

Johns Hopkins University Style Guide

Contents

- Introduction
- Names: Johns Hopkins University and its divisions
- Style guidelines

Introduction

These guidelines were compiled by editors in the Office of Communications to encourage consistency and correct usage of terms across the many publications produced by JHU offices. The guidelines draw from *The Associated Press Stylebook 2019* and the 17th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Written from a Johns Hopkins point of view, the guidelines are intended to complement *AP* and *CMOS* and, when those sources disagree, to choose between them. For points not addressed in the university guidelines, *AP* is the preferred source. For points not listed in *AP*, use the dictionary it recommends: *Webster's New World College Dictionary*. When the dictionary gives two spellings, use the first one; when the dictionary and *AP* give different spellings, use *AP*'s.

A number of individual JHU publications have their own style sheets, more detailed and directed to handling specialized content. Johns Hopkins Medicine, for example, has posted its Branding and Use of Name Toolkit <http://brand.hopkinsmedicine.org/gui/content.asp>. The guidelines below will supplement those already existing and will contribute to the effort to bring overall consistency to university publications.

Names: Johns Hopkins University and its divisions

The Johns Hopkins University/The Johns Hopkins Hospital: The preferred shortened name for Johns Hopkins University is *Johns Hopkins*, not *Hopkins*. The acronym JHU can be used as a shortened form in informal or internal communications and to avoid repetition of the Hopkins name.

Capitalize “The” as part of the Hopkins name only when the name stands alone, as in a program or invitation. In running copy, do not capitalize “the”; either lowercase it or leave it out. *Ronald J. Daniels is president of the Johns Hopkins University (or of Johns Hopkins University).*

To refer to two entities, for example the university and health system, name both of them: *The Johns Hopkins University and Health System, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine*. Avoid such terms as *Johns Hopkins Institutions, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Homewood Schools*.

On second reference, lowercase *university, hospital, and health system* when they replace the Johns Hopkins University, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Johns Hopkins Health System.

Johns Hopkins Health System: This term refers to a legal entity. It comprises the Johns Hopkins Health System Corp., Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Johns Hopkins Employer Health Programs, Howard County General Hospital, Sibley Memorial Hospital, and Suburban Hospital. (The School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC, and the Johns Hopkins Home Care Group are not part of the Johns Hopkins Health System. They are, however, part of Johns Hopkins Medicine.)

Johns Hopkins Medicine: This term does not refer to a legal entity. It should be used when referring collectively to the following: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the Johns Hopkins Health System Corp., the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Johns Hopkins Employer Health Programs, Johns Hopkins HealthCare, Johns Hopkins Home Care Group and subsidiaries, Johns Hopkins Medicine International, Howard County General Hospital, Sibley Memorial Hospital, and Suburban Hospital.

Names of divisions: Except for the *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*, the names of all the university's divisions are preceded by *Johns Hopkins University*, e.g., the *Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*, the *Johns Hopkins University Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences*. As a shortened form, it is also correct to leave out *University* in this usage: *Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*. *University* is always omitted with the *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*.

Johns Hopkins University comprises nine degree-granting, or academic, divisions and the Applied Physics Laboratory. The list below gives the formal name of each division, followed by acceptable shortened forms.

- The Johns Hopkins University Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences: Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, the Krieger School, the School of Arts and Sciences, Arts and Sciences, KSAS.
- The Johns Hopkins University G.W.C. Whiting School of Engineering: Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, Whiting School of Engineering, the Whiting School, the School of Engineering, Engineering, WSE.
- The Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School: Johns Hopkins Carey Business School (never the School of Business or the W.P. Carey School of Business, which is at Arizona State University), Carey School, Carey. The acronym CBS may be used for brevity on second reference but not in marketing, advertising, or social media. It should not be used to shorten the name of a functional unit within the school, e.g., CBS Human Resources, CBS Communications.
- The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University: Peabody Institute, Peabody, the Institute. It has two parts, the Conservatory and the Preparatory. The phrase "of Music" is not attached to the Peabody name.

- The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies: Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins SAIS. In addition to its home in Washington, D.C., it has two campuses abroad: in Italy, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Europe; in China, the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, whose full name is the Johns Hopkins University–Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies. Shortened names for these campuses are SAIS Europe (or SAIS Europe in Bologna when specifically designating location) and the HNC.
- The Johns Hopkins University School of Education: Johns Hopkins School of Education, Education, SOE.
- The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Medicine, SOM.
- The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing: Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Nursing, SON.
- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: Bloomberg School, School of Public Health, JHSPH.
- The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory: APL, the Laboratory, the Lab.

Style guidelines

abbreviations and acronyms Do not follow an organization’s full name with an acronym in parentheses. If an acronym would not be clear without this arrangement, do not use it. Using the acronym soon after the full name will usually make the connection clear. For example: Use *massive open online course* on first reference and *MOOC* shortly thereafter. An alternative is to use *or: The School of Public Health offers a variety of massive open online courses, or MOOCs*. Some acronyms, like *CEO, NPR/NBC/CBS/ABC/CNN*, and *OB-GYN, CPR, DNA, FBI*, are so familiar that they can be used on first reference.

Among the frequently used acronyms for Johns Hopkins programs, centers, and departments are *CCP* (Center for Communication Programs), *CSOS* (Center for Social Organization of Schools), *CTY* (Center for Talented Youth), *EP* (Engineering for Professionals), *E2SHI* (Environment, Energy, Sustainability and Health Institute), *IBBS* (Institute for Basic Biomedical Sciences), *ICE* (Institute for Cell Engineering), *INBT* (Institute for NanoBioTechnology), *MSEL* (Milton S. Eisenhower Library), *JHOC* (Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center). Also used frequently is *STScI* for Space Telescope Science Institute, a science center located on the Johns Hopkins Homewood campus and operated for NASA by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy. See also **Names: Johns Hopkins University and its divisions**, above.

academic and administrative titles Titles that follow a name are lowercased; the exceptions are named professorships and deanships, which are capped even when they follow a name.

When a formal title precedes a name, capitalize it, but lowercase words that modify the title: *Professor Kit Bowen, chemistry Professor Kit Bowen, Associate Professor Benjamin Dodson, former Johns Hopkins University President William R. Brody, English Department Chair Mark Christian Thompson, Vice President Heidi Conway*. Do not use the title “Dr.” before anyone’s name.

With lowercase titles that follow names, the capitalization of the discipline or department is determined by the usage:

professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences (lowercase *psychiatry* and *behavioral sciences* because you’re talking about the academic discipline, not a department);

research professor in Physics and Astronomy at the Krieger School (capitalize *Physics and Astronomy* because you’re talking about the department, not the discipline);

director of African Studies at SAIS (capitalize *African Studies* because you’re talking about a program, not a discipline).

academic degrees Omit periods (*MD, PhD*), but avoid abbreviations when possible: *John Jones, who has a doctorate in psychology*. Capitalize the formal name of a degree (*Master of Arts*), but lowercase the discipline (*Master of Arts in history*) and the informal name (*master’s degree in history*). With the exception of copy about Johns Hopkins alumni, do not follow a person’s name with academic degrees.

academic departments Capitalize both the formal name of the department and the flip-flopped name: *Department of History, History Department*. Also capitalize the shortened form for a department (*a joint appointment in History and Art History*). In most cases, use the formal name unless it becomes too cumbersome. In plural constructions, lowercase *departments of* and capitalize the discipline: *the departments of History and Political Science* or *the History and Political Science departments*. (Note, however, the use of lowercase when the discipline, not the department, is intended: *John Smith is studying history and political science*.)

accent marks Some words, such as *premiere*, are listed without an accent in *AP* and with an accent in *Webster’s New World College Dictionary*; follow *AP*. See also **foreign words**.

adviser Not *advisor*.

African American Do not hyphenate either the noun or the adjective. This rule applies to all terms of dual heritage: *Asian American, Mexican American*. See **race-related coverage**.

ages Always use figures.

Agora Institute See **SNF Agora Institute**.

aka Abbreviation for *also known as*.

alphabetization of surnames Hyphenated surnames should be alphabetized by the first element: *Susan Brown-Smith*. With compound surnames that are not hyphenated, alphabetization depends on usage. If Jane Jones Alexander is regularly called “Jones Alexander” on second reference, alphabetize by “J.” If she prefers to be known as “Alexander,” alphabetize by “A.”

ampersand Use only when the ampersand is part of the formal name of a department, division, company, etc.: *U.S. News & World Report, Evergreen Museum & Library, Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins, Benefits & Worklife*. Do not use an ampersand to avoid the repetition of *and*, as in, *the School of Arts & Sciences and the School of Engineering are based at Homewood*. Instead, spell “and”: *the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering*.

Anne M. Pinkard Building, School of Nursing

anti-cancer

archaeology

archives The Milton S. Eisenhower Library has two named archives: the *Ferdinand Hamburger Jr. Archives* and the *Lester S. Levy Sheet Music Collection*; the School of Medicine’s archives are the *Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives*. Although *Archives* is plural, each collection mentioned here takes a singular verb.

Arellano Theater

Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality

Arthur Friedheim Library

audiovisual

Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins

baroque

the Beach

Berman Institute of Bioethics An academic center supported by JHSPH, SOM, SON, and KSAS. Full name is Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics; an acceptable shortened name is the *Berman Institute*.

bestseller, bestselling

big data

Big Ten The Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team became an affiliate member of this NCAA Division I conference on July 1, 2014, and began play in 2015. Johns Hopkins must always be referred to as an *affiliate member*.

blogs Titles of named blogs should be italicized. Titles of blog entries should be in quotation marks.

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor *BDP* acceptable on second reference.

Blue Jays Use the plural, even as an adjective: *a Blue Jays lacrosse fan, a Blue Jays uniform*. But: *Bob Smith is proud to be a Blue Jay*.

board of trustees Lowercase: *Johns Hopkins University board of trustees*.

British spellings Use a British spelling only when it appears in the formal name: *Theatre Arts and Studies Program, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery*. If the word with the British spelling is mentioned elsewhere in the paragraph or story and is not part of a formal name, use the American spelling, despite the inconsistency.

Bufano Sculpture Garden

Bunting Blaustein Cancer Research Building Full name is The Bunting Family and Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Family Cancer Research Building. Do not capitalize *The* in running copy.

Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith and Community Service Center

campus Lowercase: *Homewood campus, East Baltimore campus, Mount Washington campus, Keswick campus*. Exception: *Montgomery County Campus*.

canceled, canceling

cancer center Formal name is the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Shortened name is Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. When used alone, *cancer center* is lowercase (like *university* and *hospital*).

capitalization on second reference Words like *university, hospital, institute, department, center* should not be capped on second reference. Exceptions: *the Conservatory, the Preparatory, the Press, the Laboratory/the Lab* (for APL), *the Academy* (an institute for advanced study for retired Krieger School of Arts and Sciences professors).

Carnegie Institution for Science

catalog, cataloging Not *catalogue, cataloguing*.

cellphone

Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence at Johns Hopkins

Center for Communication Programs

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Takes a singular verb; *CDC* is the acronym.

The Children's Center Full name is the *Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children's Center*.

Civil and Systems Engineering, Department of New name for Department of Civil Engineering.

colloquium, colloquia

Class of 2024 Capitalize *Class*.

colon Capitalize the first word after a colon in a headline or if it's a proper noun or the start of a complete sentence.

comma Use a serial comma (i.e., before *and* in a series): *the schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health*. If a serial comma does not appear in a proper name (*Department of Family, Population and Reproductive Health*), don't add it.

Commencement Capitalize when referring to the university's end-of-year ceremonies. Also cap *Commencement Day*.

company, companies If a company uses either word at the end of its name, abbreviate as Co. or Cos.

composition titles Permissible changes to titles are discussed in *CMOS* 8.165. For capitalization style, follow *AP* and cap the principal words, including prepositions and conjunctions of four or more letters. For guidelines on italicizing titles of musical works, follow *CMOS*. Operas, oratorios, tone poems, and other long compositions are italicized and given standard title capitalization (*CMOS* 8.194). If an instrumental work is known by its generic name (*symphony, concerto, quartet, etc.*), it should not be italicized or put in quotation marks (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Verdi's Requiem). Descriptive titles (e.g., Beethoven's symphonies *Pastoral* and *Eroica*) are italicized.

An official album title is italicized (*CMOS* 8.197).

Songs and other shorter musical compositions are set in roman and enclosed in quotation marks (*CMOS* 8.194).

Books and periodicals are italicized and capitalized headline-style (*CMOS* 8.159, 8.168).

Movies, television and radio programs, and series are italicized. A single episode in a television or radio series is set in roman and enclosed in quotation marks (*CMOS* 8.189).

Video games, including franchises, are treated like movies and italicized.

Website titles are set in roman; titled sections of a website are in quotation marks. Blog titles are usually italicized, and blog posts use roman and quotation marks (*CMOS* 8.191, 8.192)

Cordish Lacrosse Center

corporation Abbreviate when a name ends with corporation (*Johns Hopkins Health System Corp.*); spell elsewhere (*the Corporation for Public Broadcasting*).

course titles Do not italicize course titles or use quotation marks around them.

course work

cross-disciplinary

cross section

CT scan

data Takes a singular verb and pronouns in general copy: *Data has been collected from many countries*. In scientific and academic writing, plural verbs and pronouns are preferred.

Decker Gardens Bordered by the Greenhouse, Nichols House, and the Johns Hopkins Club.

dialogue

dimensions Use figures for the numbers and spell out inches, feet, yards, etc.

Eager Park The neighborhood near the East Baltimore campus that is named for the 5.5-acre park at its center. See **EBDI**.

earth Generally lowercase but capitalized when used as the proper name of the planet. *She is down-to-earth. How does the pattern apply to Mars, Jupiter, Earth, the sun, and the moon? The astronauts looked down on the Earth from space. He hopes to move heaven and earth. Thomas Haine is a professor of Earth and planetary sciences.*

EBDI East Baltimore Development Initiative is a name no longer in use. The redeveloped tract of land north of the East Baltimore campus is now called *Eager Park*.

editor-in-chief Capitalize the nouns when this title precedes a name and always use hyphens. Other examples are *artist-in-residence* and *surgeon-in-chief*.

email In print copy, if it is necessary to break an email address or a URL, do so at the end of a line. Such a break should be made between elements if at all possible: after a colon or a double slash; before or after an equal sign or an ampersand; or before a single slash, a period, or any other punctuation or symbols. To avoid confusion, an address that contains a hyphen should never be broken at the hyphen, nor should a hyphen be added to break an email address or URL. If a particularly long element must be broken to avoid a loose line, it should be broken between syllables according to the guidelines offered above (CMOS 7.46).

em dash Most often used in pairs to set off a phrase: *More than 1,000 members of the university community—deans, trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni—helped refine the plan.*

en dash Used with inclusive numbers (*pages 8–10, the years 2012–13*) and in place of a hyphen in a compound adjective when one of its elements is compound: *a Nobel Prize–winning astrophysicist, the Johns Hopkins–led study*. An abbreviated compound, such as U.S., is treated as a single word and therefore uses a hyphen, rather than an en dash, in compounds. A single word or prefix should be joined to a hyphenated compound by another hyphen rather than an en dash; if the result is awkward, reword (CMOS 6.80): *a two-thirds-full auditorium*; better, *an auditorium that was two-thirds full*.

Engineering for Professionals EP on second reference.

entitled “Titled,” not “entitled,” for titles of books, movies, etc.

Environmental Health and Engineering, Department of

euro, euros

European Union Spell on first reference, then use *EU* (no periods).

exhibitions Italicize titles of exhibitions.

Fell’s Point

fiscal year AP uses *fiscal 2021*, but alternative terms can be used: *FY21, FY2021, fiscal year 2021*

-fold No hyphen: *twofold, fourfold, hundredfold*.

follow-up (noun, adjective), **follow up** (verb)

foreign words Italicize foreign words only if they are italicized in *Webster's New World College Dictionary* or not listed there. See also **accent marks**.

Friends of the Libraries Use singular verbs and pronouns.

from ... to When *from* introduces a range, the word *to* must complete it: *The seminar is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.* Using a hyphen instead of *to* is incorrect in this construction.

fundraiser, fundraising

Garrett

Gatehouse

Gender-neutral language Helpful techniques for achieving gender neutral language are listed in CMOS 5.255 and in AP under **gender**.

When referring to a nonspecific person (e.g., *one, everyone, a student*), use *they/them/their* as well as the phrase *he or she* sparingly, and only when you can't find a work-around for the sentence. CMOS 5.255 suggests several methods to rewrite sentences to achieve gender-neutral language, including omitting the pronoun, repeating the noun, or using an article instead of a pronoun.

Instead of: *Everyone has his or her own opinion about the controversial book* or *Everyone has their own opinion about the controversial book*, rewrite to: *Everyone has an opinion about the controversial book*.

Instead of: *A student must consult with his adviser prior to Commencement* or *A student must consult with their adviser prior to Commencement*, rewrite to: *All students must consult with their advisers prior to Commencement* or *A student/adviser meeting is required prior to Commencement*.

However, when referencing a specific person who does not identify as a male or female, *they, them, or their* may be used as the person's pronoun, particularly if the person is referenced several times in a story and writing around the pronoun would be awkward. Note that this rule differs from AP's suggestion to use the person's name in place of a pronoun, or to otherwise reword the sentence whenever possible. It is advisable to explain in the text that the person prefers a gender-neutral pronoun.

Instead of: *Sam Smith is best known for his hit song "Stay With Me,"* rewrite to: *Sam Smith, who uses they/them/their pronouns, is best known for their hit song "Stay With Me."* This option is ideal if Sam Smith is referenced several times in the story. Subsequent references to Sam Smith may then use *they, them, or their*. Also acceptable: *Sam Smith is best known for the hit song "Stay With Me."* This option is ideal if this is the only reference to Sam Smith.

Here are some gender language issues that are likely to come up in Hopkins publications:

+ *Chairman* and *chairwoman* are acceptable when they refer to specific people; otherwise use *chair*.

- + Use *first-year student* instead of *freshman*.
- + Do not use made-up words like *s/he*.
- + For **Latinx**, see entry below.

George Peabody Library Part of the Sheridan Libraries, though located adjacent to the Peabody Institute. Always include “George” in the name to avoid a reader’s assuming that this library is part of the Peabody Institute.

–**goer** One word: concertgoer, moviegoer, picnicgoer.

grade, grader Usually no hyphen—first grader, first grade student. Exception: With two ordinal numbers, use a hyphen to avoid confusion: *He was the second fourth-grader to finish the project.*

Hanukkah

headlines Upper- and lowercase headline styles are both acceptable. For lowercase style, follow *AP*, **headlines**; for uppercase, see *CMOS* 8:159. A few points: In uppercase style, cap prepositions of four or more letters. Enclose in single quotation marks titles and other words that are normally italicized. Use single instead of double quotation marks in headlines and callouts. Designers have free rein in headlines of features and do not need to follow these rules.

health care Two words unless spelled as one word in the official title of an organization, bill, etc. e.g., Malone Center for Engineering in Healthcare. Do not hyphenate as an adjective.

Henderson-Hopkins school Formal name is Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School. It’s a contract school, not a charter school.

homepage

Homewood Schools Avoid using this term to refer to the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering. Better to name the two schools.

hyphen Both *AP* and *Chicago* prefer a spare hyphenation style. If no suitable example or analogy can be found in either stylebook (*AP Punctuation* section, under “hyphen” and *CMOS* 7.89) or in the dictionary, hyphenate only if doing so will aid readability.

Hyphenate *and a half* only if used as a compound adjective: *one and a half inches, a one-and-a-half-inch hem.*

Hyphenate *well* combinations before a noun but not after: *He is a well-regarded scholar. He is well regarded.*

Do not hyphenate *then* as an adjective: *then Soviet Russia.*

Do not hyphenate dollar amount: *She signed a 10-year, \$250 million contract.*

Do not hyphenate certain words, even when used as adjectives: *high school class, health care law, child care provider.*

Do not hyphenate *very* and adverbs ending in *-ly* (*a highly regarded author, a very good student*).

incorporated Abbreviate and capitalize as *Inc.* when used as a part of a corporate name. Do not set off with commas: *Time Warner Inc. announced its new plan.* Often *Inc.* does not have to be included when the company is mentioned in running copy.

initials If an entire name is abbreviated (e.g., *MLK, JFK*), omit spaces and periods (*CMOS 10.12*). When an individual uses initials instead of a first name (e.g., *H.L. Mencken, J.K. Rowling*), use periods with no space between the initials. Use a single initial (e.g., *J. Jones*) only when it is the individual's preference or a first name cannot be learned.

internet

Intersession Capitalize when referring to the JHU academic term during winter break.

Institute for Health and Social Policy Part of the Bloomberg School of Public Health; formerly, the Institute for Policy Studies in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

italics In addition to the italicized items listed above in composition titles and paintings, statues, and such, named blogs, ships and other vessels (but not abbreviations such as *USS* or *HMS*), exhibitions, and symposium series need to be italicized. Names of space programs, e.g., *Project Apollo* and *New Frontiers*, are capitalized but not italicized; names of specific spacecraft, e.g., *New Horizons* and *Parker Solar Probe*, are italicized.

J-card

JHU Forums on Race in America Use a plural verb and pronouns or add the word "series" and use a singular verb.

Johns Hopkins at Green Spring Station, Johns Hopkins at Eastern, Johns Hopkins at Keswick, Johns Hopkins at Mt. Washington

Johns Hopkins Health System See **Names: Johns Hopkins University and its divisions**, at the front of these guidelines.

Johns Hopkins Institutions The use of this term is discouraged. Instead, name the schools or divisions separately: *The Johns Hopkins University and Health System, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine.*

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions The use of this term is discouraged. It is sometimes used to refer collectively to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Johns Hopkins University divisions See **Names: Johns Hopkins University and its divisions**, at the front of these guidelines.

Johns Hopkins University president's name President Daniels can be referred to as either Ronald J. Daniels or Ron Daniels, depending on the formality of the context: *At the annual Lighting of the Quads, President Ron Daniels pulled the ceremonial switch, illuminating thousands of twinkling lights throughout the Homewood campus.*

Johns Hopkins University/Johns Hopkins Hospital In running copy, the university and hospital do not need to retain the capitalized *The* traditionally used with their formal names. In stand-alone copy, however, it is often appropriate to keep the capitalized *The*. When used as shortened forms of JHU and JHH, *university* and *hospital* should not be capitalized. The preferred shortened name of the university and hospital is *Johns Hopkins* rather than *Hopkins*.

joint versus separate possession When two nouns “possess” the same thing, they are considered a unit, and only the second element takes the possessive form: *Donald J. Leopold and Lytton John Musselman's Wildflowers of the Adirondacks was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2020.* (the book was co-authored by Leopold and Musselman). When two nouns possess different things, both take the possessive form: *Jane Merritt's and Sharon Ann Murphy's books are also available from Hopkins Press (Chicago 7.23).*

Jr., Sr. Abbreviate junior and senior only with full names of persons or animals. Do not use commas around Jr. or Sr.: *Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration*. In named professorships and endowed deanships, however, retain the commas if they are used.

Koch Cancer Research Building

Latinx Limit to quotations, names of organizations, or descriptions of individuals who request it and indicate that it's being used at the request of the person described. Otherwise, use Latino/Latinos for men, Latina/Latinas for women. *Hispanic/Hispanics* is an alternative. See more under **race-related coverage**.

lifelong

lifesaving

light-years

-like Hyphenate only if the letter L would be tripled or if the main word is a proper noun: *The Homewood campus has 140 parklike acres.*

login, logon, logoff Use closed as a noun, open as a verb: *This is a secure login page; you need a password to log in.*

long-standing

long-term

longtime

-making/-maker Some words forming compounds with “maker/making” are spelled solid: *policymaking, filmmaker, drugmaker*. Hyphenate in both noun and adjective forms compounds that are not listed in AP or Webster’s, such as *decision-maker, decision-making*.

Malone Hall

manikin Correct spelling for medical figure (not mannequin).

MICA Acceptable on first reference instead of Maryland Institute College of Art.

Mason Hall Admissions and visitors center at Homewood.

Materials Science and Engineering

Mattin Center

McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine

medical campus Don’t use this term; use *East Baltimore campus* instead.

Mergenthaler

Messenger spacecraft Not *MESSENGER*.

Mind/Brain Institute Full name is Zanvyl Krieger Mind/Brain Institute.

Mount Vernon

Mt. Washington

movie titles See composition titles.

JHU Museums *Evergreen Museum & Library, Homewood Museum* The term *Johns Hopkins University Museums* refers only to the historic house museums, Homewood and Evergreen. The *Archaeological Museum* is part of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

named deanships *Benjamin T. Rome Dean of the Whiting School of Engineering; James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences; Frances Watt Baker, M.D., and Lenox D. Baker Jr., M.D., Dean of the Medical Faculty; Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums.*

named departments *Morton K. Blaustein Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences (KSAS), Henry A. Rowland Department of Physics and Astronomy (KSAS), W. Harry Feinstone Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology (JHSPH), Solomon H. Snyder Department of Neuroscience (SOM), Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science (SOM).*

named professorships Capitalize named professorships: *Lawrence Principe is the Drew Professor of the Humanities.* Note that one *holds* a chair: *Natalia Trayanova holds Murray B. Sachs Professorship in Biomedical Engineering.* It is also acceptable to say that *Trayanova is the Murray B. Sachs Professor.* For a complete list, go to the university's official directory, the Named Professorship, Deanships, and Directorships website at webapps.jhu.edu/namedprofessorships.

names with unusual capitalization Names of companies, organizations, or magazines that use all caps in their logos and letterhead may follow an upper- and lowercase style: *Time* magazine, not TIME; the Rand Corp., not the RAND Corp.; Jhpiego, not JHPIEGO. Names like *eBay, iTunes, and iPod* do not need their initial letters capped at the beginning of a sentence. Names with caps in the middle should retain those caps: GlaxoSmithKline, Institute for NanoBioTechnology.

NIH institutes, offices, and centers For a list of the institutes, go to nih.gov/icd/index.html.

the News-Letter Shortened form for *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*.

Newton H. White Jr. Athletic Center

NGO Nongovernmental organization. Spell out at first use, then use acronym (do not place acronym in parentheses at first use). Per *AP*, use *NGO* sparingly.

No. 1 *AP* style uses the abbreviation with a figure to indicate position or rank.

Nobel laureate See *AP* under **Nobel Prize, Nobel Prizes** for a full discussion.

non- In general, no hyphen in forming a compound where *non* means *not*, even if the second word doubles the consonant: *nonnuclear, nonnegotiable*. Hyphenate if the second word has a special meaning or is a proper noun, e.g., *non-Euclidian geometry*, and if the prefix precedes a compound: *non-meat-eating students*.

nonprofit (n. and adj.)

nonsexist language See **gender neutral language**.

numerals Follow AP style:

Ages: Always use numerals.

Grades: Follow AP rules for ordinal numbers (e.g., *fifth grade, 12th grade*).

Scores (games, sports): Always use numerals.

Time: Use a comma to separate hours and minutes: *Susan Brown Smith completed the race in 3 hours, 45 minutes* (not *3 hours and 45 minutes*).

Dimensions, formulas, speeds: Always use numerals: *He is 5 feet, 6 inches tall. He drove 4 miles.*

Office of Multicultural Affairs

orthopedics *Orthopedics* is the first dictionary spelling. Use the second spelling, *orthopaedics*, only when it is part of a proper noun: *Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Lee Riley III is an orthopedist.*

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins University Formerly the Evergreen Society.

page numbers Write out *page* and use figures: *Business guru Norm Augustine (interviewed in "Storms in the Economic Forecast," page 16) offers a prescription for enhancing U.S competitiveness.*

paintings, statues, and such Titles of paintings, drawings, photographs, statues, and other works of art are italicized, whether the titles are original, added by someone other than the artist, or translated. The names of works of antiquity (whose creators are often unknown) are usually set in roman (see CMOS 8.198).

the Parkway The theater's full name is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway, often shortened to the Parkway or SNF Parkway.

Peabody Institute Peabody Institute comprises two divisions: *the Conservatory* and *the Preparatory*. *Conservatory* and *Preparatory* retain their initial caps because the schools are known by those names. Avoid using *Institute* without *Peabody* because used alone *Institute* would be lowercase.

Peace Corps The term *returned Peace Corps volunteers* is often abbreviated as RPCVs on second reference.

permissible changes Use discretion in correcting grammatical mistakes in quoted copy. Do make the correction if the mistake might be embarrassing to the speaker and the correction doesn't change the tone of the quote. If, however, the proposed change is not consistent with the tone of the passage quoted, don't make it. In titles of works or names of organizations, incorrectly capitalized prepositions can be lowercased: *Vision to Learn, Teach for America*.

percent Use the % sign with a number instead of writing the word “percent.” If there is an “of” phrase, the words after “of” determine whether the verb is singular or plural. *The story reported that 50% of Baltimoreans were concerned about the symphony. The story reported that 50% of the crowd was rowdy.*

plural of Latin nouns Use the form that *Webster’s New World College Dictionary* lists first: *curricula, symposiums.*

possession See **joint versus separate possession.**

possessives Three examples to note in Johns Hopkins usage: *campus’s, SAIS’, and Johns Hopkins’.* See AP **possessives** for a complete discussion.

pre- Generally, do not hyphenate words beginning with the prefix *pre-*, even when the second syllable starts with “e”: *preempt, preeminent, preestablish.* Otherwise, follow *Webster’s New World College Dictionary*, hyphenating if not included there or if the next syllable is a proper noun: *pre-Commencement celebrations.*

premiere/premier *Premiere* (no accent, per AP) can function as a noun meaning *first performance*, as an adjective meaning *the lead or first performer*, or as a verb meaning *to give a first performance.* *Premier* is either an adjective or a noun: As an adjective, it means *chief, key, first in importance.* *This discovery is of premier importance to people with ALS.* As a noun, it is used for the title of the prime minister of certain countries.

principal investigator Lowercase.

problem-solving/problem-solver

quads on Homewood campus The upper and lower quads should be referred to by their proper names: Keyser Quadrangle or Keyser Quad (upper quad), Wyman Quadrangle or Wyman Quad (lower quad), Decker Quadrangle or Decker Quad (south quad).

race-related coverage, excerpted from *The Associated Press Stylebook 2019*

African American No hyphen (a change in 2019 for this and other dual heritage terms). Acceptable for an American Black person of African descent. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. Americans of Caribbean heritage, for example, generally refer to themselves as *Caribbean American.* Follow a person’s preference.

dual heritage No hyphen (a change in 2019 from previous style) for terms such as *African American, Asian American, Italian American, and Filipino American,* used when relevant to refer to an American person’s heritage.

Black, white Capitalize *Black* as an adjective in a racial, ethnic, or cultural sense: *Black people, Black culture, Black literature, Black studies, Black colleges*. Capitalizing *Black* recognizes that language has evolved, along with the understanding that especially in the United States, the term reflects a shared identity and culture rather than a skin color alone. Since white people generally do not share a common history and heritage, *white* stays lowercase.

brown Avoid this broad and imprecise term in racial, ethnic, or cultural references unless as part of a direct quotation. Interpretations of what the term includes vary widely.

Caucasian Avoid as a synonym for *white*, unless in a quotation.

Latino, Latina *Latino* is often the preferred noun or adjective for a person from, or whose ancestors were from, a Spanish-speaking land or culture or from Latin America. *Latina* is the feminine form. For the plural, some prefer the recently coined gender-neutral term *Latinx*, which should be confined to quotations, names of organizations, or descriptions of individuals who request it and should be accompanied by a short explanation. *Hernandez prefers the gender-neutral term Latinx*. For groups of females, use the plural *Latinas*; for groups of males or of mixed gender, use the plural *Latinos*. *Hispanics* is also generally acceptable for those in the U.S. Use a more specific identification when possible, such as *Cuban, Puerto Rican, Brazilian, or Mexican American*.

Hispanic A person from—or whose ancestors were from—a Spanish-speaking land or culture. *Latino, Latina, or Latinx* are sometimes preferred. Follow the person's preference. Use a more specific identification when possible, such as *Cuban, Puerto Rica, or Mexican American*.

American Indians, Native Americans 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 tribe; 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*. In Alaska, the Indigenous groups are collectively known as Alaska Natives.

First Nation is the preferred term for native tribes in Canada.

Indian is used to describe the peoples and cultures of the South Asian nation of India. Do not use the term as a shorthand for *American Indians*.

Orient, Oriental Do not use when referring to East Asian nations and their peoples. *Asian* is the acceptable term for an inhabitant of those regions.

Indigenous (adj.) Capitalize this term used to refer to original inhabitants of a place. *Aboriginal leaders welcomed a new era of Indigenous relations in Australia. Bolivia's Indigenous peoples represent some 62% of the population.*

Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center

Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion

room numbers The room number follows the building: *Gilman 148*. If "room" is used, cap it: *Gilman, Room 119*.

Schafler Auditorium Located in the Bloomberg Center for Physics and Astronomy.

Science + Technology Park at Johns Hopkins Part of Eager Park. In running copy, "and" can be substituted for the plus sign.

service centers Capitalize: *Sponsored Projects, Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets, Payroll*.

Shaffer Auditorium Located in Shaffer Hall.

Sheikh Zayed Tower Acceptable even on first reference for *Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Cardiovascular and Critical Care Tower*.

Sheridan Libraries They encompass the Brody Learning Commons, the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and its collections at the Albert D. Hutzler Reading Room ("the Hut") in Gilman Hall, the John Work Garrett Library at Evergreen, and the George Peabody Library at Mount Vernon Place. Use a plural verb and pronouns with Sheridan Libraries.

shuttle Cap *shuttle* in this usage: *Homewood-JHMI Shuttle*.

smartphone

Smokler Center for Jewish Life in the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building Hopkins Hillel is located here.

SNF Agora Institute A joint venture of the university and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the institute was founded in 2017 to promote civic engagement globally and to strengthen the ability to communicate among people holding different beliefs. The formal name is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI)

Sr. See Jr., Sr.

startup, start up One word as a noun or adjective; two words as a verb.

state abbreviations In running copy, spell out the names of states.

Stieff Building

Stony Run

St. Paul Street

student-athlete

Student Conduct Code

sub-Saharan

symposiums Italicize titles of symposiums and put in roman and quotes the individual lectures within them. Note that the first spelling of the plural in *Webster's New World College Dictionary* is *symposiums*; *symposia* is the second spelling.

television program titles See **composition titles**, above.

Ten by Twenty

The In running copy, do not capitalize “the” even if it is part of the formal title of a company, division, or university: *the Writing Seminars, the Johns Hopkins University*. Exception: The full name of newspapers, magazines, and books retains the capitalized “the”: The Johns Hopkins News-Letter, The New York Times, The New Yorker. The shortened name of newspapers, though, keeps “the” lowercase: *the Times, the News-Letter*. When names stand alone, as in a program or invitation, “the” would be capped: *The Johns Hopkins University, The Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children's Center*.

theater Use the British spelling, *Theatre*, only when it appears in the formal name: *Theatre Arts and Studies Program*, *John Astin Theatre in the Merrick Barn*, *Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theatre Company*, *Senator Theatre*. The *Charles Theater* formerly used the British spelling but has switched to the American one.

3D

titled Not *entitled* when referring to books, plays, etc.: *Brian Deer's new book is titled* *The Doctor Who Fooled the World*.

type 2 diabetes

Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory building

underway One word in all uses.

universities' names In running copy, lowercase *The* even if it's part of the formal name of a university: *the Ohio State University*. (See also **The**, above.) When the name of a university includes a location, follow the practice of that school. If the university uses a comma and the name occurs midsentence, put commas both before and after the location: *The University of California, Berkeley, is a public research university*. If the university uses neither commas nor *at*, follow that practice: *University of Colorado Boulder*. Exception: If the university uses a hyphen, change it to an en dash because one of the elements will be compound: *University of Wisconsin–Madison*.

URL Although it is not wrong to include the phrases *http://* and *www* when giving URLs in text, it is not necessary to do so unless you are linking the URL. In that case, *http://* and *www* are typically needed.

U.S. in headlines Use periods; an exception to *AP* style.

verbs, singular or plural Some Johns Hopkins entities with plural names take singular verbs, others plural ones. Some examples: *The Friends of the Libraries is holding a meeting*. *The Sheridan Libraries host the annual Edible Book Festival*. Two agencies that appear frequently in JHU publications are the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* and *the National Institutes of Health*. Both take a singular verb when either the formal name or the acronym is used.

vice president Use *for*, not *of*, as the preposition: *vice president for communications*, *vice president for human resources*. However, if the division uses “of,” don't change it: *Inez Stewart is the senior vice president of human resources for Johns Hopkins Medicine*.

wait list

web, website Lowercase in all uses. Do not italicize or put in quotes the names of websites.

Weinberg Building Full name, which should be used on first reference, is Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building.

-wide No hyphen: *universitywide, campuswide*

Wilmer Eye Institute

workforce

Work, Life and Engagement Now called Benefits & Worklife

work-study

Writing Seminars Formal name is The Writing Seminars, but in running copy lowercase “The.” See entry for **the**, above.

Young Investigators’ Day

Updated August 2020