In general, Trinity College follows *The Chicago Manual of Style*. If Chicago style does not address your question, please consult *The Associated Press Stylebook*. Trinity also follows *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*. The list below offers highlights of “Trinity style.” Some items may be excerpts or variations of Chicago or AP style, while others may be unique to Trinity. Please contact Sonya Adams at sonya.adams@trincoll.edu or 860-297-2143 with any questions.

A

**a, an** The use of “a” or “an” depends on the starting sound of the word it precedes and not on how that word is spelled. Use “a” before words that start with consonant sounds and “an” before words that start with vowel sounds: a historic date, a one-way street, an honorable person, an energetic child.

**academic subject or major** Lowercase unless it contains a word that is normally capitalized: She is studying for her chemistry test. He is double majoring in American studies and sociology.

**academic degrees** Use periods in abbreviations: B.A., M.S., M.A., Ph.D., LL.M. Do not capitalize when spelled out: bachelor’s degree, bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor’s, master’s degree, master’s, master of arts degree.

**academic departments** All departments are capitalized: Department of English, English Department, Department of History, History Department.

**academic years** Academic years should follow the pattern of 2017–18.

**a cappella**

**Admissions Office or Office of Admissions** (not Admission)

**adviser** (not advisor)

**ages** All ages should be expressed in Arabic numerals: She is 4 years old. Her brother is 16 years old.

**alumna** (one female); **alumnus** (one male); **alumnae** (more than one female); **alumni** (more than one male; also preferred over alumni/ae when referring to a mixed group); graduate (gender neutral)

**a.m.** (not A.M. or am)

**and** Spell out in all uses except in the proper names of firms, organizations, etc. that include an ampersand: She is responsible for mergers and acquisitions. He works at Dun & Bradstreet.
apps Use initial caps for app names. Do not italicize or use quotation marks.

archaeology

Athletics Hall of Fame Also Trinity College Athletics Hall of Fame

athletics teams Do not capitalize: football team, softball team.

Austin Arts Center

B

B.A.

baseball facility Murren Family Field at DiBenedetto Stadium (do not separate the names; always cited as a unit unless otherwise instructed)

Black Capitalize when referring to a racial, ethnic, or cultural identity.

Board of Fellows

Board of Trustees, the board, the trustees

boldface Wherever possible, avoid emphasizing items in text by using boldface, italics, underlining, or all caps. Excessive use of these devices creates a messy-looking publication and can result in more confusion, rather than less, for the reader.

book titles Use italics. On Twitter, use quotation marks for book titles unless in the headline, where single quotation marks should be used. See titles entry for what to do with other types of titles.

brand-new Hyphenate this adjective.

buildings/rooms Name the building first, then the room: Smith House, Reese Room; Mather Hall, Washington Room.

Bulletin (or Trinity College Bulletin)

Bushnell The performing arts center in Hartford should be referred to as The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts or The Bushnell.

C

campuswide
capital, capitol A capital is the city where a seat of government is located and should not be
capitalized: The capital of Connecticut is Hartford. A capitol is a building and should be capitalized
when referring to a specific structure: The Connecticut Capitol is located in Hartford.

catalog

Center for Student Success and Career Development (formerly the Career Development
Center)

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS)

chair or chairperson (even if you know the gender of the person involved)

Chair's Circle In copy, lowercase “the” before Chair’s Circle.

Chapel, Trinity College Chapel

chaplain, the college chaplain

Cinestudio

cities Follow the AP style entry for “Datelines” as a guide for which cities should be accompanied
by state names. If the state is necessary, do not abbreviate: Providence, Rhode Island.

City/city When a specific governmental body is referenced, capitalize; when referring to the city as
a location, do not capitalize: the budget of the City of Hartford; the graduation rate in the city of
Hartford.

class years Be sure to use an apostrophe (and not an open single quotation mark) before class
years: Dutch Barhydt ’81, M’04, P’08. Do not include a space between the apostrophe and the class
year.

Class of 2019, the class

class secretary

co- Retain the hyphen when forming nouns, adjectives, and verbs that indicate occupation or status:
co-author, co-host, co-star. There is no hyphen in other combinations: coeducation, coed,
cooperate, coordination.

college Capitalize only when part of the complete title of the institution: Trinity College is located
in Hartford, Connecticut. First-years at the college enjoy participating in Bantam Network
programming.
**commas in compound sentences** Use a comma to separate parts of a compound sentence, placing the comma before the conjunction: Some of the people remained calm, but others seemed on the verge of panic. Sentences with two verbs or verb clauses joined by “and” do not include a comma before the “and”: We studied the properties of the quarks and then formulated several hypotheses.

Commencement (the specific event held every year in May)

Common Hour

Community Learning Initiative (CLI)

**compose/comprise/constitute** Compose means to create or put together: He composed a song. The zoo is composed of 20 different kinds of animals. Comprise means to contain, to include all, or to embrace: The state of Connecticut comprises eight counties. Constitute means to form or make up: Twelve months constitute a year.

Convocation (the specific event)

course titles Use quotation marks around formal titles in text. Quotation marks do not need to be used for course titles in listings, such as in the *Bulletin*. See titles entry for other types of titles.

course work

credit hours Use Arabic numerals: This class is worth 3 credits.

Crescent Center for Arts and Neuroscience, CCAN This is the name and accepted abbreviation (as of March 2017) of the building formerly known as the Crescent Street Building. Spell out the complete name of the building on first reference.

cum laude

D

dash Do not insert a space before and after a dash (also known as an em dash): He noted that his favorite genres—mystery, romance, and comedy—were being explored in his English course. See em dash, en dash, and hyphen entries.

dates/years Use Arabic numerals and not ordinals: October 21, not October 21st. For years, do not use an apostrophe before the s: 1940s or ’40s (not 1940’s). Use ordinals that are not superscripted for centuries: the 20th century; 20th-century literature.

dean of the faculty and vice president for academic affairs
Dean’s Scholars

dollars Use the dollar sign ($) for monetary amounts. See money entry.

**Ellipses** When used in the middle of a sentence, three dots indicate an omission within a quote. The dots are used as if they are a three-letter word, with a space before and after: The sentence “Trinity is world of opportunities, which vary greatly, for so many students.” can be shortened to: “Trinity is a world of opportunities … for so many students.” When used between sentences and the last part of the first quoted sentence is omitted but grammatically complete, four dots—a period followed by a space, an ellipsis, and then another space—are used to indicate the omission: Trinity is a world of opportunities. … There are many internships, study-away options, and research grants.

Elms Society In copy, lowercase “the” before Elms Society.

e-mail (no hyphen)

**Em Dash** An em dash most often is used to set off an abrupt break or interruption: We plan to pack a picnic lunch—complete with appetizers, sandwiches, drinks, and desserts—for the class gathering. One way to make an em dash on a PC is by simultaneously hitting the Ctrl, Alt, and minus sign (on numeric keypad).

emeri(ta) (one female), emeriti(tus) (one male), emeriti(ae) (more than one female), emeriti (more than one male; also preferred over emeriti/ae when referring to a mixed group). Capitalize “emeritus” or related word when it is used before a proper name: Professor Emerita Jane Crane; Jane Crane is a professor emerita. Capitalize “emeritus” or related word when it appears with an endowed professorship: Jane Crane is Allan K. and Gwendolyn Miles Smith Professor of Literature, Emerita.

**En Dash** An en dash most often is used to connect numbers, including dates, times, and sports scores, and signifies up to, including, or to: The orientation will take place August 29–31. Join us for registration on Monday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. The Bantams won 9–0 in a great start to the season. If you start a time phrase with the word “from,” use “to” rather than an en dash: The meeting will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. An en dash generally does not have a space before and after it. One way to make an en dash on a PC is by simultaneously hitting the Ctrl and minus sign (on numeric keypad).

entitled vs. titled “Entitled” means to have a right to do something or to bestow a title; if you’re talking about the name of a book, presentation, etc., use “titled.”

eQuad

**Faculty** “Faculty” is singular: The faculty is meeting today.
**faculty members** The phrase “faculty members” is plural: Faculty members are meeting today.

**fall** Do not capitalize in reference to the season or to the semester.

**Family Weekend**

**firsthand**

**first-year student or first-year** (not freshman)

**first-year seminar**

**fractions** Spell out simple fractions: one-half, three-fourths.

**Fred, The**

**Fulbright** Fulbright fellowship; Fulbright Fellow; fellow; Fulbright Scholar; scholar

**Fuller Arch at Northam Towers** (not Northam Arch)

**full time; full-time** Hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier: She holds a full-time job.

**fundraiser, fundraising**

**Funston Courtyard**

**G**

**Gallows Hill** See **Hallden Hall—North Wing** entry.

**Gates Quad**

**gender-neutral pronouns and use of the singular “they”** The singular “they” may be used as a substitute for the generic “he.” The singular “they” also may be used when referring to a specific, known person who does not identify with a gender-specific pronoun, such as “he” or “she.” A person’s preference for a specific pronoun should be respected. The singular “they” is treated as a grammatical plural and takes a plural verb: They have a degree in psychology.

**gray** (not grey)

**group (or mass, or collective) noun followed by prepositional phrase** The article that precedes the mass noun signals whether the mass noun or the number of the noun in the prepositional phrase controls the number of the verb. If a definite article (“the”) precedes, the mass noun controls, and typically a singular verb is used: The percentage of students has increased. If an
indefinite article (“a” or “an”) precedes, the number of the noun in the prepositional phrase controls: A small group of students want to join the protest.

**H**

**Hallden Hall—North Wing**

**Hillel** Trinity Hillel, the Zachs Hillel House

**hip hop** (no hyphen) Trinity International Hip Hop Festival

a historian, a historical See a, an entry.

**holidays** Most holidays are capitalized: The break will run from Christmas to New Year’s Day.

**Homecoming, Homecoming Weekend** Capitalize when referring to Trinity’s Homecoming: Homecoming 2010; Homecoming game in November.

**home page** This is the page first encountered when visiting a website.

**honorary degrees** In most cases, use the initial “H” with year: William C. Richardson ’62, H’03.

**hyphens** Compound words usually are hyphenated when used as adjectives, especially when they come before nouns: The attic is filled with dust-covered books. Do not use a hyphen if the first word ends in -ly: She walked on the beautifully landscaped lawn.

**I**

**IDP or Individualized Degree Program** IDP students and alumni are identified with the acronym “IDP” and their class year: Mary Elizabeth Miller IDP’00, M’03.

**Indigenous** Capitalize when referring to a racial, ethnic, or cultural identity.

**initials** Use periods without a space when an individual prefers initials instead of a first name: D.H. Lawrence.

**Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture (ISSSC)**

**InterArts Program**

**interdisciplinary majors/minors**

**Interdisciplinary Science Program (ISP)**

**Interdisciplinary Science Center**
internet (lowercased)

internet addresses See URLs entry.

J
January Start or J-Start This program offers an alternate entry point for first-year students.

January Term or J-Term This program allows students to enroll in a half-credit course during January, before the start of the spring semester.

jump-start (verb); jump start (noun)

Junior Abbreviate as Jr.; do not insert a comma before Jr. in a name: William E. Cunningham Jr.

K
Koeppel Community Sports Center

L
Trinity/La Mama Performing Arts Semester in New York City

La Voz Latina (LVL)

Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life Abbreviate as the Greenberg Center.

library First reference should be the full name: Raether Library and Information Technology Center; abbreviate in subsequent references as the Raether Center: Trinity College students frequent the Raether Library and Information Technology Center. The Raether Center offers a variety of research opportunities. Do not use “LITC.” The Raether Center houses the Trinity College Library, which includes the Watkinson Library, and Information Technology Services.

livestream, livestreaming

Long Walk Societies In copy, lowercase “the” before Long Walk Societies.

LSC Quad

M
M.A. (preceded by “an” and not “a”)
magna cum laude

Main Quad

major Lowercase unless it contains a word that normally is capitalized: classics, American studies, Jewish studies, Middle Eastern studies.

master's degree students, alumni Master’s degree students and alumni are identified with the abbreviation “M” and their class year: Crisanne Colgan M’74.

Matriculation (the specific event)

midnight Use “midnight” instead of “12:00 a.m.”

midterm; mid-August; mid-1980s

mini-reunion

mixed numerals Use figures with no space between the whole number and the fraction: 3½.

money Use the dollar sign ($) for monetary amounts. If an even dollar amount is in a sentence with a dollar/fraction amount, use “.00” after the amount: The children paid $1.50 to enter; adults paid $3.00; otherwise the .00 is not necessary.

months Write out the full name of all months in running text. However, when abbreviations are necessary, the following are used: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.

more than Use “more than” instead of “over” when referring to something that can be counted: More than 50 people attended.

multi Most “multi” words are not hyphenated: multicultural, multinational, multimedia.

multiple-digit numbers Use a comma for four-digit and larger numbers (except dates): 3,500; 60,000. For very large numbers, use a figure and word: 1.2 million.

National Alumni Association (NAA); National Alumni Association Executive Committee

Nobel Prize; Nobel Prize-winning scientist; Nobel Prize winner

non Most words that start with “non” are one word and not hyphenated. Use a hyphen when the main word is a proper noun: nondiscrimination, nonprofit, non-Spanish speaking.
**nonexempt** Do not put a hyphen in this word, often used in the human resources field.

**noon** Use “noon” instead of “12:00 p.m.”

**Northam Towers** Also, it’s the Fuller Arch at Northam Towers, never the Northam Arch.

**numbers** Spell out whole numbers below 10, and use figures for 10 and above. When two or more numbers appear in a sentence and one of them is a figure, that number determines style: The seminar will enroll 8 to 12 students. Spell out a number at the beginning of a sentence: Twenty-five students attended. Spell out first through ninth: first base, the First Amendment; starting with 10th, use figures. For hyphenated numbers and ordinals that are part of a capitalized headline word, capitalize both elements: Seventy-Four, Ninety-Eighth. Also see **ages, credits, percents, and ratios** entries.

**number one vs. No. 1** Use “No. 1” in athletics copy and statistical copy; elsewhere, use “number one.”

**O**

**off campus; off-campus event**

**offices** All offices are capitalized: Office of Communications, Communications Office.

**OK**

**online** (adjective and noun) No hyphen

**on-site** (adjective and adverb)

**over** “Over” refers to spatial location or to expanse of a period of time. Do not use for quantities; use “more than” instead: The balcony is located over the back half of the auditorium. I have more than 20 books in my backpack.

**P**

**parent years** Do not put a space between the P and the apostrophe in a parent year: John Smith P’09.

**Parents Weekend** At Trinity, the event is called Family Weekend.

**part time; part-time** Hyphenate only when used as a compound modifier: He holds a part-time job.

**percents, percentages** Use numerals: 9 percent. She led by 7 percentage points.

**periods** Use one space after periods and other sentence-ending punctuation.
Ph.D.

Phi Beta Kappa Always capitalize.

placemaking

plurals of proper nouns that include a generic term The generic term in a proper noun is capitalized if used in the plural: Summit and Vernon Streets, the American and French Revolutions.

p.m. (not P.M. or pm)

president Capitalize before a name: President Berger-Sweeney; Joanne Berger-Sweeney is the president of Trinity College. In most cases, first reference to Trinity’s president should read: Joanne Berger-Sweeney, President and Trinity College Professor of Neuroscience; subsequent references may read President Berger-Sweeney or Berger-Sweeney, depending on the publication/document.

pre- Follow Webster’s for hyphenation. Many words that start with “pre” are one word and are not hyphenated.

problem-solving

professor Capitalize before a name, but lowercase after a name (or no name is included): Professor Stefanie Chambers gave a lecture. Stefanie Chambers, professor of political science, gave a lecture. She is a political science professor. However, named professorships are always capitalized, before or after a name: Craig Schneider, Charles A. Dana Professor of Biology, spoke during Common Hour. All titles after a name may be capitalized in a directory-like listing of names with job titles.

programs Capitalize the official names of all programs: Human Rights Program, Health Fellows Program, Neuroscience Program.

Pulitzer Prize winner; Pulitzer Prize-winning author

Q

quad Capitalize Gates Quad, Main Quad, and LSC Quad.

quotations A period or comma is placed inside a closing quotation mark. A question mark or an exclamation point is placed inside the quotation mark only if it applies to the quoted material: She asked her student, “Are you amazed?” Did she tell you that “I was amazed”? A semicolon or colon is placed outside the quotation mark: She reminded us of the “necessity of this meeting”; later, she postponed it until next week. A dash is placed inside the quotation mark: “All alumni—no matter how many—” she told us, “are invited.”
RA Use capitalized initials with no periods for the accepted abbreviation for resident assistant.

racquet sports

ratios Use numerals and hyphens in text if using the word “to”: The ratio was 3-to-1. If the word “ratio” follows the numerals, you may omit the word “to” and use an en dash: a 6–1 ratio. Use numerals and a colon in tabular material: a 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

résumé

Reverend Reverend or Rev. should be preceded by “the” on first reference. On second reference, use the last name only: The Reverend Amos Carter; Carter. The abbreviation Rev. may be used, except in the cases of formal documents/publications (for example, the Commencement program), which may retain the complete spelling.

Reunion, 25th Reunion, Reunion 2019, Reunion Weekend

rooms/buildings Name the building first, then the room: Smith House, Reese Room; Mather Hall, Washington Room.

RSVP Do not precede by “please”; it’s redundant since RSVP translates to “respond, please.”

S

S.A.I.L. or Student Activities, Involvement & Leadership

Saint vs. St. Follow the style used in proper names: Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, St. James’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford. Use “St.” in place names: St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

seasons Lowercase the names of seasons: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Also see semesters entry.

semesters Lowercase the names of semesters: fall semester, spring semester. Capitalize January Term or January Starts, however, because they reflect the names of programs.

Senior Abbreviate as Sr.; do not insert a comma before Sr. in a name: John Johnson Sr.

soccer field The field’s official name is Trinity Soccer Field.

softball field The field’s official name is Trinity Softball Field.

sophomore

Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA)
spaces after colon Use one space after a colon.

spaces after sentence-ending punctuation Use one space after all sentence-ending punctuation.

Spiritual & Religious Life

spring Do not capitalize in reference to the season or to the semester.

Spring Weekend

State/state When a specific governmental body is referenced, capitalize; when referring to a state as a location, do not capitalize: the laws of the State of Connecticut; the state of Connecticut is a thoroughfare to the rest of New England.

state names Write out the full name in text: The alumna is from Massachusetts. She is from Springfield, Massachusetts. The two-letter postal abbreviation will suffice if part of an address: Please send the information to 120 South Street, Riverside, MA 02109.

student-athlete

Student Handbook

study away Hyphenate “study away” only when used an as adjective: Trinity has many study-away programs.

Study Away, Office of

summa cum laude

superscript Do not use superscript for ordinals: Use 10th, not 10th.

T

teams Do not capitalize: football team, softball team.


thank-you Hyphenate the noun; use two words for the verb.

that/which “That” is used to introduce restrictive clauses (clauses that are essential to the meaning of the nouns they modify). “Which,” preceded by a comma, is used to introduce nonrestrictive clauses (clauses that are not essential to the meaning of nouns they modify). The report that the
committee submitted was well written. James gave us the committee’s report, which was well written.

**the** Do not capitalize “the” unless it appears at the beginning of the sentence or is part of the formal name or title: Her article appeared in *The New York Times*.

**theater** Do not spell as “theatre” unless part of a formal name.

**times** Use “:00” for on-the-hour times: 3:00 p.m. Use “noon” instead of “12:00 p.m.” and “midnight” instead of “12:00 a.m.” Do not use “a.m.” or “p.m.” with words such as “morning,” “evening,” or “night” to avoid redundancy. Use an en dash with no spaces in the following instance: 3:30–6:30 p.m. If you start a time phrase with the word “from,” use “to” rather than an en dash: The meeting will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**titles**
- albums/CDs: italics
- apps, operating systems, devices: not italicized or in quotation marks
- art shows/exhibitions: italics
- articles, essays: quotation marks
- blogs: italics
- blog entries: quotation marks
- boats, ships: italics
- book chapter: in quotes
- book series: not italicized or in quotes
- books: italics (on Twitter, use quotes in text and single quotes in headlines)
- brochures/pamphlets: italics
- computer programs, apps: not italicized or in quotes
- conferences: quotations marks
- courses: quotation marks around formal title; no quotation marks if in list
- digital collections: italics
- dissertations: quotation marks
- films, movies, operas, oratories: italics
- lectures: quotation marks
- magazines, newsletters, newspapers: italics
- paintings, photographs, sculptures: italics
- plays: italics
- podcasts: italics (quotation marks for individual podcast episode)
- poems (long): italics
- poems (short): quotation marks
- reports: italics
- short stories: quotation marks
- songs: quotation marks
- species name: italics
- theses: quotation marks
- TV shows, series names: italics
- TV shows, episodes: quotation marks
- video games: italics
websites: not italicized or in quotation marks
web shows: italics

titles (people) Lowercase unless title appears directly before an individual’s name. Exceptions to this are the name of an endowed professorship and in a directory-like listing of names with job titles.
toward (not towards)

The Trinity Reporter

trustee Capitalize only when used before a proper name: I welcome Trustee Philip Khoury, who is arriving this afternoon. Philip Khoury is a trustee.

TV shows Use italics; put individual episodes in quotation marks. See titles entry for what to do with other types of titles.

U
UConn This is acceptable for use as second reference to the University of Connecticut.
UMass This is acceptable for use as a second reference to the University of Massachusetts.

under way (not underway)

upper-year student or upper-year Do not use “upperclass student” or “upperclassman.”

United States Spell out as a noun, and abbreviate as U.S. as an adjective: He lives in the United States. She is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

URLS Write out the full Internet address, including the http:// (or similar) protocol at the start of the address if necessary: http://gradstudy.trincoll.edu. Do not use the http:// if www. is all that is needed: http://www.trincoll.edu. For running copy, all words after the first slash mark in a URL are initial caps: www.trincoll.edu/AboutTrinity.

V
voice mail

W
website  Words in the “web family” are lowercased: web, webcam, webcast, webmaster, webstream, webzine, web page, web feed. Please note that some are one word, while some are two. Follow Webster’s in most cases.

website titles  General titles of websites mentioned or cited in text should be capitalized headline-style with no quotes, while titled sections, pages, or special features on a website should be placed in quotation marks and capitalized headline-style: the “Campus Visit” page on the Trinity College website. See titles entry for what to do with other types of titles.

Women’s Leadership Council (WLC) Founders Council

work-study, Work-Study Program (Federal Work-Study Program)

X, Y, Z

year ranges  For inclusive years, use the following pattern (note the difference when the century changes): 2016–17; 1997–2016