

STYLE GUIDE

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Office of Communications and Marketing

Last updated: Sept. 27, 2017 (revised alumni reference section to reflect rules on dual degrees)

In general, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences follows the AP Stylebook in all publications. For matters concerning the University of Illinois, LAS style adheres to the Writing Style Guide under the Illinois Identity Standards, found at <http://identitystandards.illinois.edu/writingstyleguide/>. LAS style also includes certain exceptions to the AP Stylebook and the Writing Style Guide (see below).

Occasional deviations from style and grammatical rules are acceptable if it improves the effectiveness of a particular message.

Exceptions to the AP Stylebook and the Writing Style Guide (and points of clarification) are as follows:

Advisor: End the word with –or, not –er.

Alumni references: The proper first reference is name (degree designation, 'year, major). For example, Richard Berkowitz (BS, '79, biology; MD, '83). If the person has multiple degrees in the same subject, the proper form is Name (degree type, year; degree type 2, year; degree type 3, year; subject). For example, Charles Getz (BS, '32; MS, '34; PhD, '38; chemistry).

For multiple degrees of the same type (BA, BS, etc.) and year, the reference can simply list both subjects after the degree type and year. For example, John Smith (BA, '15, English and Asian American studies). However, if the degrees are different types—even if it's BA vs. BS—each degree needs its own complete reference. For example, Jane Peabody (BA, '10, communication; BS, '10, chemistry) or Paul Jones (BA, '75, history; BS, '77, mathematics).

For multiple degrees of varying type, list all degrees of the same subject together so that each subject is listed only once. The first subject listed should be the one for the degree that was earned first. If two or more degree subjects were earned the same year, list the subject with the most degrees first. For example, Paul M. Lisnek (BA, '80; MA, '80; PhD, '86, speech communication; BA, '80, political science; JD, '83).

Note: No periods separate letters in degree designation, i.e. BA, BS, MA, MS, PhD, JD, and MD are all proper references.

Specific alumni degree references should reflect the name of degree at the time of graduation, even if the name of the degree-granting unit has since changed. For example, Jean Driscoll should be listed as Jean Driscoll (AB, '91, speech communication; MS, '93, rehabilitation administration) even though the Department of Speech Communication has since been renamed the Department of Communication.

Proper general usage (per AP style) is shown below:

-Alumni: plural males or mixed gender

-Alumnae: plural females only

-Alumnus: single male

-Alumna: single female

-Alum or alums: Permissible in certain social media posts where character count is an issue

Ampersands: Ampersands (&) are not acceptable in text unless they occur 1) in reference to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; or 2) in a title.

Apostrophes: Follow AP style. For proper nouns ending in S, such as the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences or College of LAS, just add an apostrophe. For example: The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' teaching programs are the best on campus. As a point of clarification, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is a noun plural in form but singular in meaning, which means that the possessive form is as described here.

Attribution: For story attribution, see the Bylines entry. Graphics and photos taken by photographers for the College of LAS (or photographers paid by LAS) do not require attribution. If space and other circumstances allow, graphics and photos created/taken by other communications units on campus should have attribution, i.e., (Photo by L. Brian Stauffer.) or (Graphic by Julie McMahon.), but it is not necessary. Graphics/photos given to us for use in the story should be credited, i.e., (Graphic courtesy of Atul Jain.) Graphics/photos obtained from outside organizations will be attributed, i.e., (Photo by Ryan Fang/Daily Illini.)

Bylines: All stories receive a byline. Writers for the College of LAS (or contracted by the college) are listed only by name. Bylines in stories obtained from other units or organizations will include affiliation, i.e., By Diana Yates, Illinois News Bureau. If the writer can't be identified, the story will be credited to the organization it came from, i.e., Story courtesy of National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

Class of XXXX: "class" is lowercase except at the beginning of a sentence.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences: The following references are acceptable: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (note that the ampersand is required), College of LAS, or LAS at Illinois. In a publication with heavy LAS branding, College of LAS or LAS at Illinois is acceptable on first reference. In publications going to an outside audience that may not be familiar with the LAS acronym (i.e. a press release), the proper usage on first or primary reference is College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Commas: We use serial commas (contrary to A.P. style), i.e. "The departments of English, mathematics, statistics, and communication are part of LAS."

Course titles: Use all caps to denote the unit, followed by the course number and the name of the course, i.e. LAS 199: Exploring the world of work.

Departments: See “Unit references” entry.

Headlines: Headlines should follow sentence style. Capitalize the first word, and the rest of the headline or subheadline should be in sentence format.

Hyperlinks: Hyperlink departments, schools, and other units in the College of LAS on first reference.

Italics: We follow AP style except for the case of Latin science terms, such as the names of bacteria, which are italicized.

Lincoln Hall Theater: Spelled Theater, not Theatre.

Main Quad: Main Quad or Quad is acceptable. It’s capitalized (per university standards).

Names: Use last names on second reference. First names are permissible on a case-by-case basis, most typically for clarification if there are two people by the same last name.

Schools: See “Unit references” entry.

Terms of study: Capitalize if referring to specific term and year (Fall 1993) but lowercase if generic (fall semester).

Titles:

Course titles: See “Course titles” entry.

Professor: Tenure track professors (assistant, associate, and full) are all referred to as simply “professor” in news stories. Visiting professors have “visiting” placed before “professor.” Also, “professor” is not considered a formal title. It is lowercase unless it’s part of a named position. Correct: “The study was conducted by communication professor David Tewksbury,” or “Donald Ort, Robert Emerson Professor of Plant Biology.” However, on social media, it’s accept to use the capitalized abbreviation “Prof.” before one’s name for brevity’s sake: “Prof. Dave Tewksbury” or “Prof. Tewksbury,” depending on what fits.

Retired professors: The proper title for a retired professor is professor emeritus, i.e. John Lynn, professor emeritus of history, or Professor Emeritus John Lynn. Professor emerita is also acceptable for female retired professors. Professor emeritus is acceptable for both men and women.

Unit names:

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences: See “College of Liberal Arts & Sciences” entry.

Name changes: References to colleges, schools, departments, programs, etc. should reflect the most current name of the unit. In certain materials, such as a story with historical elements, it’s advisable to

make note of the unit's former name, but first and primary reference should be the unit's current name. Note: An exception to this rule exists for specific alumni degree references. See the Alumni references section.

University of Illinois: Acceptable first references include University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois, or Illinois. UIUC is not acceptable unless it is in the name of an event or organization. U of I is acceptable on second reference. Exclude periods if the usage is U of I. Make sure subsequent uses are consistent.

Unit references: Departments, schools, and other academic units with a website should be hyperlinked on first reference, unless it interferes with presentation. References to departments should be accompanied by a hyperlinked reference to the school that they're housed in, if applicable. The department and school hyperlinks do not need to appear in the same place. References to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences only need to be hyperlinked if there is no link to the college in the accompanying layout.

Uppercase/Lowercase: Follow Illinois Writing Style Guide (copied here).

- The Center for Advanced Study, the center; the chair of the department
- Jacob Cohen, chair of the Department of Mathematics; the chair
- the College of Law, the law college, the college
- the dean of the college; Natalie Birnbaum, dean of the College of Engineering; Dean Birnbaum; the dean
- the Department of Biology, the biology department, the department
- the Office of Admissions and Records, OAR, the admissions office, this office
- Professor Desdemona Capulet; Desdemona Capulet, professor of English; the professor
- the School of Music, the music school, the school
- spring break, unless it's part of a title (i.e. 2017 Spring Break).