



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873[®]

Editorial Style Guide

April 2025

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Introduction

Marketing and Communications at Southeast Missouri State University distribute a range of materials every year from news releases and publications to advertisements and marketing materials. With the proliferation of materials published on campus, the need for consistency in style and usage is more important than ever.

Please refer to the information in the following pages when preparing text for publication in print or online, to ensure you are following the official editorial style of Southeast Missouri State University. This guide is a work in progress and will be updated regularly as the need arises. Please feel free to call Marcom at (573) 651-5158 with any questions you may have concerning University style.

News Dissemination Process

Marcom regularly distributes news releases to the media. Official University news releases are available to news media. News about the University should be distributed by Marcom. If you would like information distributed to the media in the form of an official University news release, please email news@semo.edu to assist you with this process. Marcom maintains lists of local and regional media contacts and has processes in place for disseminating news.

Formatting News Releases

1. News releases distributed must be accurate, grammatically correct, well written, and adhere to University and Associated Press Style.
2. Do not send out a news release with misspelled words. Proofread carefully and **spell check** every story. If you are in doubt about the spelling of a word, look it up.
3. Start all news releases on the news release template. Use 12-point Times New Roman font.
4. Headlines should be flush left, bold and in 14-point font with the first letter of each major word capitalized.
5. Start story with appropriate dateline after paragraph indent.

ie. “CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO. – The Southeast Missouri State University Board of Governors today voted to . . .

or

When SEMO stories originate from another city, modify as follows:

“SIKESTON, MO. – The Southeast Missouri State University Board of Governors today met at Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston to discuss...”

Refer to “The Associated Press Stylebook” for names of major cities that stand alone in datelines.

6. The lead paragraph of every story should make reference to “Southeast Missouri State University,” thus tying the story to the University.
7. Follow steps 8 and 9 only when the intent is to distribute hard copy news releases at an event. Following steps 8 and 9 are not necessary for stories to be published only online and distributed to media via email.

8. When news releases will be printed in hard copy format, use “###” at the bottom of the final page of a multiple-page story or at the bottom of a single-page story. This signifies the end of the news release. The pound signs “###” should be centered as well.
9. Do not distribute any story to media until it has been approved by the assistant vice president for Marketing & Communications. The AVP must review all stories and will make necessary edits prior to distribution.
10. When copying news releases, the first page of news releases should be copied on University letterhead or news template. Subsequent pages should be copied on plain copy paper.

Style

News writers are expected to be familiar with accepted journalistic style. Please refer frequently to “The Associated Press Stylebook” when preparing stories for release to the news media. Following is a list of some of the most commonly referred to rules. Please refer to “The Associated Press Stylebook” for items not covered here. “The Associated Press Stylebook” may be purchased at the University Bookstore or digital versions available online through a subscription.

ABBREVIATIONS

1. Do not abbreviate United States when used as a noun; only when used as an adjective.
2. Use the abbreviations Ave., Blvd. and St. only with a numbered address. (ie. **520 Normal Ave.**, but **Normal Avenue**) Do not abbreviate words **alley**, **drive**, **terrace**, **circle**, **road** and similar address designations. Spell out and capitalize First through Ninth as street names; use figures with two letters for 10th and above.
3. Abbreviate compass points when part of a numbered street address. Spell out if number is not given.
ie. **603 N. Henderson**, but **North Henderson**.
4. Spell out the names of the 50 U.S. states when used in the body of a story, whether standing alone or in conjunction with a city or town. No state name is necessary if it is the same as the dateline.

EIGHT NOT ABBREVIATED: The names of eight states are never abbreviated in datelines or text: **Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah.**

ABBREVIATIONS REQUIRED: Use the state abbreviations listed below:

--In conjunction with the name of a city or town **in most datelines.**

Ala.	Md.	N.D.
Ariz.	Mass.	Okla.
Ark.	Mich.	Ore.
Calif.	Minn.	Pa.
Colo.	Miss.	R.I.
Conn.	Mo.	S.C.
Del.	Mont.	S.D.
Fla.	Neb.	Tenn.
Ga.	Nev.	Vt.
Ill.	N.H.	Va.
Ind.	N.J.	Wash.
Kan.	N.M.	W.Va.
Ky.	N.Y.	Wis.
La.	N.C.	Wyo.

Do not use the two-letter postal abbreviations, except when being used with full addresses, including ZIP Code.

PUNCTUATION: Place one comma between the city and the state name, and another comma after the state name, unless ending a sentence or indicating a dateline.

5. Capitalize the names of months in all uses. When a month is used with a specific date, abbreviate only Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. Spell out when using alone or with a year alone.

When a phrase lists only a month and a year, do not separate the year with commas. When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas.

- ie. January 1972 was a cold month.
 Jan. 2 was the coldest day of the month.
 His birthday is May 8.
 Feb. 14, 1987, was the target date. [OBJ]

ACADEMIC MATTERS

1. On first reference, the University should be referred to as **Southeast Missouri State University**.

On second reference, the **University**, **SEMO**, or **Southeast Missouri State** is acceptable.

2. Use an apostrophe in **bachelor's degree**, **master's degree**, etc.
ie. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

3. When stating the full degree, capitalize the name of the degree, but not the discipline, unless the discipline is part of the formal name of the degree.

Correct: He holds a Bachelor of Science in biology

Correct: He earned a Bachelor of Science in Education (formal name of the degree)

The only disciplines that should be capitalized in degree names are names of foreign languages, such as English.

Correct: She has a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Do not use the word "degree" when the formal academic degree title is already referenced as this is repetitive. An exception would be for online references when necessary for search engine optimization (SEO).

- Correct: She holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.
 Incorrect: She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.
4. The Master of Business Administration or Master of Business Administration program is referred to on second reference as the MBA (no periods) program.
 5. Use **doctoral degree** or **doctorate**. Do not use doctorate degree.
 Correct: He holds a **doctoral degree** in physics.
 He holds a doctorate in physics.
 Incorrect: He holds a doctorate degree in physics.
 6. Omit periods in most acronyms for academic degrees with three letters or more, Use periods for abbreviations of two letters.
 Correct: B.S. in chemistry
 Correct: B.A. in dance
 Correct: BFA in dance
 Exception: Ph.D.
 7. **Course work** is two words. [OBJ]
 8. In references to academic departments, they should be called “**Department of (discipline)**”
The words “Department” and the discipline (ie. Music) should both be uppercased.
 Correct:
 Department of Engineering and Technology
 Department of English
 Department of Music
 Incorrect:
 Music Department
 English Department
 When referring to multiple departments in the same reference, lowercase the word “departments” and the discipline, except when the discipline is a proper noun, such as English.
 ie. “The **departments of math and biology** are cosponsoring a conference today.”
 ie. “The **departments of English and psychology** are cosponsoring a conference today.”
 9. Lowercase names of disciplines, except in reference to languages.
 ie. He is studying **mathematics** and **English**.
 ie. She is majoring in **Spanish** with a minor in **history**.

10. **Healthcare** is **one** word when used in reference to degree programs and courses incorporating the word healthcare, such as:
- Bachelor of Science in **Healthcare** Management.
Master of Science in **Healthcare** Management
11. **Capitalize college when part of a proper name:** “The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is planning a field trip to visit Boeing in St. Louis,” but “The college currently has five departments.”
12. Please refer to the following list for the proper names of SEMO’s Colleges.
- College of Education, Health and Human Services
 - College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
 - Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing
 - Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts and Media
13. Please refer to the following list for the proper names of SEMO’s academic departments.

Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing

Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance

Department of Computer Science

Department of Management

Department of Marketing

College of Education, Health, and Human Studies

Department of Child and Family Studies

Department of Communication Disorders

Department of Elementary, Early, and Special Education

Department of Allied Health, Kinesiology, and Sport Sciences

Department of Leadership, Middle, and Secondary Education

Department of Nursing

Department of Psychology and Counseling

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Communication Studies and Modern Languages

Department of Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Sociology

Department of English

Department of History and Anthropology

Department of Political Science, Philosophy, and Religion

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Department of Agriculture

Department of Biology

Department of Chemistry and Physics

Department of Engineering and Technology

Department of Mathematics

Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts and Media

Department of Art and Design

Department of Mass Media

Department of Music

The Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance (“The” should always precede this name and should be capitalized.)

14. The Jane Stephens Honors Program is always referred to as such on first reference. On second reference, "Stephens Honors Program" may be used.
15. The word “theatre” should always be spelled as such, both in reference to a facility or the art.

ACRONYMS

1. In general, avoid alphabet soup. Do not use abbreviations or acronyms which the reader would not recognize. Acronyms should be used only in second and subsequent references. On first use in a story, use the full name of the organization, followed by parentheses containing the abbreviation you intend to use thereafter.

First reference:

ie. Center for Scholarship in Teaching and Learning (CSTL)

Second reference:

ie. The CSTL will hold training sessions Jan. 10-13.

2. Omit periods in most acronyms of three letters or more, unless the result spells an unrelated word. Use periods for abbreviations of two letters. (ie. CIA, FBI, U.S.). This also applies to acronyms for academic degree titles.

Correct: B.S. in chemistry

Correct: B.A. in dance

Correct: BFA in dance

Exception: Ph.D.

Exception: A.P.P.L.E. Project

Commonly used University acronyms:

AFROTC - Air Force ROTC

CAC - Cultural Arts Center

CAP – Certified Administrative Professional

CSTL - Center for Scholarship in Teaching and Learning

CPA - Certified Public Accountant

CTS - Clerical Technical Service Employee Staff Council

CBHE - Coordinating Board for Higher Education

DPS - Department of Public Safety
FFR - Funding For Results
IFC – Interfraternity Council
ITV—Instructional Television
MBA—Master of Business Administration
MAP—Missouri Assessment Program
MMTF – Multi-Modal Transfer Facility
MOBIUS—Missouri Bibliographic Information User System
NPC – National Panhellenic Council
NPHC – National Pan-Hellenic Council
OVC – Ohio Valley Conference
RPDC—Regional Professional Development Center
RHA—Residence Hall Association
SAC—Student Activities Council
SBDC—Small Business Development Center
SGA – Student Government Association
TRIO – TRIO Programs
UC—University Center

AGE

Always use figures. When the context does not require *years* or *years old*, the figure is presumed to be years. Ages expressed as adjectives before a noun or as substitutes for a noun use hyphens.

ie. A 5-year-old boy, but the boy is 5 years old. The woman, 26, has a daughter 2 months old. The law is 8 years old. The race is for 3-year-olds. The woman is in her 30s (no apostrophe).

ALUMNI

On first reference, use “**Southeast Missouri State University or SEMO Alumni Association.**” On second and subsequent references, “**Alumni Association**” is acceptable. “Alumni Relations” is the name of an office only and should not be used.

Correct

Homecoming is sponsored by the Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Association.

Incorrect

Homecoming is sponsored by Alumni Relations.

Alumni References

alumnus - a male graduate

alumna - a female graduate

alumni - plural form for a group of male and female graduates or a group of male graduates

alumnae - plural form for a group of female graduates

AMPERSAND

Use the word “and” rather than an ampersand in body copy. An ampersand may be used in the title of a department or heading.

ATHLETICS

1. Men’s and women’s athletic teams at SEMO are known as the Redhawks.
2. “SEMO” is acceptable on second reference as it concerns SEMO athletic teams.
3. The “R” of Redhawks should always be capitalized.
4. Use “Redhawks” as a noun (i.e. “the football Redhawks”).
5. Use “Redhawk” as an adjective (i.e. “Redhawk football”).
6. Redhawk/Redhawks is one word
7. Names of sports, used in combination with athletic teams, are lowercased.

ie. The football Redhawks knocked off Murray State in their home opener last night.
ie. The softball Redhawks will take on Southern Illinois University at 2 p.m. at the Southeast Softball Complex.
8. “Halftime” is one word.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. Capitalize “Board of Governors.”
2. Governor should be capitalized in the following usage:
Board Governor Donald LaFerla
3. On second reference, the Board of Governors may be referred to as “the Board.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In all references, lowercase “board of directors.”

ie. He serves on the board of directors of Saint Francis Healthcare.

BOX OFFICES

When writing about the purchase of tickets, use **Show Me Center Box Office** or **River Campus Box Office**.

BUILDINGS/FACILITIES/CENTERS/OPERATIONS

When referring to buildings, facilities, centers and other operations on SEMO's campus and on SEMO's satellite campuses, please refer to the following list for the proper terminology.

Abe Stuber Track and Field Complex
Academic Hall
Academic Hall Auditorium
Aleen Vogel Wehking Alumni Center
Art Building
Arrow
Baptist Student Center
Barbara Hope Kem Statuary Hall
Behavior Health and Accessibility
Boiler Plant
Brandt Hall of Music
Campus Health Clinic
Capaha Field – home field for SEMO baseball Redhawks
Carnahan Hall
Catapult Creative House
Catholic Campus Ministry (encompasses Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas,
Newman Center and Marquette Center)
Center for Environmental Analysis
Center for Faulkner Studies
Center for Regional History
Center for Scholarship in Teaching and Learning
Center for Speech and Hearing
Center for Student Involvement
Center for Writing Excellence
Central Receiving
Charles Hutson Horticulture Greenhouse
Charles Nemanick Alternative Agriculture Garden
Charles Stamp Cyber Command Center
Cheney Hall
Copper Dome Cafe
Cyber Range
Cultural Arts Center (CAC) (adjacent to Seminary Building at
River Campus)
David M. Barton Agriculture Research Center
Dempster Auditorium (located in Rosemary Berkel Crisp Hall of Nursing)
Department of Public Safety (campus police)
Donald C. Bedell Performance Hall
Donald G. and Gloria King LaFerla Residence Hall
Douglas C. Greene Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts and Media
EDvolution Center
Facilities Management
Forrest H. Rose Theatre (*note the spelling of Theatre)

General Services 1
 General Services 2
 General Services 4
 Grauel Building
 Greek Village
 Group Housing
 Harrison-Huhn East Wing (at River Campus)
 Houck Field House – home to SEMO gymnastics and SEMO volleyball
 Houck's Place
 Houck Field
 Human Resources
 Information Technology
 Institute of Gerontology
 International Education and Services
 Jane Stephens Honors Program
 Jeanine Larson Dobbins Plaza (located between Mark F. Scully Building and Rhodes Hall)
 John and Betty Glenn Auditorium (located in Robert A. Dempster Hall)
 Johnson Faculty Centre (***note** the spelling of Centre)
 Johnson Hall
 Kala M. Stroup Fountain on the Plaza
 Kenneth and Jeanine Dobbins River Campus Center
 Kent Library
 KRCU Radio
 Law Enforcement Academy
 Learning Assistance Programs
 Magill Hall
 Mark F. Scully Building
 Memorial Hall
 Multi-Modal Transfer Facility (park and ride lot)
 Myers Hall
 Otto and Della Seabaugh Polytechnic Building
 Pacific Hall
 Parker Hall
 Rare Book Room
 Redhawks Market
 Regional Professional Development Center
 Rhodes Hall of Science
 River Campus
 River Campus Box Office
 Robert A. Dempster Hall (***note:** Glenn Auditorium is in Robert A. Dempster Hall. Dempster Auditorium is in Rosemary Berkel Crisp Hall of Nursing.)
 Robert F. and Gertrude L. Shuck Music Recital Hall
 Rosemary Berkel Crisp Hall of Nursing (***note:** Dempster Auditorium is in Rosemary Berkel Crisp Hall of Nursing and is **not** in Robert A. Dempster Hall)
 Rosemary Berkel and Harry L. Crisp II Museum

Rosengarten Athletic Complex
 Rowdy's
 Rust House
 Sadie's Place
 Seminary Building (historic red brick building on River Campus)
 SEMO Online
 Serena
 Show Me Center
 Show Me Center Box Office
 Skylight Terrace
 Small Business Development Center
 Southeast Law Enforcement Academy
 Southeast Missouri Music Academy
 Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment
 (*Southeast Autism Center or University Autism Center on second reference)
 Southeast Missouri State University-Kennett
 Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston
 Southeast Softball Complex
 Special Collections and Archives
 St. Vincent's Commons
 Starbucks
 Student Financial Services
 Student Recreation Center
 Subway
 Textbook Rental
 The Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance (*note: "The" is
 part of the official title.)
 The Missouri Research Corporation (*note: "The" is part of the official title.)
 Towers Landing
 Towers Complex
 Transitway
 University Bookstore
 University Center
 University School for Young Children (USYC)
 Wendy Kurka Rust Flexible Theatre
 Wesley House
 Willard Duncan Vandiver Hall
 William A. and Christene Merick Residence Hall
 Wildwood

COLLEGES

- College of Education, Health and Human Services
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing
- Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts and Media

COMMAS IN A SERIES

For media communications, use commas to separate elements in a series, but do not put a comma before the conjunction in a simple series.

- ie. The flag is red, white and blue.
- ie. He would nominate Tom, Dick or Harry.

Put a comma before the concluding conjunction in a series, however, if an integral element of the series requires a conjunction or you are writing body copy in materials for audiences other than the media.

- ie. I had orange juice, toast, and ham and eggs for breakfast.

Use a comma also before the concluding conjunction in a complex series of phrases.

- ie. The main points to consider are whether the athletes are skillful enough to compete, whether they have the stamina to endure the training, and whether they have the proper mental attitude.

COMMON HOUR

The Common Hour (both words uppcased in all references) is the period of time each Wednesday during the academic year from noon to 1:15 p.m. when no classes are scheduled across the campus. The purpose of the Common Hour at SEMO is to provide the opportunity for students, faculty and staff to develop a sense of community by participating in a variety of intellectually stimulating, socially relevant activities.

COMPOSITION TITLES

1. Titles of books should have quotation marks around them or be italicized on all references. Principal words in a title should be capitalized. Articles such as *the*, *a*, *an* or words with fewer than three letters should be capitalized if they are the first or last words in a title.

- ie. "Of Mice and Men" is a literary classic.
- ie. "Against All Enemies" is a New York Times best seller.

The only composition titles that should not include quotation marks are the Bible, the Quran and other holy books that are primarily catalogs of reference material. In addition to catalogs, this category includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, etc.

2. Put quotation marks around song titles, play titles, titles of lectures and speeches. Do not italicize.

- ie. Selections on the concert program will include "Fantasia in G," "Folk Song Suite," "Irish Tune from County Derry," "Shepherd's Hey" and "First Suite in E flat, Opus 28, No. 1."

CONTACT INFORMATION

When including contact information in University publications, the standardized closure should follow this format:

Office of XXXXXX
Southeast Missouri State University
One University Plaza MS NNNN
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4710
(573) NNN-NNNN
department@semo.edu
semo.edu

Here is the format, using the Office of Admissions as an example:

Office of Admissions
Southeast Missouri State University
One University Plaza MS 3550
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4710
(573) 651-2590
admissions@semo.edu
semo.edu

DATES

1. Always use Arabic figures, without *st*, *nd*, *rd* or *th*.
ie. Dec. 1 not Dec. 1st
2. When referring to a span of time, hyphenation is acceptable.
Correct
The carnival is scheduled for Sept. 23-26.
Incorrect
The carnival is scheduled for Sept. 23 to Sept. 26.
3. When referring to the time of an event use the following sequence
1) time
2) date
3) place
ie. The concert is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Show Me Center.
4. Capitalize the names of months in all uses. When a month is used with a specific date, abbreviate only Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. Spell out when using alone, or with a year alone.

ie. Jan. 5

ie. June 23

ie. Spring semester classes at Southeast Missouri State University begin in January.

- ie. The cybersecurity program began in August 2011.
5. When a phrase lists only a month and a year, do not separate the year with commas. When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas.
- ie. Registration for student parking permits opens in July 2025.
- ie. Commencement is planned for May 10, 2025, at the Show Me Center.

DEANS

- Dr. Kevin Dickson, interim dean of the Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing
- Dr. Tamela Randolph, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Paul Sharpe, dean of Kent Library
- Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Joe Pujol, dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Studies
- Rhonda Weller-Stilson, dean of the Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts Media

DEPARTMENTS (Academic)

Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing

Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance
Department of Computer Science
Department of Management
Department of Marketing

College of Education, Health, and Human Studies

Department of Child and Family Studies
Department of Communication Disorders
Department of Elementary, Early, and Special Education
Department of Allied Health, Kinesiology, and Sports Sciences
Department of Leadership, Middle and Secondary Education
Department of Nursing
Department of Psychology and Counseling

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Communication Studies and Modern Languages
Department of Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Sociology
Department of English
Department of History and Anthropology
Department of Political Science, Philosophy, and Religion

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Department of Agriculture

Department of Biology

Department of Chemistry and Physics

Department of Engineering and Technology

Department of Mathematics

Holland College of Arts and Media

Department of Art and Design

Department of Mass Media

Department of Music

The Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance (“The” should always precede this name and should be capitalized.)

DOLLARS

1. Always lowercase the word “dollars.”
2. Use figures and the “\$” in all except casual references or amounts without a figure.
 - ie. The book cost \$4.
 - ie. The student used a dollar to buy candy at the University Bookstore.
 - ie. Dollars are flowing in the local economy.
3. For specified amounts, the word takes a singular verb.
 - ie. Southeast Missouri State University-Kennett's fund-raising goal is \$400,000.
4. For amounts of more than \$1 million, use the “\$” and numerals up to two decimal places. Do not link the numerals and the word by a hyphen.
 - ie. The project is budgeted at \$35.6 million.
 - ie. It is worth exactly \$35,605,432.
 - ie. He proposed a \$42 million budget.
5. The form for amounts less than \$1 million: \$4, \$25, \$500, \$1,000, \$650,000

FISCAL YEARS

The University’s fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. When referring to fiscal years, “FY” or “fiscal” is acceptable.

Correct: FY2025 (note no space between FY and 2025)

Correct: fiscal 2025

Incorrect: fiscal year 2025 (the word “year” is repetitive in this context because 2025 represents the year.)

Incorrect: Fiscal Year 2025

FOUNDATION

The official name of the foundation is the **Southeast Missouri University Foundation** and should be used on first reference. The word “State” is **not** part of this title.

“University Foundation” is acceptable on second and subsequent references.

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

1. **Interfraternity Council (IFC)** serves as the governing body for fraternities associated with the North American Conference (NIC).

Use “Interfraternity Council” on first reference and “IFC” on second and subsequent references. On first use in a story, use the full name of the organization, followed by parentheses containing the abbreviation.

Members of SEMO’s IFC are:

Delta Chi
Lambda Chi Alpha
Phi Delta Theta
Pi Kappa Alpha
Sigma Chi
Sigma Nu
Sigma Phi Epsilon
Sigma Tau Gamma
Tau Kappa Epsilon
Theta Xi

2. **Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC)** is the governing board for the seven sororities associated with the National Panhellenic Council.

Use Collegiate Panhellenic Council on first reference and CPC on second and subsequent references. On first use in a story, use the full name of the organization, followed by parentheses containing the abbreviation.

Members of SEMO’s CPC are:

Alpha Chi Omega
Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Phi
Alpha Xi Delta
Delta Delta Delta
Gamma Phi Beta
Sigma Sigma Sigma

3. **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)** is an organization that works to support the mission of the nine member organizations of NPHC. Six of the nine chartered NPHC chapters are active at SEMO. Use National Pan-Hellenic Council on first reference and NPHC on second and subsequent references. On first use in a story, use the full name of the organization, followed by parentheses containing the abbreviation.

Sororities and fraternities holding membership in NPHC at SEMO are:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

GOVERNING BOARDS

Academic Council reviews the administration of academic programs, suggests planning and budgeting actions, and advises the provost of proposed changes in academic programs.

The governing board for the University is called the **Board of Governors**. Uppercase on first reference. On second and subsequent references, use “the Board.”

The governing board for the Show Me Center is the **Show Me Center Board of Managers**. Uppercase on first reference. Use “board of managers” on second and subsequent references.

The governing board for the River Campus is the **River Campus Board of Managers**. Uppercase on first reference. Use “board of managers” on second and subsequent references.

The **Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE)** oversees the Missouri Department of Higher Education. Uppercase on all references. Use CBHE on second and subsequent references.

Executive Staff refers to the president of the University and his senior administrative team. Lowercase except when the term starts a sentence.

Administrative Council is a campus organization whose membership comprises University administrators. Uppercase on all references.

Faculty Senate is the leadership body for SEMO faculty. Uppercase on first reference. Use “the Senate” on second and subsequent references.

Professional Staff Council is the leadership body for University employees classified as professional staff. Uppercase on first references. Use PSC on second and subsequent references.

Clerical-Technical-Service (CTS) Employee Staff Council is the leadership body for University employees classified in clerical, technical or service positions. Uppercase on first reference. Use “CTS” on second and subsequent references.

MAGAZINE TITLES

Magazine titles should be capitalized and italicized. Lowercase magazine unless it is part of the publication's formal title.

ie. Harper's Magazine

ie. Newsweek magazine

ie. Time magazine

MINORITY TERMINOLOGY

1. Black(s), white(s) (n.). Do not use either term as a singular noun. For plurals, phrasing such as *Black people*, *white people*, *Black teachers*, *white students* is often preferable when clearly relevant. The plural nouns *Blacks* and *whites* are generally acceptable when clearly relevant and needed for reasons of space or sentence construction.
2. Black (adj.). Use the capitalized term as an adjective in a racial, ethnic or cultural sense: *Black people*, *Black culture*, *Black literature*, *Black studies*, *Black colleges*.
3. African American. *African American* is also acceptable for those in the U.S. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. Americans of Caribbean heritage, for example, generally refer to themselves as *Caribbean American*. Follow an individual's preference if known and be specific when possible and relevant.
4. American Indians, Native American
Both are acceptable terms in general references for those in the U.S. when referring to two or more people of different tribal affiliations. For individuals, use the name of the tribal affiliations; if that information is not immediately available, try to obtain it. *He is a Navajo commissioner. She is a member of*

the Nisqually Indian Tribe. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Some tribes and tribal nations use *member*; others use *citizen*. If in doubt, use *citizen*. Avoid words such as wampum, warpath, powwow, teepee, brave, squaw, etc., which can be disparaging and offensive. In Alaska, the Indigenous groups are collectively known as Alaska Natives.

5. Hispanic is the preferred term for those whose ethnic origin is in a Spanish-speaking land or country. *Latino, Latina or Latinx* are sometimes preferred. Follow the person's preference. Use a more specific identification when possible, such as *Cuban, Puerto Rican* or *Mexican-American*.

MUSIC TERMINOLOGY

**Titles of selections to be performed at concerts should have quotation marks around them and should not be italicized.

Current Southeast Music Ensembles include:

1. **Chamber Choir**

Use "Chamber Choir" on first reference. Use "the choir" on second and subsequent references.

2. **Choral Union**

Use "Choral Union" on first and all subsequent references. Do not use an abbreviated title. ("The Union" is incorrect.)

3. **Clark Terry/Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Festival**

Use the full title on first reference. Use "jazz festival" on second and subsequent references.

4. **Concert Band**

Use "Concert Band" on first reference and "the band" on second and subsequent references.

5. **Iota Psi chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia**

Use "Iota Psi chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia" on first reference and "the Iota Psi chapter" on second and subsequent references.

6. **Jazz Lab Band**

Use "Jazz Lab Band" on first reference. Use "the band" on second and subsequent references.

7. **Opera Theatre Workshop**

Use "Opera Theatre Workshop" on first reference. Use "the workshop" on second and subsequent references.

8. **Percussion Ensemble**

Use “Percussion Ensemble” on first reference. Use “the ensemble” on second and subsequent references.

9. Southeast Chamber Winds

Use “Southeast Chamber Winds” on first reference. Use “chamber winds” on second and subsequent references.

10. Southeast Guitar Ensemble

Use “Southeast Guitar Ensemble” on first reference. Use “guitar ensemble” on second and subsequent references.

11. Southeast Missouri Music Academy

Use “Southeast Missouri Music Academy” on first reference and “the Music Academy” on second and subsequent references.

12. Southeast Missouri State University Color Guard

Use “Southeast Missouri State University Color Guard” on first reference. Use “the guard” on second and subsequent references.

13. Southeast Missouri State University Marching Band

Use “Southeast Missouri State University Marching Band” on first reference. Use “Southeast Marching Band” on second and subsequent references. The Marching Band is also referred to as “The Pride of the Heartland.”

14. Southeast Missouri Symphony Orchestra

Use the full name on first reference. Use “the orchestra” on second and subsequent references.

15. Southeast Show Band

Use “Southeast Show Band” on first reference. Use “the show band” on second and subsequent references.

16. Steel Drum Band

17. Studio Jazz Ensemble

Use “Studio Jazz Ensemble” on first reference. Use “the ensemble” on second and subsequent references.

18. Southeast Wind Symphony

Use “Southeast Wind Symphony” on first reference. Use “wind symphony” on second and subsequent references.

19. University Choir

Use “University Choir” on first reference. Use “the choir” on second and subsequent references.

20. Faculty Brass Quintet

Use “Faculty Brass Quintet” on first reference. Use “the quintet” on second and subsequent references.

NEWSPAPER NAMES

Newspaper titles should be italicized. Capitalize *the* in a newspaper's name if that is the way the publication prefers to be known.

ie. The New York Times

ie. the Southeast Missourian

Where location is needed but is not part of the official name, use parentheses.

ie. St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch.

NUMERALS

1. Spell out whole numbers below 10; use figures for 10 and above.
ie. They had three sons and two daughters
ie. They had a fleet of 10 station wagons and two buses.
2. Spell out *first* through *ninth* when they indicate sequence in time or location: *first base, the First Amendment, he was first in line*. Starting with *10th* use figures.
3. Spell out a numeral at the beginning of a sentence. If necessary, recast the sentence. There is one exception – a numeral that identifies a calendar year.
i.e.
Incorrect
993 freshmen entered SEMO last year.
Correct
Last year, 993 freshmen entered SEMO.
Correct
1976 was a very good year.
4. With proper names, use words or numerals according to an organization's practice: *3M, Twentieth Century Fund, Big Ten*.

ON CAMPUS/OFF CAMPUS

Hyphenate “on campus/off campus” only when using these as adjectives. When using these terms as adverbs, they do not require hyphenation.

Adjectives

ie. The sorority members live in an off-campus house.

ie. The smoke detectors are being provided to off-campus students.

Adverbs

- ie. Journey magazine is hosting a poetry reading on campus today.
- ie. The concert is being held off campus in Old St. Vincent's Church.

PERCENT

One word. It takes a singular verb when standing alone or when a singular word follows an *of* construction:

- ie. The teacher said 60 percent was a failing grade.
- ie. He said 50 percent of the membership was there.

It takes a plural verb when a plural word follows an *of* construction.

- ie. He said 50 percent of the members were there.

PERCENTAGES

Use figures

- ie. 1 percent
- ie. 2.5 percent (use decimals, not fractions)
- ie. 10 percent

For amounts less than 1 percent, precede the decimal with a zero.

- ie. The cost of living rose 0.6 percent.

Repeat *percent* with each individual figure.

- ie. He said 10 percent to 30 percent of the electorate may not vote.

PHONE NUMBERS

All phone numbers should be written in the following format:

- ie. (573) XXX-XXXX

PUBLICATIONS

SEMO's student newspaper is called Arrow.

RESIDENCE HALLS

A complete listing of on-campus living facilities follows.

Towers Complex (contains Towers North, Towers South, Towers East, Towers West)
Donald G. and Gloria King LaFerla Hall
Group Housing (where Fraternity and Sorority students are housed)
Greek Village (where Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha are currently housed.)
Kenneth and Jeanine Dobbins River Campus Center
Willard Duncan Vandiver Hall
William A. and Christene Merick Residence Hall

SEASONS/SEMESTERS

Do not capitalize seasons of the year or semesters but do capitalize events of the collegiate year.

ie. Family Weekend, Homecoming

ie. fall semester, spring semester

STUDENTS

When referring to a student in a news release, please look up the student's name in Banner to determine if the student has requested a confidentiality hold. If there is a hold, news releases about the student cannot be issued. If there is no hold, look up the student's hometown, year in school and major, and use this information on first reference after confirming with the student.

i.e. Mary Smith of Perryville, Missouri, a junior political science major, is coordinating the voter registration drive.

or

Mary Smith, a junior political science major from Perryville, Missouri, is coordinating the voter registration drive.

TERMINOLOGY

accreditation – is an often misspelled word

book launch – is two words

book signing – is two words

course work - is two words

executive staff – refers to the president of the University and his senior administrative team. Lowercase except when the term starts a sentence.

ground-breaking - is hyphenated

halftime – one word

Homecoming – capitalize on all references

long-term, long term – Hyphenate when used as a compound modifier: (ie. “We will win in the long term. He has a long-term assignment.”)

multicultural – is one word

ribbon-cutting – is hyphenated

short-term, short term - Hyphenate when used as a compound modifier: (ie. “The University plans to accomplish the goal in the short term. This is a short-term issue.)

underway – is one word in all references

THAT

Use the conjunction “that” to introduce a dependent clause if the sentence sounds or looks awkward without it. There are no hard and fast rules. However, if you use “that,” go back and reread the sentence. If the sentence makes sense without it, drop “that” from the sentence. Use of “that” is often unnecessary.

Unnecessary Use of “That”: Reinagel plans to hone his international business skills so that he can succeed in the job market.

Correct: Reinagel plans to hone his international business skills so he can succeed in the job market.

TIME

1. Use “Monday, “Tuesday,” etc., for days of the week within seven days before or after the current date. Use the month and a figure for dates beyond this range. Avoid such redundancies as “last Tuesday” or “next Tuesday.” The past, present or future tense used for the verb usually provides adequate indication of which Tuesday is meant.

ie. He said he finished the job Tuesday. She will return on Tuesday.

2. When referring to the time that an event will take place, the preferred order of the elements is 1) time 2) day 3) place.

ie. The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. Sept. 23 in Academic Auditorium.

3. Use figures except for “noon” and “midnight.” Use a colon to separate hours from minutes. Do not use “00” in reference to times at the top of the hour.

Correct

11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Incorrect

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

TITLES

1. Names of faculty members, on first reference, should be **preceded by Dr.** (when appropriate) and followed by a **comma, their academic title, and another comma**. Please refer to the University Bulletin for current faculty titles.

ie. Leisa Marshall, professor of economics, recently commented on the national economic downturn.

- ie. Dr. Jeremy Barnes, professor of allied health, kinesiology and sport sciences spoke to the group about the benefits of aerobic exercise.
- ie. Dr. Martin Reynolds, director of the Southeast Marching Band, said the fall football season will open with a spectacular performance.
2. Titles, in general, should be **lowercased** when they follow a name and **uppercased** when they precede a name.
- ie. Dr. Brad Hodson, president of Southeast Missouri State University
- ie. President Brad Hodson
3. Names of staff members, on first reference, should include first and last name, followed by a **comma, their title and another comma**. Please refer to the University People Directory for current staff titles.
- ie. Lenell Hahn, director of Admissions, spoke at Show Me Day.
4. Titles containing **official names of units** should be uppercased. **Functional titles or titles that contain offices within units** should be lowercased.
- ie. Tom Hadler, **design project manager with Facilities Management**, said construction on the project should begin in November.
- ie. Tess Rainey, **communication manager**, commented on the University's Horizons Program.
- ie. Dr. Bruce Skinner, **interim vice president for enrollment management and student success**, said students should begin moving into residence halls on Aug. 21.
5. On second reference, faculty and staff members should be referred to by their last names.
- ie. **Harley** said higher education in Missouri faces budgetary challenges.
6. Middle initials are never used, except when referring to major donors for whom buildings have been named.
- ie. Donald G. and Gloria King LaFerla Hall
- ie. Donald **L.** Harrison College of Business and Computing
7. First initials are used only when a person uses their first initial but is known by their middle name.
- ie. L. Randy Carter, assistant dean of students

8. When referring to the president of the University in **formal, external correspondence**, use Dr. Brad Hodson, president of Southeast Missouri State University. In **internal and more casual references**, use, **Brad Hodson**, president of Southeast Missouri State University, or **Dr. Brad Hodson**, president of Southeast Missouri State University.
9. In referring to heads of academic departments, the proper terminology is **“department chair”** or **“chair.”**
- ie. Dr. Susan Kendrick is currently serving as department chair.
- ie. Dr. Susan Kendrick, chair of the Department of English, led a discussion on writing at a national conference.
- Lowercase **department** and uppercase **Chair** in references such as:
- ie. department Chair Susan Kendrick
10. In referring to heads of colleges and schools, the proper terminology is **dean**.
- ie. Dr. Kevin Dickson, interim **dean** of the Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing
- ie. Dr. Tamela Randolph, **dean** of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Deans

- Dr. Kevin Dickson, interim dean of the Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing
 - Dr. Tamela Randolph, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - Paul Sharpe, dean of Kent Library
 - Dr. Eric Bain-Selbo, interim dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Dr. Joe Pujol, dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Studies
 - Rhonda Weller-Stilson, dean of the Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts Media
11. Lowercase modifiers such as **history** in **history** Professor Steven Hoffman.
12. Do not precede a name with Dr. and follow it with their academic degree, as in Dr. John Kraemer, Ph.D. Preferred usage is Dr. John Kraemer, who has a doctoral degree in biology/environmental science.

TRIO PROGRAMS

SEMO has two federal TRIO programs on campus. They are:

1. Student Support Services
2. Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

YEAR

1. Use figures, without commas: “1975.” Use an “s” without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries: the 1970s, the 1800s. Years are the lone exception to the general rule in numerals that a figure is not used to start a sentence.

ie. 1976 was a very good year.

2. When referring to a date within the current year, it is not necessary to state the year. References such as “last year” or “next year” also are adequate without stating the year.
3. When using a specific date, the year should be preceded and followed by a comma.

ie. On Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy struck this country.