offered Mass [for funerals])
Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist (or Eucharistic Liturgy)
the Church (uppercase when referring to the Universal Catholic Church)
Catholic Church
Roman Catholic Church
Saint (St.)
Blessed Sacrament
Holy Communion (Communion or the Eucharist is distributed; one receives Communion)
Eucharist/Eucharistic
Body and Blood of Christ

Center for Sport Management

(not Center for Sports Management),

century

Lowercase, spelling out the ordinal number if less than the 10th: the first century, the 21st century
**CEO, CFO, COO**

Spell out chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer on first reference. Use CEO, CFO, COO on subsequent references. Capitalize the full title only if it precedes a name, *e.g.* *Chief Executive Officer Bill Gates retired. Bill Gates, the chief executive officer, retired.*

**chairperson/chair**

Use “chairperson” when the organization states the designation as such in their bylaws. When in doubt use “chair.”

**Chapel of the Immaculate Conception**

(not Immaculate Conception Chapel)

**Charter Day**

The full, formal name is Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day. It occurs on or about April 3 and annually commemorates the granting of a charter to Seton Hall College in 1861 by the state of New Jersey.

**children**

Typically refer to children 15 or younger by their first name on second reference. Use the last name for those 18 and older. Avoid *kids* as a synonym.

**cities and towns**

See *states*. The name of a city should be followed by the completely written out state name in publication text. In press releases use the two-letter capitalized postal abbreviation for the state. A comma is used between city and state, and after the state when the sentence continues. *(Exception: in “News & Notes,” in the alumni magazine, follow AP abbreviation style for states in datelines. In other words, do not spell out the name of the state as is done elsewhere.)*

The name of the state does not follow cities listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atlanta</th>
<th>Houston</th>
<th>Philadelphia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honolulu</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use New York City and Washington, D.C., in text if these cities must be differentiated to avoid confusion. Similarly, use New York state, state of New York or Washington state if clarification is needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>classes and courses</strong></td>
<td>See course titles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co.</strong></td>
<td>See <em>company and corporation names</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>coast</strong></td>
<td>Lowercase when referring to the physical shoreline (Atlantic coast). Capitalize when referring to a major region (the West Coast).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>collective nouns</strong></td>
<td>Nouns that represent a unit (<em>class, committee, faculty, jury, team</em>) take singular verbs, adjectives and pronouns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>colleges and universities</strong></td>
<td>Refer to the institution’s website for formal names of colleges and universities. Follow the name of a college or university with the city and, if outside New Jersey, the state when necessary. In general, when referring to a college or university in a second reference use the lowercase “c” in college or “u” in university. But in reference to Seton Hall, capitalize University on second reference: <em>the University celebrated its 150th anniversary</em>. Historical reference to Seton Hall College should be capitalized, as well, on second reference: <em>the College</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College of Arts and Sciences</strong></td>
<td>The College of Arts and Sciences may be referred to as the college on second reference. When using arts and sciences as a reference, the “a” is lowercase in arts and the “s” is lowercase in <em>sciences</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College of Human Development Culture, and Media</strong></td>
<td>The College of Human Development, Culture, and Media may be referred to as the college on second reference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College of Nursing</strong></td>
<td>The College of Nursing may be referred to as the college on second reference. It is not the Caroline D. Schwartz College of Nursing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**colon**

The colon indicates that what follows will complete or amplify what came before it. Use a colon to introduce a list or series:

> Three people were vying for the award: John Jones, Pamela Smith and Jack Black.

Do not use a colon between a verb and its complement or object:

> The three people are Jones, Smith and Black.

A colon also may be used to link two sentences when the second clause explains or amplifies the first:

> Her achievement remains etched in memory: It has not been surpassed in 50 years.

After a colon, capitalize the first letter of the next word if a complete sentence follows. Otherwise, the next word after a colon should start with a lowercase letter.

Use a colon to introduce clauses and phrases that begin with “for example”:

> The campaign enabled the school to make important progress: for example, to create two new professorships.

Place colons outside quotation marks unless they are part of the material being quoted.

**commas**

Use commas to separate elements in a series, but do not put a comma before the conjunction in a simple series unless the word and follows closely after the conjunction:

> John is taking biology, English, art and psychology this semester. He has spent more than 17 years at the school as a physical education and driver’s education teacher, and director of health, physical education and athletics.

If a sentence contains a complex series of words with other commas, use semicolons to separate them:

> The search committee includes Mike Jones, Ph.D., chief operations officer; Marissa Grey, Ph.D., vice president of human resources; and Frank Costa, digital communications manager.

When a conjunction, such as and, but or for, links two clauses that could stand alone as separate sentences, use a comma before the conjunction.

> She entered the classroom, and the professor greeted her warmly.

**Commencement Exercises**
committee

Do not abbreviate. Capitalize when part of a formal name. Do not capitalize in shortened or casual versions of a name.

company and corporation names

On first reference, use a company’s formal name but typically avoid LLC, LLP and PC, which are legal designations that describe limited-liability corporation, limited-liability partnership and professional corporation, respectively. Abbreviate the words corporation, incorporated, company and limited after the name of a firm.

If known, use a company’s preference, but follow the guidelines described in, this entry especially if variations in text resulting from company preferences would cause inconsistencies.

Do not use a comma before Inc. and Ltd.

- General Foods Corp. (but the Corporation for Public Broadcasting)
- Ford Motor Co.
- Time Warner Inc.
- Sax Smithson Allenby Ltd.
- eBay (but capitalize the first letter if it begins a sentence)
- BMW
- AT&T

Lowercase the or and in a company name unless it is an exception the company prefers. (State locations of companies should be listed in Seton Hall magazine’s “News & Notes” section. In “News & Notes,” follow AP abbreviations for cities and states as in datelines. In other words, do not spell out the name of the state as is done elsewhere.)

Spell out and lowercase company, corporation, association, etc., when they stand alone.

Consult the Standard & Poor’s Register of Corporations as a reference source for company names, but yield to these guidelines when in doubt. Exceptions to these guidelines may occur on donor lists, where firms often provide strict guidance on how to reference their name. See donor lists.

compared to compared with

Use the preposition to when describing the resemblances of unlike things. The preposition with is used to evaluate two like things in order to discern their differences or similarities.

- He compared her to a spring day.
- They often compare the brain to a computer.
- She compared her translation with the original.
- Her time was 2:11, compared with the record of 2:10.
complement/compliment

*Complement* means to complete or supplement:

His tie complements his suit.

*Compliment* means to praise:

She complimented him on his wardrobe.

complimentary/complementary

*Complimentary* means that something is flattering, or it means to be free.

“That blue is such a complimentary color on you,” Paul remarked. Lisa received a complimentary toaster when she opened an account at the local bank.

*Complementary means to complete.*

The sisters exhibited complementary qualities; the thoughtfulness of Jane balanced the boldness of Gwen.

compose/comprise

*Composed of* means made up of. *Comprises* means includes.

The U.S. is composed of 50 states.

The U.S. comprises 50 states.

Do not use *comprised of*.

concelebrant

*(not con-celebrant)*

conclave

The private meeting of cardinals that elects a pope.

conferences

Capitalize conference titles (except words of three or fewer letters).

Put titles of conference presentations within quotation marks.

“The Pursuit of Happiness” was the theme of the TED conference in 2004.

See *titles of works*.

confirmation

See *sacraments*.

continual/continuous

*Continual* means steady repetition. *Continuous* means uninterrupted, unbroken.
contractions

Avoid contractions (*don’t*, *isn’t*, *won’t*, etc.) unless in a direct quotation or as part of an informal piece of writing.

coop, cooperative, cooperate

A faculty position created through the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies.

Cooperman-Ross Chair in Jewish-Christian Studies

See **company and corporation names**. The possessive is *Corp.’s*.

corp

Refers to a body or group of individuals. Capitalize as part of a formal name. The possessive is the same for both singular and plural.

- a corps of dedicated volunteers
- Signal Corps
- one corps’ location, two corps’ assignments

couple of

The preposition of is necessary. The phrase takes a plural verb.

- A couple of diamonds were missing.

course titles

Use initial capitals (no italics, no quotation marks) for the proper name of a course. (Refer to the current undergraduate and graduate catalogues for course listings, or online at the Academics portion of www.shu.edu.)

- She signed up for COPA 2515 Promotional Writing.
  (Note: There is no punctuation between the course number and title, if both are cited.)
- Everyone was discussing the last class in the Theology of Work.

Lowercase informal, less specific usage:

- He passed his chemistry class but got an incomplete in biology.

coursework

(not course work)
courtesy titles

Refer to both men and women by first and last names in first reference. Use Mr., Miss, Mrs. or Ms. only in direct quotations or in special situations. On second and subsequent references, use only the last name. An exception would be the subsequent use of both first name and last name for clarity or to differentiate individuals with the same last name, such as married persons or brothers and sisters.

Also, see Dr., religious titles, professional titles.

current/currently

Often used unnecessarily. Limit use to situations where there is a need to action contrast present with past action or future action.

database

dates

See th. When describing an event, use this sequence: time, day, date and location. Always spell out the names of days and months, except as required in charts or graphs, or when space is limited. (This differs from AP style.)

When a date consists of only a month and a year, do not use a comma:

May 1997

When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas:

Jan. 14, 1967, is my parents’ wedding date.

Occasionally, such as for Commencement Exercises and president’s office materials, the European-style is used. Note the order of date elements and the lack of intervening punctuation.

14 January 2009

When indicating a multiyear span, use 2007-09, not 2007-2009. If this span is introduced with from, join with to (from 2007 to 2009).

In general do not use between to join years, as in between 2007 and 2009. But between can be used when referring to specific dates or points in time, such as between March 2007 and June 2008.

When dates span parts of two centuries, write out the full year for each date:

For the 1999-2000 academic year. . .

day care

Use day care as a noun; daycare as an adjective. This differs from AP style.
daylong, weeklong, monthlong, yearlong

days of the week

When standing alone in text, spell out. We will meet on Friday. Use a comma after successive date elements. *We will decide on Tuesday, May 13.* Abbreviate in calendar listings except in formal invitations.

dean’s list

decades

Use numbers to signify decades. Do not use an apostrophe to indicate a plural. She was married in the 1970s and had her first child in the ’80s.

decision making

(noun), decision-making (adjective)

degrees

See academic degrees and degree abbreviations.

degree abbreviations

See academic degrees. Use the abbreviations found online after an individual’s last name to indicate terminal degree. For a listing of all undergraduate and graduate degrees and their abbreviations, see www.shu.edu/academics/all-academic.cfm.

For publications, the graduate degrees conferred include:
College of Arts and Sciences: M.A., M.S., M.H.A., M.P.A., Ph.D.
College of Nursing: M.S.N., M.A., Ph.D.
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology: M.A., M.A.P.M., M.Div.
School of Diplomacy and International Relations: M.A.
School of Health and Medical Sciences: M.S., D.P.T., Ph.D.
School of Law: M.S.J., J.D.
Stillman School of Business: M.B.A., M.S.
See academic departments, academic degrees. Capitalize the formal name of a department, division, school or college within Seton Hall University. Refer to the current undergraduate and graduate catalogues for formal names of departments, divisions, schools and colleges within the University. Formal names are capitalized.

Office of the President
Department of Public Safety and Security
Stillman School of Business
Department of Public Relations and Marketing
Department of Housing and Residence Life
Division of Finance and Technology
Division of Academic Affairs
Department of Accounting and Taxation
Department of Educational Studies

Informal names are lowercase:
- psychology department
- economics department

Do not abbreviate the word department.

When referring to a department, division or school generically, capitalization is not necessary:
- president’s office
- business school
- public safety and security
- chemistry department
- housing and residence life
- community development

The proper noun parts of divisions are capitalized only when used as part of the formal name:
- Division of Student Services
- Tracy Gottlieb, Ph.D., served as vice president of student services

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dependent  (not dependant)

different from  (not different than)
dimensions
Use figures and spell out inches, feet, etc. Hyphenate when using dimensions as an adjective:

- He is 5 feet 6 inches tall. (Not 5-6)
- He is a 5-foot-6-inch man.

Use apostrophes and quotation marks for charts and graphs: (5’6”).

diocese
Capitalize before a proper name; lowercase standing alone.

directions, regions
Lowercase when indicating compass direction. Capitalize when indicating region:

- He drove west.
- The storm brought heavy snowfall to the Northeast.

disc/disk
Use disc except for computer-related references or for disks in a person’s spine.

dispose of

doctoral degree
(not doctor’s degree or doctorate degree) See academic degrees.

donor lists
Donors are listed using a standard format that reflects name preferences defined in the donor database, unless a donation requires specific donor’s preferences.

Anonymous donors are listed first. If there are more than one in a category, they are listed collectively, e.g. “Anonymous (17)”

When two donors donate together, do not use an ampersand to list them, e.g. “Donny and Marie Osmond”

Do not use salutations for donors. Exception: Use salutations for members of the religious community only.

Follow standard style guidelines for listing class years of Seton Hall graduates. See academic degrees.

Do not use a comma before Jr., Sr. or III, etc.

When a person donates on behalf of an organization, the person’s name is listed, then the organization, separated by a slash. e.g. Michael Jaharis Jr./The Jaharis Family Foundation Inc.
People who have passed away are recognized with an asterisk.

When listing company names, follow standard style guidelines found in company and corporation names.

**dormitory**

Use *residence hall* except within a direct quotation.

**Dr.**

Reserve the abbreviation *Dr.* for those who hold medical degrees, not for people who hold a Ph.D., Ed.D., D.S.W., etc. However, special circumstances, such as donor lists, may occasionally call for this abbreviation to be used for those with doctoral degrees that are not medical degrees. In any event, do not use the courtesy title and the degree suffix together.

Dr. Jonas Salk (not Dr. Jonas Salk, M.D.)

Dr. Melinda Suozzi (not Dr. Melinda Suozzi, Ed.D.)

**e.g., i.e.**

The abbreviation "e.g." stands for the Latin words meaning “for example.” The abbreviation “i.e.” stands for the Latin words meaning “that is.” A comma follows e.g., and i.e.

She gave several reasons for opposing the project: e.g., its high cost and limited appeal.

She gave two reasons: i.e., its cost and limited appeal.

**each other/one another**

Each other is used when referring to two people. One another is used when referring to three or more.

**either**

Use it to mean one or the other, not both.

**either/or, neither/nor**

Should be paired as indicated, and should be used only to connect similar grammatical elements in parallel form. With respect to subject-verb agreement, the element closest to the verb determines whether it is singular or plural in constructions involving *either/or* or *neither/nor*. Since some constructions that are technically correct may appear awkward, it is advisable to recast the sentence so that plural subjects are closest to plural verbs.

Either my sister or my cousins are coming to visit.

Neither my cousins nor my sister is coming to visit.

Are either my brothers or my father staying?

Is either my father or my brothers staying?
**ellipsis**  
An ellipsis indicates the deletion of one or more words in a quote or other text. It also can convey a dramatic pause or hesitation, much like an em dash. Treat an ellipsis as a three-letter word, constructed with three periods and single spaces on both sides. When using an ellipsis after a complete sentence, use the final punctuation before the ellipsis.

“Friends, ... countrymen, lend me your ears ... ”

My car keys ... where on earth did I put them?

But ... but ... I just knew it.

Configure sentences so you do not use ellipses at the beginning and end of direct quotes.

On a PC, create an ellipsis in Word by placing the cursor where the dash will go; then go to Insert in the program menu and open up Symbol. Highlight the appropriate dash located there; hit insert.

On a Mac, hit the option key and the semicolon key simultaneously.

**email**  
Email addresses should be placed in italics in text. The word *email* is lowercase unless it begins a sentence. Structure sentences so they do not end with an email address; however, if such a structure cannot be avoided, put a period at the end of the sentence ending with an email address.

She can be reached at paula.kozaki@shu.edu if further assistance is needed.

**em dash**  
The em dash (—) gets its name from the amount of space a capital M occupied in before and after the em dash. (The em dash is shown as a double hyphen on the web.)

The goal of the project — to increase the focus on academics — is simple, but challenging.

The campaign demonstrated something many doubted — that Seton Hall meant enough in the lives of alumni to warrant extraordinary commitments.

On a PC, create an em dash in Word by placing the cursor where the dash will go; then go to Insert in the program menu and open up Symbol. Highlight the appropriate dash located there; hit insert.

On a Mac, create dashes in Word the same way, or simultaneously hit option/shift/hyphen for the em dash and the option and hyphen keys to make an en dash.

**emeritus, emerita, emeriti**  
Emeritus (for a man) or emerita (for a woman) is an honorary title bestowed on many but not all retired faculty members. The plural is emeriti. The honorary title customarily follows the individual’s formal title. *Dr. Elizabeth Gorman, dean emerita of the College of Nursing ... ; professor emeritus of theology.*
**en dash**
The en dash (–) is shorter than an em dash but longer than a hyphen. Use it for continuing sets of words or numbers. Do not place spaces around en dashes. (This is shown as a hyphen on the web.)

- pages 9–12
- Tuesday–Thursday

On a PC, create an en dash in Word by placing the cursor where the dash will go; then go to Insert in the program menu and open up Symbol. Highlight the appropriate dash located there; hit insert.

On a Mac, create dashes in Word the same way, or simultaneously hit option/shift/hyphen.

**endowed chairs and professorships**
Capitalize formal names.

- Joseph M. and Geraldine G. LaMotta Chair in Italian Studies
- Cooperman-Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies

The person who holds the chair is “professor of” not “the chair of.”

**ensure/insure/assure**
*Ensure* means to make sure. *Insure* means to provide or obtain insurance. *Assure* means to give confidence to someone.

**entitled**
Entitled means deserving or having the right. A book, lecture, song, etc., is titled, not entitled.

**et al.**
A Latin abbreviation meaning “and others.” No period after the first word.

**events**
Events take place, are hosted or are sponsored. They are not held. Capitalize formal names of campus events, such as Many Are One, University Day, Charter Day.

**exaggerate**

**Executive Cabinet**

**faculty**
*Faculty* is singular. *Faculty members* is plural.
farther/further

*Further* refers to an extension of time or degree. *Farther* refers to a physical distance.

Father

Use on first and subsequent references to Catholic priests. Do not abbreviate. This is an exception to AP style. See religious titles.

fax

Short version of facsimile.

federal

Lowercase, except when referring to the architectural style or a formal name or title.

defender

Use *fewer* for things you can count:

At Seton Hall University, fewer than 4 percent of our classes are taught by teaching assistants.

Use *less* for things you can’t count:

The staff is less gloomy since profits went up.

*Exception:*

Use *less than* with plural nouns that refer to time periods, amounts of money, but not people:

less than a dozen years ago

less than a dollar

field house

flyer

Use for a circular or a handbill or for someone flying in an aircraft.

follow up

*(verb)* / follow-up *(noun and adjective)*

forego/forgo

To *forego* means to go before. To *forgo* means to abstain from.

foreign words

Italicize unless the term is now common in English, such as *et cetera*, versus, *bon voyage* and the names of honor societies.

forward

*(not forwards)*
freelance, freelancer

freshman/freshmen

Freshman refers to one person; freshmen refers to more than one. Use freshman as an adjective when referring to courses of study or titles using the word:

- Freshman Studies Program
- advisor to the freshman class

full time/full-time

Hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier:

- He works full time. She has a full-time job.

d Fundraising, fundraiser

getaway

get-together

God/god

Capitalize God in references to the deity of all monotheistic religions. Capitalize all noun references to the deity (God the Father, Holy Spirit, Jehovah). Capitalize personal pronouns (He, Him, Thee, Thou) that refer to God the Father. Lowercase gods and goddesses in references to the deities of polytheistic religions and in references to false gods.

Good Friday

Gospel(s), gospel

Capitalize when referring to the first four books of the New Testament. Lowercase in all other references (gospel music, gospel singer, etc.).

GPA

GPA is acceptable on first reference; it stands for grade point average, which is calculated by numerical grades, not letter grades.
graduate

It is correct to use the verb *graduate* in the active voice: *She graduated from Seton Hall University.* This is the preferred usage.

It is unnecessary to use the passive voice: *He was graduated from the University.*

Do not drop the preposition *from*, as in *He graduated college.*

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Green:

Capitalize when referring to the location on campus.

Let’s meet on the Green.

handmade

hand-picked

hands off/hands-off

Hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier:

a hands-off policy

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Hazard Zet Forward

Seton Hall’s motto, which is also the motto found on the Seton family crest, is a combination of Norman French and archaic English. Loosely translated as: “No matter the risk, move forward.”

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headlines

Headlines in press releases and media advisories need not contain Seton Hall University since it is made clear through the use of Seton Hall University letterhead. Press releases and media advisories related to a specific school or college of the University should contain the name of that particular school or college.

headline capitalization

Generally lowercase: *a, an, and, as, at, but, by, for, if, in, of, on, or, out, the, to, up* and yet (as a conjunction), except when they start a line or are in integral part of the verb: *Hold Out, Take Up.* The infinitive use of *to* is lowercase, as well as the preposition.

Do not capitalize words in titles with three or fewer letters unless the word is the first or last word in the title or a proper noun or pronoun. By extension, capitalize words that are four letters or more.

Generally capitalize after hyphens in headlines: *Ex-Chairman, Cease-Fire.* But it’s not necessary if the second word is an article, preposition, coordinating conjunction: *Co-op. Side-by-Side.* Or if the word has a prefix: *Eco-friendly, Non-reunion Class.* Another exception is *President-elect.* In headlines, capitalize *A.M.* and *P.M.*, though ordinarily these terms are not capitalized.
headline guidelines

Do not start any section of a headline, subheading or deck with a numeral or a dollar figure. Numerals may be used, even for one through nine, elsewhere in the headline if the numerals aren’t mixed with spelled-out numbers in the same headline.

Use single quotes rather than double quotes in headlines and subheadings.

health care

(noun, two words)/ healthcare (adjective, one word) Note: This is different from AP style.

hearsay

heaven

high school

No hyphen in high school student.

historical periods and events

Capitalize the names of widely known periods, epochs, ages or events.
the Bronze Age, the Dark Ages, the Pliocene Epoch
the Age of Discovery, the Exodus, Prohibition

historic/historical

A historic event is an important occurrence, one that stands out in history.
Any occurrence in the past is a historical event.

hold up

(verb)/ holdup (noun and adjective)

Holy Communion,
Holy Eucharist

See sacraments.

Holy Father

Holy See

Holy Spirit

Homecoming
home page
homemade
hometown
honorary degrees

All references to honorary degrees should specify that the degree was honorary. The terminal degree of a person is not listed if he or she received the terminal degree as an honorary degree.

Hopefully

*Hopefully* means in a hopeful manner:

Hopefully, we awaited the doctor’s diagnosis.

Do not use it to mean *it is hoped.*

host

*Host* can be used as a verb when describing an event:

Seton Hall University hosted a parents’ reception last fall.

hyphen

Use a hyphen to form a single idea from two or more words and to avoid ambiguity:

- a full-time professor
- a full-time job
- a well-known person
- a state-of-the-art home

Use a hyphen if the word that follows is capitalized (mid-Atlantic).

Use a hyphen to join doubled prefixes (sub-subparagraph). Hyphens should not be used after adverbs:

- highly educated
- nationally known

When a prefix ends and a root word begins with the same vowel, words tend to be written solid. Note: Consult Merriam-Webster for all spelling issues). Examples include:

- cooperate
- preeminent
- cooperative (but co-op)
- reelect
- preelection
- reevaluate
**COMPOUND NOUNS:** Many noun compounds are hyphenated, including the following (Note: Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th for all spelling issues.):

- brother-in-law
- ex-president
- follow-up

Many noun compounds are not hyphenated, including the following (Note: Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th for all spelling issues.):

- copy editor
- day care
- decision making

Many noun compounds are written as one word, including the following (Note: Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th for all spelling issues.):

- copyedit
- database
- freelance
- statewide

**Exception:** World Wide Web

**WORDS WITH PREFIXES:** Use this form for suspensive hyphenation:

- over- and underused
- macro- and microeconomics
- 5- and 6-year-olds
- first- and second-year students

Words using the prefix “co-” usually are spelled without a hyphen, but note these exceptions:

- co-author
- co-chair
- co-edit
- co-host

(Note: Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th for all spelling issues.)

**if/whether**

If means “in the event that”/ “on the condition that” and is used to introduce clauses expressing nonexistent, hypothetical or improbable conditions:

- If Jamie studies hard, she may improve her grade.
- If Jamie were to study with Alice, she might even earn an A.

Whether means “if it is so that”/ “if it happens that”/ “in case” and is used to introduce the first of a set of possibilities:
She asked whether her paper was typed properly.

Whether her paper earns an A or not, she has given it her best effort.

**Immaculate Conception Seminary**

_Seminary School of Theology may be referred to as the seminary, the school of theology or the school on second reference, as needed._

If a line break must occur in the middle of the school’s name, place the break between *Seminary* and *School*.

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**impact**

Avoid using as a verb; use *influence* or *affect*.

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**imply/infer**

Writers or speakers “imply” in the words they use. Listeners or readers “infer” something from the words.

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**in/into**

*In* indicates location. *Into* indicates motion.

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**Inc.**

See *company and corporation names*.

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**include/comprise**

Use *include* to introduce a series when the items that follow are only part of the total. Do not use a colon after the word include to introduce a series. Use *comprise* when the full list is given.

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**Incorporated**

See *company and corporation names*.

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**-in-law**


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**in memoriam**

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**input**

Avoid using *input* as a verb.

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**instructor**

Do not abbreviate. Capitalize when used as a formal title before a name; lowercase if it follows the name or stands alone as a descriptor. See professor.
internet

Interprofessional Health Sciences campus

Campus where the College of Nursing, the School of Health and Medical Sciences, and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine are housed. It is not referred to as the Nutley campus. IHS campus may be used on second reference. Note: campus is not capitalized.

invocation

The blessing a priest gives at the start of various events such as Charter Day, Commencement Exercises, conferences, receptions, etc.

italics

See foreign words, titles of works, and words as words.

it's/its

It’s means “it is” or “it has.” Its is possessive.

Jewish-Christian

Both Jewish-Christian and Judaeo-Christian (or Judeo-Christian) are acceptable terms.

At Seton Hall, Jewish-Christian Studies is the master’s program at the College of Arts and Sciences. Also the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies uses the term Jewish-Christian; but, the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies uses the other form. (Note the “ae.”)

Jr.

There is no comma between the last name and Jr.

John Jones Jr.

judgment

(not judgement)

K-12

stands for kindergarten through 12th grade. Do not spell out in text.
Tools are available to save keystrokes or create special characters.

**FOR PC COMPUTERS:**
For special characters, place the cursor where the special character (such as an em dash or ellipsis) will go; then go to Insert in the program menu and open up Symbol. Highlight the appropriate symbol located there; hit insert. Other helpful shortcuts:
- "é Control + shift + ' (apostrophe) key, release, then tap the desired letter
- "è Control + shift + ` (accept grave) key, release, then tap the desired letter
- "â Control + shift + ^ key, release, then tap the desired letter
- "ñ Control + shift + ~ key, release, then tap the desired letter
- "ü Control + ;, release, then tap the desired letter
- "æ Control + &, release, then tap the A key
- "œ Control + &, release, then tap the O key
- "â Control + shift + @, release, then tap the A key
- "ç Control + , (comma) key, release, then tap the C key
- "¿ Alt + control + shift + ? key
- "¡` Alt + control + shift + ! key

**FOR MAC COMPUTERS:**
- “Option + shift, then -
- “ Option + -
- “...Option + ;
- “é Option + e, release, then tap the desired letter
- “¨ Option + l, release, then tap the desired letter
- “ñ Option + n, release, then tap the desired letter
- “ü Option + u, release, then tap the desired letter
- “æ Option + ‘
- “œ Option + q
- “ç Option + c
- “© Option + g
- “® Option + r
- “™ Option + 2

**kick off** (verb), **kickoff** (noun)

**Latin honors** Lowercase and italicize these rankings: *cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude*. 
**Latino/Latina**

Spell out *Latino/Latina* when writing about Latin American males and females.

**Law School**

Use Seton Hall University School of Law on first reference. Use Seton Hall Law, the law school or the school on second reference.

**lay/lie**

The action word is *lay* (*lay, laid, laying*) and takes a direct object. *Lie* indicates a state of reclining along a horizontal plane and does not take a direct object (*lie, lay, lain, lying*).

- He is going to lie on the beach this afternoon.
- He lay on the beach all day yesterday.
- I will lay my beach towel next to his.

**Lent**

Use *less* for things you can’t count:

- The staff is less gloomy since profits went up.

Use *fewer* for things you can count:

- At Seton Hall University, fewer than 4 percent of our classes are taught by teaching assistants.

*Exception:* Use *less than* with plural nouns that refer to time periods, amounts of money, but not people:

- less than a dozen years ago
- less than a dollar

**lifelong**

**life-size**

**lifetime**

**likable**

(not likeable)

**-like**

Do not use a hyphen before this suffix unless the letter “l” would be tripled or the main element is a proper noun.

- businesslike; shell-like; Manhattan-like
like/as
Use *like* to compare nouns and pronouns.
Karen sings like a bird.

Use *as* to introduce clauses:
Karen sings as a way to share her feelings.

livable
(not liveable)

long distance/
long-distance
Always use a hyphen when referring to telephone calls:
He called long-distance.
She took the long-distance call.

Otherwise, hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier:
He traveled a long distance.
She made a long-distance trip.

long term/long-term
Hyphenate when used as a compound modifier:

a long-term contract

long time
(noun)/*longtime* (adjective)

I lived there for a long time.
He is a longtime advocate of reform.

majors, minors
Lowercase academic majors and minors except when a proper noun is part of the title. See *course titles*.

a philosophy minor, an English major

make up
(verb), *makeup* (noun, adjective)

manageable

Many Are One
Many Are One is the formal name for the Alumni Association’s annual awards gala.
Always use this name to refer to the event.
Mass
Capitalize when referring to the ceremony, but lowercase any preceding adjectives (high Mass, requiem Mass). Mass is celebrated, not said. (A Mass is offered when the name of the person for whom the Mass is being offered is mentioned, as in a funeral.)

master's degree
Use an apostrophe. See academic degrees.

May Session
Replaces the University's winter session.

medieval

memento, mementos

mid-
Do not use a hyphen unless a capitalized word or figure follows:
midsemester
mid-Atlantic
mid-30s
mid-August

millions/billions
Use figures in all except casual uses:
$7 million, a billion dollars, 2 million people

Do not go beyond two decimals:
$7.25 million, 2.75 million people

Do not hyphenate:
$300 billion budget

mini-
In general, no hyphen (minibus, miniseries). Note: Consult Merriam-Webster's 11th for all spelling issues.
money

Use commas in amounts above 999 ($1,234). For even dollar amounts, do not add .00 ($30 not $30.00). Spell out cents for amounts less than a dollar (5 cents). Use figures with million/billion ($2.25 million).

Monsignor

See religious titles. Do not abbreviate.

more than/over

More than expresses quantity:

More than 500 people attended the event.

Over expresses spatial relationships:

The plane flew over the Mississippi River.

This differs from AP style.

multi-

In general, no hyphen (multicultural, multimillion). NOTE: Consult Merriam-Webster’s 11th for all spelling issues.

multimedia

newspaper titles

See titles of works, periodical titles.

Neocatechumenal Way, Neocatechumenate

A Catholic movement dedicated to adult faith formation.

Do not capitalize C.

No.

Use as the abbreviation for number in conjunction with a figure to indicate position or rank (No. 1 man, No. 3 choice; not the pound [#] sign). Do not use in addresses.

non

Typically do not add a hyphen after this prefix.

nonprofit

Do not hyphenate unless it is hyphenated as part of a formal title.

not only

This phrase should be followed with but also.

She is not only the fastest runner in the world, but also the oldest.
The use of words vs. numerals to represent numbers is one of the editor’s most vexing challenges. The key is to adhere to a specific set of guidelines and to aim for consistency, especially within a particular article or document. The guidelines here are intended to shepherd writers and editors through difficult editorial and stylistic decisions.

Spell out numbers zero through nine; use Arabic numerals for numbers 10 and above. (For ages, see ages entry.)

Spell out numbers at the start of a sentence.

Use Arabic numerals for percents, credit hours, dates, ages, parts of a book, scores, decimals, dimensions, measurements, temperatures, ratios, votes. Use commas in numbers above 999 (1,234).

Use Roman numerals for wars and to show sequence for persons and animals.

- nine classrooms, 12 attendees, 3 credit hours, 2 percent [use % in tables]
- 2 years old, 59 years old, 1987
- 1980s, the ‘80s, 5 feet 2, 5-foot-6-inch player, 3 feet high, 5 inches of snow
- 5-4 game, an election tally of 1,001-567
- Pope Benedict XVI, Queen Elizabeth II, John Smith III

For ordinals, spell out first through ninth when they convey sequence in time or location; otherwise, use figures. Use 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. when the sequence has been used to form a name. Do not use superscript.

- 20th century (not 20th)
- 52nd anniversary (not 52nd)
- 4th edition fourth in line

In tables and graphs, use all numerals.

In a series, apply the guidelines cited here.

- They had 11 horses, four dogs and 12 birds.

To avoid confusion, use words and numerals as alternating constructions when abutting consecutive numbers occur. (This is an exception to AP style.)

- They had 4 four-room houses, ten 12-room houses and 3 three-room houses.

For further detailed guidance, the AP Stylebook offers lengthy descriptions, examples and cross-referenced categories.
occur, occurred, occurring, occurrence

occur/take place

Occur refers to an accidental or unscheduled event. Take place refers to a planned event.

off campus/off-campus

(adjective) They live off campus. It is an off-campus facility.

off of

The of is unnecessary.

The vase fell off the table.

OK, OK’d, OK’ing, OKs

Reserve for informal writing. Do not use okay.

on campus/on-campus

(location)/on-campus (adjective) The event is on campus. It is an on-campus policy.

ongoing

This term is often used unnecessarily.

online

(not on-line)

on to/onto

When on is used to introduce a subsequent phrase, the to is separate. In these cases, the sense is often other than physical location.

- We are on to your methods.
- We traveled on to Philadelphia.
- They passed the wisdom on to their children.

The preposition onto conveys a specific meaning of location that is different from simply using on or in.

- The ball rolled onto the street.

order of events

When describing an event, use the following sequence of information: event, time, day, date, place.

- The reunion will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, August 12, in the recreation center.
Consult Merriam-Webster regarding this prefix that is seldom hyphenated.

**overall** Use one word for both the adjective and the adverb.

Overall, I would say it was a very successful campaign.
We endorsed their overall approach.
They looked healthy overall.

**overalls** Note the “s” to describe the article of clothing.

**palm(s)** Distributed, on Palm Sunday. The plural form (*palms*) is rarely used; *palm* is used for both singular and plural.

**parentheses** If the material inside the parentheses is not a complete sentence, put the period outside the parentheses. If the material inside the parenthesis is a complete sentence, put the period inside the parentheses.

**part time/part-time** Hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier.

She works part time.
He has a part-time job.

**percentages** Always use numerals with percentages and spell out the word percent in text.

50 percent
2.5 percent

Use the percent sign (%) in tables and graphs and when text is extremely limited.
This differs from AP style.
periodical titles

See titles of works. Capitalize the if it is part of the formal name of a newspaper or periodical and that is how the publication prefers to be known. Lowercase the if the same sentence has examples of periodicals both with and without the as part of their names. Visiting the website of a newspaper or periodical likely will prove helpful in determining the formal name of the entity. Indicate in parentheses the location of the periodical if it is not part of the official name.

Our journalism class studied an online edition of The New York Times.

We subscribe to the Daily News.

We evaluated the New York Post, The (Newark) Star-Ledger, and the Gloucester County Times.

photo credit

Photographers' names should appear alongside each photo contributed. A single entry at the beginning or the end of the article may be used, if all the photos for an article are provided by the same photographer,

Photo(s) by S.R. Smith

Photo credits should not be listed in all capital letters.

photography identification

Use the words from left—separated by commas—to identify people in photographs when needed. When appropriate, Seton Hall class years, terminal degrees and titles should be included in photo captions.

Seated, from left, are Edward Gouda ’67, Jane Potenza and Stanley Wroczik ’68.

Pirates, Pirate

She is a new Pirate.
They are longtime Pirates boosters
a Pirates victory
the Pirates shortstop, Pirates center

Pirates Cove

plurals

Do not use an apostrophe with plural numbers (temperature in the low 20s, size 7s, styles of the 1920s, 747s); multiple letters (ABCs, IOUs, VIPs); or words (ifs, ands and buts), though an exception is the expression do’s and don’ts. Use an apostrophe for single letters (the three R’s, mind your p’s and q’s, report card with A’s and B’s).
Pope

Capitalize when used in front of a name; lowercase in all other usages:

Pope Francis spoke to the crowd.
The pope blessed the crowd.

possessives

For nouns ending in s, add 's unless the next word begins with s:

the hostess’s invitation
the hostess’ seat

For proper names ending in “s,” use only an apostrophe:

Achilles’ heel
Dickens’ novels
Jesus’ life

For special expressions ending in “s” or an “s” sound, followed by a word that begins with “s,” use only an apostrophe:

for appearance’ sake
for goodness’ sake

For plural possessives, add an apostrophe to the plural word.

men’s basketball, women’s lacrosse
girls’ and boys’ differences and similarities
girls’ soccer team

Note that certain possessives used in an adjectival sense can omit the apostrophe. However, if the construction shows possession in the traditional sense, use the possessive form.

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter made a charity appearance.
Jose Reyes is the Mets’ shortstop.

For joint ownership, use the possessive form after the last word only:

Lucy and Ethel’s antics
Batman and Robin’s adventures

If the objects are individually owned, however, use the possessive form for both:

Timmy’s and Lassie’s toys

For compound words, use the possessive form for the word closest to the object possessed:

the attorney general’s request
John F. Kennedy Jr.’s career
For phrases with the possessive form, use an apostrophe:

- a day’s pay
- two weeks’ vacation
- 16 weeks’ pregnant
- your money’s worth

### post-

Typically do not hyphenate this prefix.

- postpartum
- postgame
- postdoctoral
- postgraduate

### pregame, preseason, postgame, postseason

### president

Capitalized president only as a formal title before a name and in stand-alone text.

Lowercase in all other uses.

### president-elect

Capitalize only the first letter in a formal title before a name.

Ex: President-elect John Wilson.

### Presidents Hall

(no apostrophe)

### press releases/media advisories

When writing press releases, use the approved press release/media advisory template. Headlines in press releases and media advisories need not necessarily contain Seton Hall University since it is made clear through the use of Seton Hall University letterhead. Press releases and media advisories related to a specific school/college at the University should contain the name of that particular school/college. See italics, quotation marks, periodical titles, titles of works.

### preventative

(noun)

- He took the pill as a preventative.

### preventive

(adjective)

- The action was a preventive measure.

### priest

A vocational description, not a formal title. Do not capitalize.
**Priest Community.** Capitalize.

**principal/principle**

*Principal* means someone or something first in rank, authority or importance. *Principle* means a fundamental truth, law, doctrine or motivating force.

**prior to**

In most cases *before* is simpler, less stilted and preferred.

**pro-**

Use a hyphen to create a word denoting support for something (pro-business, pro-labor).

**professional titles**

Capitalize formal titles when they appear as “stand-alone” text.

> “Everyone had a great time at Many Are One.”
> — Monsignor Robert Sheeran, President Emeritus

Capitalize the entire title when the title precedes the name. Do not capitalize the name of the department when it follows the name.

- Vice President Matthew Borowick
- Professor Sulie Chang
- Joe Guasconi, senior director of major gifts and gift planning
- President Emeritus Monsignor Robert Sheeran

In publications text, titles are lowercase when following a name, with the exception of presidential appointed University professorships, chairs, etc., and religious titles:

- Monsignor Richard Liddy, Ph.D., University Professor of Catholic Thought and Culture
- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark

Always spell out titles such as Monsignor, Reverend, Father, Professor, etc.

Use Father on first and subsequent references for priests. (This practice deviates from AP style.)

- Father Kevin Hanbury

See [courtesy titles, Dr., religious titles.](#)

**professor**

Do not abbreviate. Capitalize when used as a formal title before a name; lowercase if it follows the name or stands alone as a descriptor. See [courtesy titles, professional titles.](#)

- Professor Anna-Marie McDonnell, Ph.D., spoke at the conference.
- He is a tenured professor.
program

Lowercase unless part of a formal name.

problem solving

(noun), problem-solving (adjective)

proper names

Lowercase the common noun elements of names in all plural uses:

- Essex and Union counties
- Centre and Montrose streets

pull quotes

Use single quotation marks rather than double quotation marks around quoted material. Other material in pull quotes does not take quotation marks.

quotation marks

See titles of works. Always place periods and commas inside quotation marks. Semicolons and colons are placed outside quotation marks. Question marks go inside or out side, depending on the meaning.

- Who wrote “Gone with the Wind”?  
- He asked, “How long will it take?”

If a full paragraph of quoted material is followed by a paragraph that continues the quotation, do not put close-quotation marks at the end of the first paragraph. Do, however, put open quotation marks to indicate the start of the second paragraph. See apostrophe.

ratios

Use figures and colons:

- 2:1

regarding

Use regarding or in regard to or with regard to or as regards (but never in regards to).

regardless

(not irregardless)

Regents Suite

Located on main level of Presidents Hall.
**religious titles**

In a departure from AP style, use Father to precede a priest’s name except in the case of those designated monsignor, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, etc. Use Father for subsequent references to priests who are not a monsignor, etc.

- Father Bergin
- Monsignor Robert Sheeran (Monsignor Sheeran)
- Bishop Walter Curtis (Bishop Curtis)

*Father* can also be used to refer to Episcopal priests. Otherwise, use Reverend before the name of the member of the clergy on first and subsequent references. Do not abbreviate Reverend except in addresses or in lists. This differs from AP style.

- We met Reverend Elizabeth Swenson-Hale.
- Reverend Swenson-Hale is the rector of All Saints Church.

Use *Sister* for nuns and *Brother* for brothers. On second reference, refer to a nun or a brother by first name following the religious title. Do not abbreviate *Sister* or *Brother*.

- Sister Anita Talar (Sister Anita).

Religious titles that appear after a clergy member’s name are capitalized, rather than lowercase (which is true of all other titles):

- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark
- Second reference: Archbishop Tobin

See [Catholic references](#) for additional guidance.

**résumé**

See [keystroke shortcuts](#).

**residence hall**

(not dormitory) Do not refer to any residence hall as a dorm or dormitory except within a direct quotation.

**Reverend**

Do not abbreviate. This differs from AP style. See [religious titles](#).

**Richie Regan Recreation and Athletic Center**

Use Richie Regan Recreation and Athletic Center on first reference; Recreation Center is acceptable on second reference.

**Richard and Sheila Regan Field House**

(not Regan Field House)
roommate

room numbers

Use figures and capitalize room when used with a figure:
- Room 222

Abbreviate in calendars, graphs, etc., where space is limited:
- Rm. 222

rosary

Lowercase. One prays, recites or says the rosary; never reads.

R.S.V.P.

Not RSVP. There is no need to use the phrase “Please R.S.V.P.” because the “SVP” stands for the French words “s’il vous plaît,” which mean “if you please.”

runner-up, runners-up

Ruth Sharkey Academic Resource Center

Sabbath

Capitalize in religious references.

sacraments

Per AP style, capitalize the proper names of the sacrament that commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ:
- the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, Holy Eucharist

Lowercase the names of the other sacraments:
- baptism, confirmation, matrimony, penance or the sacrament of reconciliation,
  holy orders, the sacrament of the anointing of the sick

sacrilegious

Saint

Acceptable as part of the name of a canonized person in the Catholic Church or as part of the name of a church or institution. See St.
- Saint Augustine
- Saint Joseph’s Hospital
scholarships

Use initial capitals for the names of endowed scholarships.

school and college names

Names of Seton Hall schools and colleges are listed below.

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Human Development, Culture, and Media
- College of Nursing
- Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology
- School of Diplomacy and International Relations
- School of Health and Medical Sciences
- School of Law
- Stillman School of Business

Use school or college (lowercase) on second reference.

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

It may be referred to as the school on second reference.

School of Health and Medical Sciences

It may be referred to as the school on second reference.

seasons

Lowercase spring, summer, fall, winter and derivatives unless part of a formal name:

- She attended the Spring Fling formal ball.
- We organized a Winter Wonderland fundraiser.

second reference

When referring to someone on a second and subsequent reference, use only the last name. Exception: Use both the first name and last name on second or subsequent reference for clarity or to differentiate individuals with the same last name, such as married persons or brothers and sisters. (On first reference, use a courtesy title. See courtesy titles.)
self-

Always hyphenate as a prefix:
self-assured
self-determination
self-esteem

semi-

In general, no hyphen unless the second word begins with *i*.

semicolon

Use a semicolon to separate two independent clauses. In most cases, this construction is akin to two sentences and involves a judgment call on the part of the writer or editor. Note that a common error occurs when a conjunction (such as however or nevertheless) is used to join the clauses. Be sure to use a semicolon before the conjunction in such cases.

The jury members deliberated two hours; they reached a verdict quickly.
(Or: The jury members deliberated two hours. They reached a verdict quickly.)

They pondered the alternatives for weeks; however, they never reached a consensus.

Many of the options raised conflicts; nevertheless, they put their differences aside.

Use a semicolon to separate elements of a series when individual segments contain material that also must be set off by commas:

The alumnus has a son, John Smith of Chicago; three daughters, Jane Smith of Wichita, Mary Smith of Denver, and Susan, wife of William Kingsbury of Boston; and a sister, Martha, wife of Robert Warren of Omaha.

(Note: The semicolon is used before the final element in such a series.)

Place semicolons outside quotation marks.

Seton

The University is named after Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born American citizen to be declared a saint.

Seton Hall University

Use Seton Hall University School of Law on first reference. Use Seton Hall Law, the law school or the school on second reference.

Setonian(s)

Refers to students and alumni, while “the Setonian community” includes anyone who teaches, learns and works on one of the University’s campuses, as well as alumni and parents.

*The Setonian* is the name of the campus newspaper. “The” is part of the publication’s proper name.
**side by side/side-by-side**

Hyphenate only when used as an adjective:

- They walked side by side.
- She polished the side-by-side cabinets.

**Sister**

Do not abbreviate. See *religious titles*.

**sizable**

*(not sizeable)*

**SHU**

Use sparingly in publications and articles.

**space**

Because computerized word-processing programs adjust spacing automatically, there is no need to use two spaces in instances where manuscript typists formerly did. Use one space after a period, colon or comma. (This is now the default on many common word-processing programs.)

Put one space before and after an em dash or ellipsis. Do not put spaces around an en dash. See *ellipsis, em dash, en dash*.

**speeds**

Use figures:

- He drove 5 miles per hour.
- He was afraid of the 40-mile-per-hour winds.

**spouse**

Use *spouse* or *spouses*; do not assume a person’s gender in constructions such as *the physicians and their spouses*.

**Sports Poll**

When referencing the sports poll, use the following wording: Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute.

**St.**

An acceptable alternative as an abbreviation for Saint as part of a proper noun.

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

**St. Patrick Parish**

In Chatham, N.J. (Not St. Patrick’s)
The name of the state, completely written out, follows the name of the city in publications text. *Exception:* “News & Notes” in the alumni magazine, where abbreviations should be used for state names as indicated by AP for datelines. (Do not use the two-character postal abbreviations.)

Use postal abbreviations for states in press releases, address blocks and forms. In text, a comma is used between city and state, and after the state when the sentence continues. Do not capitalize the word state in these constructions: *state of New Jersey* and *Washington state.*

See addresses, cities and towns.

**stationary/stationery**

*Stationary* means still. *Stationery* is writing paper.

**Stillman School of Business**

(not the W. Paul Stillman School of Business). Use Stillman School or the school on second reference. No longer use the School of Business in any reference.

**students**

For students attending Seton Hall, include a class year and their course of study in the publication (when it’s relevant). Do not add a numeric year after students’ names unless they are alumni.

Cathy Morris, a senior, used the Career Center to find an internship.

**student-athlete**

(not student athlete)

**stepbrother, stepfather, stepmother, stepsister**

In general, no hyphen (subculture, subdivision, subcommittee).

**sub-**

Use *such as* to indicate example; use *like* to show comparison. See *like/as.*

He loved following baseball stars, such as Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle.

**Summer Session**

Includes May Session (May–early June), June Session (June–early July) and July Session (July–early August).

**supersede**
symposia  The plural form of symposium.

tagline  The Seton Hall University tagline is “What great minds can do.”

teammate

telephone numbers  Use hyphens to separate component elements of telephone numbers.
Do not use parentheses around the area code.

973-000-0000
1-800-000-0000

th  Do not use “th” when writing dates. (June 20 not June 20th). See dates, numbers.
When using an ordinal number, do not use superscript.

20th century (not 20 th century)

that, which, who, whom  Use who and whom when referring to persons and to animals with a name. Use that and which when referring to inanimate objects and to animals without a name.

Use that to introduce an essential clause.

I like to read books that have a historical context.

Use which to introduce a nonessential clause, which is set off with commas.

German 101, which the school initiated last year, has been canceled

teater  Use this spelling unless the proper name includes the English spelling “Theatre.”

Theatre-in-the-Round

There’s/their  There’s means “there is” or “there has.” Their is possessive.

time  Use a.m. and p.m. (not AM and PM); 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (not 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.); noon and midnight (not 12 p.m. or 12 noon, and 12 a.m.); 7–9 a.m. (not 7 a.m.–9 a.m.).
**titles of works**

Follow the conventions listed below for titles of works in text. Many of these differ from AP style.

Capitalize principal words in titles, including prepositions and conjunctions of four or more letters.

Capitalize an article (*a*, *an*, *the*) or a word of three or fewer letters if it is the first or last word of the title.

Italicize titles of books; movies; plays; newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals; pamphlets; television and radio programs; blogs; video and computer games; works of art, including paintings, drawings, statues; long poems that stand alone as published works and collections of poems; albums, operas, oratorios and other extended musical works; and website addresses cited in text.

Use quotation marks around (but do not italicize) the titles of articles in a newspaper, journal or periodical; poems; short stories; songs and other short musical works; theses, dissertations or papers; speeches; lectures; presentations; essays; television episodes (not series) and chapter titles.

**The Hall**

Do not use in publications. It is acceptable only in a direct quotation.

**Trustee**

Capitalize when referring to a member of the Seton Hall University Board of Trustees when it precedes the person’s name; otherwise lowercase.

**toward**

(not towards)

**try to**

(not try and)

**ultra**

In general no hyphen for the prefix.

ultramodern, ultraviolet, ultrapatriotic

**under**

Generally, no hyphen for this prefix.

undersheriff, underdog

**United Nations**

Spell out first reference. Use U.N. (with periods/no space) (not UN) on second reference or in headlines.
United States
Spell out on first reference. Use U.S. (with periods/no space) on second reference and in headlines.

university and college names
On first reference use proper names and locations when necessary:
University of Connecticut, University of Alabama–Birmingham
Boston College, Miami University of Ohio
On second reference, colloquialisms such as Pitt, UConn and BC are permissible, especially in sports stories or in informal contexts. In sports stories, team nicknames and mascots may be used on first reference.
When referring to Seton Hall University on first reference, use Seton Hall University or Seton Hall.
On subsequent references to Seton Hall capitalize University.

University Center
Use Bishop Dougherty University Center on first reference; University Center is acceptable on second reference.

University Libraries/Walsh Library
University Libraries is the term used to describe the department that administers the university’s academic resources.
Seton Hall University is conducting a search for a dean of University Libraries.
Walsh Library is the physical entity on the Seton Hall campus. When referring to entities within the building, their locations are designated within Walsh Library. Walsh Library is always singular, never plural.

University Mission Statement
Seton Hall University is a major Catholic university. In a diverse and collaborative environment it focuses on academic and ethical development. Seton Hall students are prepared to be leaders in their professional and community lives in a global society and are challenged by outstanding faculty, an evolving technologically advanced setting and values-centered curricula.

upcoming
This term is often used unnecessarily.

upperclass
When referring to juniors and seniors; not upper class.

upward
(not upwards)
URL

URL is an acronym for Uniform Resource Locator. The URL is an address on the web and usually begins with http://. When typing a web address in a computer’s browser, the http:// is not needed, so do not include it when including a URL in text.

Since a period is required at the end of a sentence, try to configure sentences so they do not end with a URL. If needed, a period can be added after a URL.

Test web addresses to make sure they work before they are put in print or online.

use/utilize

The verb use is preferred.

vacuum

Spell out in ordinary text. Use vs. in sports or informal text; use v. for court cases.

versus, v., vs.

Write as two words (vice president, vice chairman), no hyphen.

Walsh Gymnasium

Use Walsh Gymnasium on first reference; Walsh Gym is acceptable on second reference. Walsh Gymnasium is separate from the Richie Regan Recreation and Athletic Center and the Richard and Sheila Regan Field House; it is a building of its own.

web, web page

webcam, webcast, webinar, webmaster, website

weblog

blog is an acceptable short form.

weeklong
Hyphenate as part of a compound modifier when it comes before a noun. It is not hyphenated when it follows a noun:

A well-educated person will reap many benefits.
The candidate’s speech made her sound well educated.

**Exception:** When a compound modifier follows a form of the verb “to be,” then the hyphenation should remain. See the AP Stylebook for more information.
The model was well-dressed.

---

The term is hyphenated before a noun; it is not hyphenated when it follows a noun.
The well-known basketball player made his way through the arena.
The smuggler, well known for taking too many chances, was captured quickly.

**Exception:**
When “well-known” follows a form of the verb “to be,” then the hyphenation should remain. See the AP Stylebook for more information.
He was well-known for his generosity.

---

The University’s brand tagline, adopted in 2018, includes a period when it stands alone and is set in lowercase when part of a complete sentence.
Our law students show the world what great minds can do to ensure a just society.

---

**who’s/whose**

*Who’s* means who is or who has. *Whose* is possessive.

---

**-wide**

No hyphen for the suffix (*statewide, nationwide, worldwide*) unless it is used noun with a proper (*America-wide, Europe-wide*).

Hyphenate as part of a compound modifier.
wide-angle

---

**wintertime**

---

**Woman’s Guild**

Not Women’s Guild (for the Seton Hall organization)
words as words

As typically applied throughout the text portion of this guide, italicize words as words.

The word *hopefully* should be used with care and precision.

workday, workweek, workload, workplace, workstation

workforce

worship, worshipping, worshipped, worshipper

wrongdoing

WSOU-FM

WSOU and FM-89.5 are acceptable in subsequent references to the University’s radio station.

year-end

yearlong

You’re/your

You’re means you are. Your is possessive.

zero, zeros

ZIP code
Writing for the Web

Writing for the web poses unique challenges, since users do not like to spend a lot of time reading online. Instead they scan pages, trying to pick out a few sentences or even parts of sentences.

When people visit a website, they want information and they want it quickly. If you are putting a brochure or newsletter online, rewrite the copy to make it useful and effective for online readers.

STYLE ISSUES

• Strive to conform to this guide in all stylistic matters. We want to present a consistent look and feel conveying similar themes and messages.
• Limit explanatory phrases about faculty members, programs, colleges, schools or departments. Link to the related information. Thus, instead of saying, “Jane Doe, professor of theology,” you can save words and provide a link.
• Whenever possible, use a personal point of view or voice. Use of the first person (we) and second person (you) are encouraged.
• Do not include http:// when giving a web address.
• Turn off the automatic hyphenation tool of your word-processing program. You do not want excessive punctuation of any kind when writing for online readers.

READABILITY

• Documents must be concise and structured for rapid browsing. Use headings, bulleted lists (of six or fewer items), and bold text for words and sections you want to emphasize.
• Put the important information at the top of the page so users can find it quickly.
• Make sure the first sentence in any paragraph captures the essence of the paragraph. In many cases one sentence is all you need.
• Write as informally as is appropriate for your audience. Formal writing takes careful reading, and most online readers do not want to do that.
• Use bold for emphasis. Do not underline or use all caps.

BREVITY

• As a general rule, avoid empty chatter like welcoming text or instructions on using the site. Users are looking for information.
• Try to use no more than half the words you would use in a printed publication.
• Keep paragraphs short; they should be about 50 to 60 words long.
ACCURACY

• Keep your content up-to-date. Users expect the material to be current.

• If you are stating something as a fact, be sure it is a fact.

• Spellcheck and proofread your text (and have someone else proofread it as well) before putting it online.

LINKS

While writing or editing copy, think about places where it makes sense to add a link. Some guidelines:

• The name of the link should correspond to the name or title of the linked page. It can be confusing to the user if the link is Curriculum and the title of the linked page is Degree Requirements.

• Put only the most relevant and significant links in the body of your text. For example, don’t make every instance of the word Curriculum a link, but only at a natural jump-off point in the copy. Group minor, illustrative, or footnote links at the bottom of the page.

• Most links should lead to other documents on the Seton Hall site, not to external sites. Make sure readers know when they will be leaving the Seton Hall site.

• Don’t underline any copy in your site. Most browsers automatically display links with underlines, and underlining text that is not a link may confuse readers.
### Catholic Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Envelope, Inside Address, Program, Donor List</th>
<th>Speaking and Writing</th>
<th>Salutation in a Letter</th>
<th>In Person (Formal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pope John Paul II</td>
<td>Pope John Paul said, did, The Holy Father said, did, The Pope (the Pontiff) said</td>
<td>Your Holiness:</td>
<td>Your Holiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Edward Egan</td>
<td>Cardinal Egan said, did</td>
<td>Dear Cardinal Egan: Your Eminence:</td>
<td>How do you do, Your Eminence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend Paul A. Holmes, S.T.D.</td>
<td>Father Holmes said, did</td>
<td>Dear Father Holmes:</td>
<td>Thank you, Father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Transitional Deacon) Rev. Mr. Jay Jones (Permanent Deacon) Deacon Jay Smith</td>
<td>Deacon Jones said, did, Deacon Smith said, did</td>
<td>Dear Deacon Jones: Dear Deacon Smith:</td>
<td>How do you do, Deacon? How do you do, Deacon?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Paula Marie Buley, I.H.M., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Sister Paula Marie said, did</td>
<td>Dear Sister Paula Marie:</td>
<td>How do you do, Sister?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spell Out** – whenever possible—Monsignor (not Msgr.), Father (not Fr.), Sister (not Sr.), Reverend (not Rev.); Possible Exception: “Rev. Msgr.” There is no abbreviation for Bishop (not Bp.), Archbishop (not Abp.); Only a Cardinal can abbreviate: “Edward Card. Egan” – as part of his signature.

**Avoid referring to clergy and Religious by their last names; especially: “Buley said. ..” should be “Sister Paula Marie said. ..”**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Catholic priests</strong></th>
<th>Father (in all cases with a verb — in written or spoken speech)</th>
<th>Avoid: Reverend (in all cases with a verb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Christian ministers</strong></td>
<td>Reverend (in all cases, with or without a verb)</td>
<td>Avoid: Father (except for some Episcopalians)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mass, the Eucharist, the Liturgy, the Eucharistic Liturgy</strong></td>
<td>Father Holmes celebrated the Eucharist (but: he offered Mass in memory of the deceased alumni of the University; Mass was offered for her mother) or: Father Holmes celebrated Mass</td>
<td>Avoid: gave Mass, said Mass, offered Mass (except when specifically mentioning the person for whom the Mass is being offered)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Seminarians served the Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prayers</strong></td>
<td>Monsignor Liddy offered the opening prayer</td>
<td>Avoid: prayed the prayer, said the prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings</strong></td>
<td>Mrs. O’Henry proclaimed the first reading</td>
<td>Avoid: gave the reading, read the reading, offered the reading, read the Gospel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deacon Smith proclaimed (sang) the Gospel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concelebrated Mass</strong></td>
<td>Monsignor Sheeran presided at the Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monsignor Sheeran was the main celebrant of the Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Father Holmes and Monsignor Liddy were concelebrants at the Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Members of the Priest Community concelebrated the Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communion</strong></td>
<td>Father Holmes distributed Communion; the Faithful received Communion</td>
<td>Avoid: gave out Communion, offered Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ashes, palm</strong></td>
<td>Members of the Priest Community distributed (imposed) ashes</td>
<td>Avoid: gave out ashes, handed out palm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>but: Father Holmes blessed the ashes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ushers distributed palm to the assembly before Mass began</td>
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</tbody>
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