We are St. Mary's College of Maryland in all formal literature and in the first instance in larger publications. After the first mention in less formal pieces, we can be St. Mary's College or SMCM. We are never just St. Mary's. Our teams, fans, students and alumni are Seahawks.

- **African American.** Standard AP style calls for a hyphen, but we do not hyphenate African American, no matter how it is used.
- **Black.** We always capitalize Black when it is used to speak of a person's race.
- **Books, articles, magazines.** Use quotation marks around the titles of books, songs, TV shows, computer games, poems, speeches and works of art. Do NOT use quotation marks around magazine or newspaper titles or the Bible. Do not underline or italicize any of the above.
- **College.** When referring to ourselves ("The College was founded in 1840" or "it is College policy that...") we capitalize College.
- **Colons.** Capitalize the first word after a colon only if it is a proper noun or begins a complete sentence.
- **Commas.** In general, if a comma does not make clear what is being said, it should not be there. If omitting the comma could lead to confusion or misinterpretation, then use the comma. In a series: Do not put a comma before the conjunction in a series unless doing so avoids confusion.
- **Dates.** Abbreviate the month, use a figure only for the day (no st, nd, rd or th). A comma is not necessary if only a year and month are given, but do use a comma to set off the year if both month and day are given. Use figures with the letter s but no apostrophe when discussing decades—the 1950s. Use figures for centuries—the 20th century. Capitalize days of the week, but do not abbreviate.
- **Numbers.** In general, spell out one through nine; use figures thereafter. Always use figures for units of measure, when referring to someone's age and in all tables and statistics. Use figures with time, along with a.m. and p.m.
- **PhD:** We drop the periods in PhD as well as in MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching). All other degrees (B.A., B.S., M.S., etc.) keep their periods.
- **Titles.** In general, only capitalize when it is a formal title (not simply a job title) and used directly before someone's name—President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, but: Our College president, Tuajuanda C. Jordan, is our seventh president.
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**QUESTIONS?**

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