PRESERVING OUR STORY THROUGH IDENTITY STANDARDS

Alcorn State University is more than an institution of higher learning. As one of the nation’s leading HBCUs, it is a constant connection between our rich past and vibrant future. With a story as complex and compelling as ours, communications promoting Alcorn have the greatest impact when they share a consistent look, feel, and tone.

This identity standards manual establishes official standards for Alcorn’s visual identity. It is designed to help stakeholders like you promote Alcorn consistently and accurately throughout every point of contact with our audiences. Inside, you will find guidelines for the proper use of the Alcorn State University logo, official seal, and other symbols, as well as acceptable color use, approved typefaces, and more.

Adherence to these standards reflects our credibility, strengthens our brand promise, and enhances recognition of Alcorn as we grow. Every point of contact we have with our audiences builds perception about who we are as a University, what we do to fulfill our mission, and why it matters to our stakeholders.

If you are planning to produce a printed, broadcast, or digital piece promoting the University, approval from the Division of Marketing and Communication is required by Procurement Services. Our role is to help interpret the identity standards presented in this manual for your specific application. To submit your project for approval or simply ask a question, call 601.877.6130 or email projects@alcorn.edu.

Division of Marketing and Communication
www.alcorn.edu/marketing
projects@alcorn.edu
601.877.6130

We acknowledge that this guide does not cover all situations. If you have questions or suggestions for this guide, please contact the Division of Marketing and Communication.
The brand identity (logo) consists of several components. The size and arrangement of the individual components should always be maintained; never altered, distorted, or re-created. The horizontal configuration shown above is the preferred acceptable arrangement. The icon is the only component that may be detached and used alone; however, the full brand identity must appear somewhere on the application. The logotype is a single piece of art — it is not typeset and should not be re-created by attempting to do so with a font.
The Alcorn logo may appear with its official **tagline**: Where Knowledge and Character Matter.

The horizontal configuration shown above is the preferred acceptable arrangement including the tagline. The **tagline** can be detached and used alone; however, proper fonts must be used.
ACCEPTABLE CLEARANCE AND MINIMUM SIZE

The brand identity and its ability to communicate should not be infringed upon by other type or graphic elements. This requires a minimum acceptable space around the logo to be adhered to.

Acceptable clearance is established by creating a unit of measure (X) by measuring the height of the logo icon. That distance should be the clearance border around the logo. An exception to this clearance distance is the use of the Alcorn website address and/or phone number or physical address. All other art, type, and graphic elements should remain outside of this safe zone.

The minimum size the identity should be is 2’ wide.
Controlling the consistent use of color in all applications is crucial to maintaining the power of the brand. The standard for matching color across various applications is the Pantone Matching System (PMS).

The approved **coated brand identity colors** (in addition to black and white) are PMS 131 C Gold and PMS 269 C Purple. When necessary, these colors may be converted to a four-color process or RGB version.

The approved **uncoated brand identity colors** (in addition to black and white) are PMS 131 U Gold and PMS 269 U Purple. When necessary, these colors may be converted to a four-color process or RGB version.
Controlling the consistent use of color in all applications is crucial to maintaining the power of the brand. The preferred brand identity usage is purple and gold. White reversed out of a background of one of the brand colors, photography or black is also acceptable. Black and white on a light background is permissible when a one-color application is needed. Approval for this usage must come from the Division of Marketing and Communication.

The logo icon, when used alone, may be reproduced in the approved colors and may be screened for graphic use (as a background, for example). The identity art is a digital file that is to be reproduced only from artwork obtained from the Division of Marketing and Communication.
BRAND IDENTITY APPLICATION

The above examples show acceptable and unacceptable brand identity application over a variety of backgrounds. The logo should always be reproduced in a manner that allows for maximum readability and visibility. Usage over busy patterns or colors that are too similar to the logo may obscure the logo. This practice weakens brand recognition and is not permitted.

On light colors and screens, color logos or the solid black logo may be used. On dark backgrounds that are at least 40% black or an equivalent value of color, the reversed version should be used.
OFFICIAL SEAL

This is the official University seal. Note the scalloped border that distinguishes it from the logo. Do not use the seal as a design element on printed pieces. The seal is reserved for use on official University documents and by the Office of the President only. Use of the seal must be authorized by the Division of Marketing and Communication.
The wordmark is primarily used for promotional merchandise, such as hats, shirts, pencils, and cups. In other cases, the wordmark should be used sparingly. The official Alcorn logo (page 1) is the preferred brand identifier in most situations.

When used as a brand identifier, the wordmark is considered a logo: It has a unique proportion and should never be typeset. Do not use the acronym ASU in a sentence or headline. Always spell out the University’s name on the first reference then use Alcorn on second and subsequent references.
SECONDARY BRANDS

Secondary brands enhance the University’s core identity because they serve distinct and important audience segments. However, they add complexity to Alcorn’s graphic identity and should be used sparingly and strategically. Alcorn State University recognizes five secondary brands:

1. School of Arts and Sciences
2. School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
3. School of Business
4. School of Education and Psychology
5. School of Nursing
EXTENSION PROGRAM LOGO

As a part of the Alcorn State University identity system, the Extension logo plays a special role in identifying Extension programs, events, and departments. The Extension logo is part of the University’s identity and is to be used only in association with Extension. University marketing and communications collateral should always bear the official Alcorn logo (page 1). Materials that are primarily about Extension should be co-branded with the Extension logo.

If you have questions concerning usage for the Extension logo, please contact Alcorn State University Extension Program at 601.877.6137.
ATHLETICS LOGO

As a part of the Alcorn State University identity system, the Alcorn Athletics logo plays a special role in identifying Athletics programs, events, and departments. The Athletics logo is part of the University’s identity and is to be used only in association with Athletics. University marketing and communications collateral should always bear the official Alcorn logo (page 1). Materials that are primarily about Athletics should be co-branded with the Athletics logo.

If you have questions concerning usage for the Athletics logo, please contact Athletics at 601.877.6509.
OFFICIAL STATIONERY SYSTEM

This is the official stationery system for Alcorn State University. It is designed to ensure that communications mailed from Alcorn appear authentic and polished.

The stationery system includes all basic elements necessary to communicate by mail: letterhead, envelopes, business cards, and mailing labels. This stationery may be used for communications from Alcorn State University faculty, staff, departments, and schools to one another, to current and prospective students, to alumni, and to all other individuals and organizations both within and outside the University community. To maintain a professional and credible appearance, official stationery components should never be mixed with unofficial letterhead, envelopes, business cards, or mailing labels. To order stationery, please contact the University Printing Department at 601.877.6176.
EMAIL SIGNATURE APPLICATION

Sign all emails. Your signature should automatically be included on each email sent and replied to in this format. To add signatures to your emails, go to Tools and then Options. For a signature template and further assistance, contact the CITS Helpdesk Service at 601.877.6181.
For many, the website serves as an introduction to Alcorn State University, and a great University website leaves a strong, positive first impression with website visitors. Alcorn's Web presence must communicate in a clear and consistent manner the University’s mission, vision, and outstanding characteristics. To meet this goal, the Center for Information Technology Services has developed a template for use by Web developers at the University. Alcorn's website template gives Web developers across the University an easy way to build pages that have the look and feel of Alcorn's home page. All websites must be internal.

The University’s website template also gives developers a solid foundation for building websites that are compliant with Web standards, accessible to people with disabilities, and compliant with the University’s visual identity standards. For additional information, contact the Center for Information Technology Services at 601.877.6181 or email web@alcorn.edu.
The recommended logo placement on print media is at the top, either top left or top centered. On all external communications (printed pieces that go to an audience beyond the Alcorn campus) the printed material must be approved by the Division of Marketing and Communication. If the communication is from a specific school, center, or program, it may be branded with that unit’s distinction.

All brochures, posters, flyers, and other communications materials should be branded with a consistent University brand identity using University-approved colors.
SOCIAL MEDIA

Alcorn’s voice in the social media environment is similar to its style in publications — conversational, friendly, and approachable. Social media enhances communication, engagement, collaboration, and information exchange in support of the University’s mission. University departments and student organizations must seek permission from the Division of Marketing and Communication prior to embarking on social media. Alcorn’s social media handle is @AlcornStateU.

Social Media Recommendations:

**DO**
- Seek approval and training from the Division of Marketing and Communication
- Have authorization to post on your department’s behalf
- Protect confidential and proprietary information
- Respect copyright and fair use
- Ensure the security of social media accounts
- Be respectful and thoughtful
- Be consistent and timely
- Be accurate
- Use the University name in your handle first (e.g. @AlcornAdmissions or @AlcornAg)

**DON’T**
- Post private, restricted, or sensitive information
- Engage in arguments or negative dialogue when someone disagrees with your post
- Represent your personal views as those of the University
- Use images that are too small to be easily recognized in a browser or on mobile devices
- Design your own department logo that is not recognizable as being affiliated with the brand identity of Alcorn
- Use Alcorn’s logo or any other University images on personal social media sites

For additional information, contact gosocial@alcorn.edu.
TRADEMARK AND LICENSING

The Division of Marketing and Communication regulates the commercial use of the institution's name and all identifying marks, both on and off campus, to ensure the protection of Alcorn's reputation and maintain high standards of use. Campus departments, student organizations, and external groups frequently purchase merchandise that use University symbols, logos, and marks. These items range from lapel pins, car pennants, banners, and mugs to clothing and even high-end merchandise for special occasions. Such merchandise is an extension of the university's image, and just as there are standards for print material, there are standards for items available for retail sale or for use by individuals and organizations.

Alcorn products can only be produced by licensees who are under contract with Learfield Licensing Partners, the institution's licensing agency. The licensing program protects Alcorn's name and image and is critical to ensure the appropriate visibility of the University and earned licensing fees.

For more information on Learfield or to complete an application for licensing, visit www.learfieldlicensing.com.
POWERPOINT TEMPLATE

PowerPoint templates ensure consistency in public/external presentations made by Alcorn representatives, and make producing presentations an easier task. The templates include a background logo and fonts, with ample space for customizing text.

PowerPoint templates are available for official University use and can be obtained by contacting the Division of Marketing and Communication.
Adobe Garamond Pro Regular
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Adobe Garamond Pro Italic
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Adobe Garamond Pro Semibold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Adobe Garamond Pro Semibold Italic
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Adobe Garamond Pro Bold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Adobe Garamond Pro Bold Italic
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Light
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Light Oblique
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Book
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Book Oblique
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Bold
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

Futura Bold Oblique
AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890

BRAND FONTS

Adobe Garamond Pro is the preferred serif font for use with the graphic identity. It is shown in three weights: Regular, semibold, and bold. Futura is the preferred sans-serif font for use with the graphic identity. It is shown in three weights: Light, book, and bold.
Alcorn State University strives to maintain a consistent and strong identity and image. The printed materials the University produces should speak with one voice to present clear and precise messages in a distinctive manner.

To help accomplish this goal, Alcorn has adopted the following editorial guidelines based on three primary reference works: the most current editions of The Associated Press Stylebook, The Chicago Manual of Style, and Webster’s New World College Dictionary, Fourth Edition.

University magazines, newsletters, and materials that target the news media, such as press releases and tip sheets, are the only exceptions. In those cases, The Associated Press Stylebook should be consulted for journalistic style questions. In specific cases related to the publication of faculty research, each department should follow the accepted style for its respective discipline.

This guide contains some of the most frequently encountered elements of editorial style common to Alcorn State University. Every effort should be made to conform to these guidelines when developing copy for publications or simple correspondence. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Marketing and Communication at news@alcorn.edu or 601.877.6130.

ABBREVIATIONS
Avoid abbreviations in text material. If you must use an abbreviation, spell out the entire name on first reference, followed by the letters in parentheses. The abbreviation, generally without periods, can be used thereafter:
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Abbreviations frequently used at Alcorn that do not need to be spelled out:
B.A. Bachelor of Arts
B.S.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
B.S. Bachelor of Science
M.B.A. Master of Business Administration
e.g. for example
Ed.D. Doctor of Education
i.e. that is
M.A. Master of Arts
M.Ed. Master of Education
M.S. Master of Science
Ph.D. Doctor of Philosophy
Prof. Professor

ACADEMIC DEGREES
Capitalize in the following manner:
Ph.D., M.S., B.S. (always include the periods)
doctoral degree in psychology, master’s degree in English, bachelor’s degree in marketing
He received a Bachelor of Science in physics. She will receive a B.S. in psychology.
She received her M.A. in English. He earned a master’s degree in physics. She has a Ph.D. in chemistry.
He received his doctorate in psychology.
The word degree should not follow a degree abbreviation.
Correct: He has a B.A. in history. Incorrect: He has a B.A. degree in history.

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS
Uppercase when it is the name of a language or used as a specific course title:
He majored in history with a minor in Spanish.
She teaches Biology 101.
Lowercase an academic subject when it is used as a general field of study:

Alcorn State University offers programs in history, economics, biology, accountancy, and education.

AGE
Always a numeral:
1 day old to 110 years old, 7 years old, 110 years old
Always hyphenate when used as a modifier:
12-year-old boy
Always spell out numbers used at the beginning of a sentence, but try to avoid beginning sentences with numbers.

ALUMNI, ALUMNAE, ALUMNUS, ALUMNA
Alumni: plural, masculine; preferred plural form when referring to both men and women
Alumnae: plural, feminine
Alumnus: singular, masculine
Alumna: singular, feminine
Alum: accepted informal singular form of alumna and alumnus
Alums: accepted informal plural form of alumna and alumnus

APOSTROPHES
Plural nouns not ending in s: Add ’s
the children’s contributions
Plural nouns ending in s: Add only an apostrophe
the students’ needs
Nouns in plural form, singular in meaning: Add only an apostrophe
mathematics’ rules
Singular nouns not ending in s: Add ’s
Alcorn’s history reflects a commitment to a values-oriented education.
Singular common nouns ending in s: Add ’s unless the next word begins with s
the hostess’s invitation; the hostess’ seat
Singular proper names ending in s: Use only an apostrophe
Chris’ car; Tennessee Williams’ plays
Do not use an apostrophe to indicate plural with a number:
He graduated in the 1950s.
Use an apostrophe to indicate omitted numbers:
The Class of ’62; he graduated in the ’50s.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER FORMALLY ORGANIZED GROUPS
Capitalize “Alcorn State University Board of Directors” on first reference; may be shortened to “the Board” on second and subsequent references. Lowercase all other University boards of directors.
Emeritus (masculine, singular), emeriti (plural), emerita (female, singular), emeritae (female, plural) Board members are retired Board members selected to retain the honorary title.
Enrollment Management Executive Council, Faculty Board of Review, Committee on Graduate Studies

CLASS YEARS WITH NAMES
For undergraduate degrees only: David A. Smith ’66
For undergraduate and graduate degrees: David A. Smith ’66, ’73G; Renee Thomas ’78, ’83G; Carol Newman ’92H (Honorary)

CLASSES AND CLASS YEAR
The Class of 1925
Members of the freshman (not freshmen) class
COMMAS
Use a comma between all items in a series, including before and and or for clarity. The exception is news writing.
With conjunctions, use a comma if the subject of each clause is expressly stated:
   We are visiting Mississippi, and we also plan a side trip to Lorman.
No comma is needed when the subject of the two clauses is the same and is not repeated in the second:
   We are visiting Mississippi and plan to see The Mississippi Museum of Art.
Do not use a comma between month and year or season and year (commas are used in dates primarily when a specific
day is given):
   The building is slated for completion in March 2010.
   He is on sabbatical during summer 2010.
A comma should also follow the year when used with a month and day.
   The story will appear January 12, 2010, in the Vicksburg Post.
Use a comma to separate two or more adjectives preceding a noun:
   It was a cold, gray winter.
Set apart the name of a spouse or child with commas:
   Smith and his wife, Renee, and children, Ann and Paul, live in Natchez.

DATES
Use Arabic figures without st, nd, rd, or th.
   The orator will be coming to campus March 25.

DEANS
Capitalize when used as a formal title before a name. Lowercase when used after a name or in other uses.
   Dean David Smith
   David Smith, dean of the School of Business

DECADES
No apostrophe when plural: 1920s; 1980s; mid-1970s
Use an apostrophe for abbreviated years: ’30s, ’40s, ’50s

DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, AND OFFICES AT ALCORN STATE
Lowercase when used informally; uppercase when used formally or when needed for clarity.
   John works for the chemistry department.
   The Department of Chemistry is hosting a reception on Friday.
   Division of Development and Marketing
   Division of Student Affairs
All offices or service areas should be referred to as office of
   Office of the President
   Office of Alumni Affairs

EMAIL
Never hyphenate.

ETC.
Avoid except within parenthetical expressions.

EXCLAMATION MARKS
Use only for emotion or strong feeling. Use sparingly.
FUNDRAISING, FUNDRAISER
One word.

GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL, OR STATE
Always lowercase, never abbreviate:
U.S. government, federal government, the state of Mississippi
(Exception: the Mississippi State Legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives, Congress, the House, the Senate)

HYPHENS AND DASHES
A general rule is that hyphens link items and dashes separate items.

A hyphen (-) joins words to form compound adjectives or is used to attach certain prefixes or suffixes to words.

The dash that is usually typed as two hyphens (--) is typeset as an em dash (—). It indicates a break in thought and can be used within a sentence to insert a parenthetical phrase. Always place one space before and after em dashes.

Alcorn’s three campuses — in Lorman, Natchez, and Vicksburg — offer convenient access to world-class education.

The en dash (–) is used between ranges of numbers or dates or between adjectival phrases containing two-word concepts (1984–87; pp. 126–34; New York–Dallas flight). Do not use an en dash to replace a hyphen. There are no spaces before or after an en dash.

Hyphenate compound words that are used as adjectives:
Both on- and off-campus activities are planned.

Do not hyphenate compounds that include an adverb ending in -ly or used as nouns:
Noun: Vice president is not hyphenated.
Adjective: Full-time students carry a minimum of 12 credits per semester.
Adverb: He works full time for a company in New York.
Adverb: The newly appointed faculty member teaches English.
Preposition: The program is scheduled on campus.

INTERNET
Always uppercase.

IT’S, ITS
It’s represents a contraction for it is or it has:
It’s been a part of the Alcorn State campus since 1871.

Its is the possessive form of the neuter pronoun:
The company sold one of its subsidiaries.

JUNIOR (JR.), SENIOR (SR.), OR II
It is unnecessary to use a comma to separate Jr. and Sr. from the surname. A comma should never be used to separate II, III, etc., from the surname.
David Smith Jr. and John Brown II

MAJORS
Lowercase, except English, French, Latin, etc.
biology major
Spanish major
She is majoring in political science.
MONTHS
When used with a specific date, abbreviate only Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. Do not abbreviate March, April, May, June, or July.

- His birthday is Jan. 10.
- Dec. 4, 1995, was the target date.
- The deadline was April 13, 2010.

Spell out when using alone or with a year alone.

- August 2009 was a hot, humid month.

NUMBERS
Spell out under 10 — one, two, three, etc. Starting with 10, use figures.
Spell out first through ninth when they indicate sequence in time or location.

- first base
- Alcorn ranks seventh among universities that grant a master’s degree.
- He was the 12th person to receive the award.

Always spell out at the beginning of a sentence:

- One hundred seventy-eight students participated in the event.

Please note: Better to rewrite the sentence than to start in this manner.

Use a comma in numerals of 1,000 and above, except for temperatures and dates:

- 2,957; 18,462
- 3000 degrees C
- We look forward to the year 2011, when Alcorn State University celebrates its 140th anniversary.

PERCENT
Use numerals and spell out percent:

- 90 percent; 3 percent

PERIOD
Use a single space after a period at the end of a sentence.

QUOTATION MARKS VS ITALICS
Use quotation marks for titles of articles and chapters in books.

- The headline in today’s newspaper reads “Saints win the big game.”
- The first chapter in Stephen R. Covey’s The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is called “First Things First.”

Italicize movie titles, radio and television programs, podcasts, books, magazines, newspapers, and plays.

- The Oprah Show
- Gone With the Wind
- Invisible Man
- Newsweek
- The New York Times

QUOTATION MARKS AND PUNCTUATION
The period and comma always go inside the quotation mark.

- At the event she said, “It’s time to plan another summer gathering.”
- “I have another great group of students this semester,” the professor stated.

The question mark and exclamation mark always go outside the quotation mark unless the quotation is a question or an exclamation.

- “What time is it?” Smith asked.
- Who said, “It is nearly 3:30”? 
SEASONS, SEMESTERS
Upper case when part of a formal name:
Winter Olympics, Summer Olympics
Lower case when not part of a formal name:
A copy of our summer sessions' catalog is enclosed.
The dance for the fall 2010 semester is a big event.

STATES
Always spell out except in a dateline.
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:
He was traveling from Houston, Texas, to Jackson, Mississippi, en route to his home in Orlando, Florida.
JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —

TIME OF DAY
Lower case with periods (a.m., p.m.), and no :00s.
10 a.m., 10:30 p.m., 6:15 a.m.
10 a.m. to noon
2 to 4 p.m.
8 p.m. to midnight
Avoid the redundant:
10 a.m. this morning or 12 noon.

TITLES
Upper case when the title precedes the name:
Dean David Smith
Professor Renee Thomas
Lower case when the name precedes the title:
Clara Berry, president of Berry Publishing
Anthony Lawrence, vice president for design and research
Amy Williams is a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

UNITED STATES
Spell out on first reference and as a noun; abbreviate on second and subsequent references and when used as an adjective:
the United States
U.S. Court of Appeals

UNIVERSITY
Upper case when referring to Alcorn specifically:
For more than 139 years, the University has provided a values-oriented education.

WEBSITE
One word, lowercase, unless it starts a sentence.