

**Bowling Green State University** 

#### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions about anything in these guidelines, please contact:

Marketing and Brand Strategy Director of Creative Strategy 419-372-2616 marketing@bgsu.edu



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#### Introduction

Bowling Green State University is a public university for the public good. It is more than a tagline, more than a motto. It is who we are, who we have always been.

As Falcons, we have a special obligation to create good. We are a high research, comprehensive, nationally ranked university of value that doesn't settle. This document captures it all — how we tell our story, convey who we are and share the work we're doing with others.

#### What is a brand?

It's more than a logo, a slogan, a mascot or an ad campaign. It's long-lasting, with enduring strength. It is what people think of when they hear Bowling Green State University.

#### A brand is:

The promise we make to our audiences

The essence of our organization

The experience we create

The personality we convey

The message we deliver

The identity we express

## What will this document do?

As people, our messages are crafted based on who we're speaking to, the personality infused in them and the words being communicated. The same can be said for a brand.

This document will define each component of our brand to illustrate who BGSU is and why we matter to the region.

#### Introduction

The Bowling Green State University brand reflects more than a century of creating public good and is recognized throughout the world.

While the Office of Marketing and Brand Strategy is tasked with its cultivation and protection, the entire BGSU community has a shared responsibility to be good stewards of the BGSU brand. We want to ensure you have the tools to do so.

These brand guidelines serve as a resource as you represent BGSU and include standards for the use of logos, colors, fonts, images and overall visual identity, as well as messaging and voice.

We are here to help you advance the brand through the work of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. If you need further assistance, please contact the Office of Marketing and Brand Strategy at 419-372-2616 or the Athletics Licensing Resource Group at 616-395-0676.

# Voice

#### **Voice Overview**

#### Our message is what we say. Our voice is how we say it.

We speak in a way that's true to who we are as an institution. Expressing our voice consistently is essential to the success of the BGSU brand. It helps us reach new audiences more effectively, and forge deeper connections with fellow Falcons.

With these voice guidelines, you'll have what you need to tell our story clearly, compellingly, and yes, consistently.

#### Personality/Voice

Keep the sentiment of these traits in mind when crafting communications. Some of these traits will be dialed up or toned down, depending on your topic, audience and channel.

**RATIONAL (THINK)** 

## Friendly

#### WELCOMING, PERSONABLE

We treat others with kindness, dignity and respect. And it comes through in the approachability of our brand.

### Curious

#### EAGER, EXCITED

Our students are curious about their lives and their potential. We encourage it, guide it and see where it leads.

## Bright

#### INTELLECTUAL, FORWARD-LOOKING

We're going to be the 21st-century center of learning.

**EMOTIONAL (FEEL)** 

### Vibrant

VIVID, DYNAMIC

We embrace the uniqueness of Bowling Green. We have unconventional traditions. Our colors are unexpected. There's a lot that may surprise you here.

## Courageous

**BRAVE. GUTSY** 

We defy the status quo to better the lives of those we reach.

## Connected

#### TOGETHER, ENGAGED

We care about each individual and help them connect to what matters to them and where they're headed.

#### **Best Practices**

Regardless of what you're writing, you want to make sure your message—and our voice—rings clear. Follow these tips to ensure that the BGSU ethos comes through.

#### Know your audience.

Identify the particular audience you're trying to reach, or nothing you say will reach them.

#### Focus on one thing.

Emphasize a single message. Otherwise, your readers are likely to either forget what they've read or just stop reading.

#### Make it personal.

Use the second-person "you" and "your" to engage and motivate the reader.

#### Avoid jargon.

Write clearly and keep your language accessible.

Jargon has its place, but our communications are not it.

#### Stay away from the passive.

Amazing things are happening at BGSU. Use an active voice to tell the world about it.

## Give the reader something to do.

Always include a clear call to action.

#### Choose wisely.

Every communication needn't contain every detail. Focus on what's both important and relevant—clutter just gets in the way of our message.

#### Incorporate white space.

Your readers' eyes need places to rest so that their brains can digest information. Work with a designer to organize your content visually, making good use of white space.

#### Avoid clichés.

It's easy to resort to clichés: At first blush, they sound catchy. But it's best to avoid them. Use our personality to your advantage by being original and engaging.

#### Don't force excitement.

If the message isn't something we'd yell, it doesn't deserve an exclamation point. Use this mark extremely sparingly— or better yet, not at all.

#### Crafting Content Checklist

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CHE	-KIN	G	JUK	VU	ICE

When crafting any communication, ask yourself:

☐ Does this relate to our core message?
□ Does it sound like something a person with our brand's personality traits would say?
☐ Does it get to the point, or is the key message buried?
☐ Is at least one of our secondary messages included?
Do the headlines convey our voice, or are they simply labeling the content?
☐ Is this appropriate for the intended audience, and does it convey the relevant aspects of our personality?
□ Does it move beyond a simple statement of the facts to reveal something bigger about BGSU?
☐ Does it lead with audience benefits?
□ Does it pay off those benefits with our attributes?

# Logo

#### Logo Overview

# BGSU®

The Bowling Green State University logo is one of the most visible and recognizable elements of our identity.

The BGSU logo represents us at the very highest level and is vitally important to our brand. It acts as a signature, an identifier and a stamp of quality. It is, and should always be, the most consistent component in our communications.

In order to maintain this consistency, a few simple guidelines should be followed.

## The Official BGSU Logo and How to Use it

The BGSU logo is the official identifier and may be used only for purposes that will promote the goals of the University.

All communications, both print and electronic, published by Bowling Green State University, must prominently display an approved logo.

- Treat the logo as artwork, not as typography. The logo should be treated as a graphic icon.
- Other logos that represent an individual academic/ administrative area should never appear on stationery.
   This includes office letterheads, envelopes and business cards. However, individual area marks can be used on materials other than stationery as long as the BGSU logo appears prominently.



**BGSU Logo** 

#### **Approved Colors**

#### **ONE-COLOR APPLICATIONS**

When using a single color, the BGSU logo should be printed in orange, brown or black.

#### TWO OR MORE COLOR APPLICATIONS

If using the BGSU logo in two colors, only orange and black may be used as shown. The BGSU logo may be reversed to white if appearing on a dark background.



**One-Color Applications** 



#### Things to Avoid

Avoid these pitfalls when using the logo.

DON'T skew, stretch or bend the logo in any way.



DON'T rotate the logo.



DON'T use extreme drop shadows or other visual effects.



**DON'T** use any colors other than those specified in this document.



**DON'T** apply brand treatments to the logo.



DON'T crop the logo.



DON'T outline the logo.



**DON'T** apply the logo to a background that doesn't provide adequate contrast.



#### **Spacing**

In designing our logo, careful attention was paid to how it scales up and down, ensuring legibility at any size. It's important that the logo always be prominent and legible, so keep these considerations in mind when using it in layout.

#### **CLEAR SPACE**

When using the logo, include enough clear space to set it apart from other design elements. Use half the width of the G in BGSU as a measuring tool to help maintain clearance.



#### **MINIMUM SIZE**

To ensure legibility, follow these size requirements. When reproduced any smaller than these sizes, the logo becomes difficult to read and illegible.

BGSU.

#### **Other University Logos**

#### **INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS LOGOS**

Intercollegiate Athletics logos are the exclusive marks that represent the BGSU Falcons. Usage requires approval from Intercollegiate Athletics Licensing Resource Group at 616-395-0676.



#### **BGSU LETTERS WITH PUBLIC GOOD**

The BGSU letters logo paired with the Public University for the Public Good should be used on marketing materials when space allows.



#### **UNIVERSITY SEAL**

Based on the state of Ohio seal, the University seal is to be used ONLY by the Office of the President, Board of Trustees and on commencement materials. The use of the University seal for any application not mentioned requires approval from the Office of Marketing and Brand Strategy.



#### SCHMIDTHORST COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The named Schmidthorst College of Business is the only college that has a custom logotype.



#### Colleges, Offices, and Department Logos

College, offices and academic areas can utitlize the standardized logotypes. Utilizing the same font as the BGSU letters logo and Bowling Green State University underneath.



**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY** 



**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY** 





**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY** 



**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY** 





BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY







# Color

#### **Color Palette**

Our color palette is built around our primary BGSU Orange and Brown. While this palette is limited, it offers the versatility needed to keep communications looking fresh and dynamic.

#### **Primary**

These are our core colors. They identify our school and should be the most prominent colors in any piece.

**BGSU Print Orange** 

**PMS**: 166

**CMYK**: 0/76/100/0

**BGSU Digital Orange** 

**RGB**: 253/80/0

**HEX**: #fd5000

BGSU Brown PMS: 4625 C

**CMYK**: 0/60/100/80 **RGB**: 79/44/29

**HEX**: #4F2C1D

#### Secondary

These colors add variety to the brand.
Our secondary palette includes warm and cool hues that add energy and vibrancy to the BGSU Orange and Brown in the primary palette.

**BGSU Gold** 

**CMYK**: 0/3/25/71 **RGB**: 245/193/100

HEX: #f5c163

**BGSU Tan** 

**CMYK**: 28/37/51/1 **RGB**: 186/156/128

**HEX**: #b99b80

**BGSU Rose** 

**CMYK**: 9/40/38/0 **RGB**: 227/164/146

**HEX**: #e3a492

**BGSU Coral** 

**CMYK**: 0/65/53/0

**RGB**: 243/123/108

**HEX**: #f37b6c

**BGSU Seafoam** 

**CMYK**: 51/10/36/0 **RGB**: 128/186/172 **HEX**: #80baac

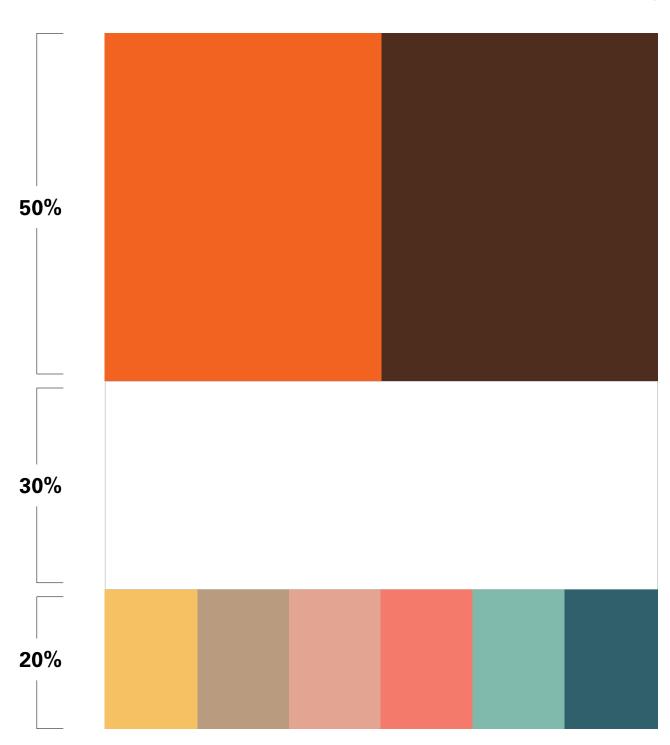
**BGSU Teal** 

CMYK: 88/49/47/20 RGB: 28/98/109 HEX: #1c626d

#### **Color Ratio**

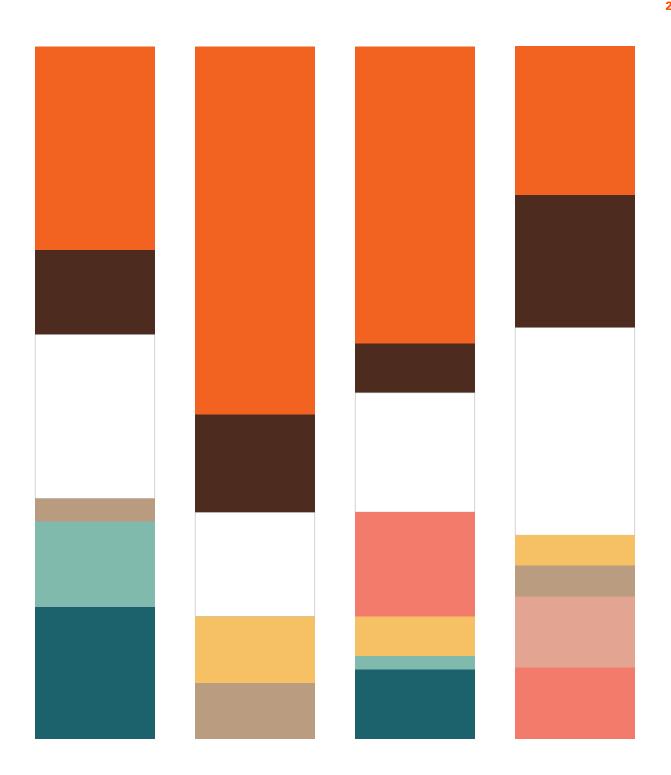
Our primary colors Orange and Brown should be predominant in most layouts. Never use secondary colors in this way. By leading with our primary colors, we can celebrate the pride we have in our institution and incorporate a thoughtful amount of negative space. Rather than viewing white space as a blank area, think of it as a pause. Whether it's in a photo or a layout, don't rush to fill negative space. What's absent can focus attention on the content that's there.

Ratios on individual pages, spreads, layouts and even full communications can vary. The important thing to remember is that our primary colors should be the predominant colors overall. When viewing all the pieces the university creates and applying the "squint test" to the brand as a whole, the balance of color should feel close to what's shown here.



#### **Sample Palettes**

Using color is an easy way to evoke energy and emotion within our communications. The use of these colors is not required but illustrates proportional adjustments throughout a designed piece. Reference these sample combinations that demonstrate consistent use of primary colors and white space as well as restrained use of secondary colors for balanced emphasis.



# Typography

#### **Typography Overview**

When it's used thoughtfully, typography becomes a powerful brand tool that can add visual meaning to what we say.

The BGSU brand uses a variety of typefaces, that offer flexibility and balance, across all communications and for a variety of audiences.

- Kepler is our sophisticated serif that is used for headlines and subheads.
- Europa is our workhorse sans that complements
   Kepler by being used at mostly small sizes in subheads and body copy.
- Univers Roman is the font for our body copy. This is also the same font as our BGSU logo.

Together, these typefaces help create a clear visual hierarchy and keep our content legible and engaging.

## Always BGSU.

**Kepler Standard** 

## Built on generations of first-generation students.

IF I COULD, I WOULD CHOOSE BGSU AGAIN.

- FREIDA FALCON

Kepler Regular Italic

Europa Regular

Bowling Green State University is a public university for the public good. It is more than a

tagline, more than a motto. It is who we are, who we have always been.

**Univers Roman** 

#### Kepler

As a graceful serif typeface, Kepler can feel either formal or casual, depending on how the text is used. With its delicate proportions and higher contrast, Kepler is used only for headlines and subheads and should not be used at small sizes for captions and body copy.

# Kepler

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNn OoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890!@#\$%^&\*()

#### **LICENSING**

Kepler is available for use at fonts.adobe.com after logging into BGSU Adobe Creative Cloud, with approval from the BGSU Marketing and Brand Strategy Office.

Regular
Italic
Medium
Medium Italic
Semibold
Semibold Italic

#### Europa

Europa is a flexible typeface that feels neutral, contemporary and utilitarian. The workhorse of our layouts with its clean design and wide range of weights, Europa is primarily used for body copy and smaller headlines, but can be used at larger sizes when necessary.

# Europa

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhliJjKkLlMmNn OoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890 !@#\$%^&\*()

#### **LICENSING**

Europa is available within the Adobe Creative Suite to download at fonts.adobe.com. Light *Light Italic* 

Regular

Regular Italic

**Bold** 

**Bold Italic** 

#### Univers

Univers is a flexible typeface that BGSU has utilized in its brand for over eight years. Currently, transitioning into Roman from condensed font face which is more legible at less point sizes.

# Univers

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhliJjKkLlMmNn OoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 1234567890 !@#\$%^&\*()

#### **LICENSING**

Univers is available from Technology Support Center (TSC). Please email vbeth@bgsu.edu with your asset number and contact information. TSC will download the purchased font onto your device. Helvetica or Ariel can be used when Univers is not available.

45 Light

45 Light Italic

55 Roman

55 Roman Italic

65 Bold

65 Bold Italic

#### **Proper Usage**

#### **LEADING**

Line spacing, called leading, is critical to setting professional-looking type that's easy to read. Leading should be set tight, but not too tight. Univers generally look best with leading set slightly looser than the default.

A good rule of thumb is to start with leading that's two points higher than the point size of the text. This won't always be right, but leading can be adjusted easily from there.

#### **TRACKING**

Correct letterspacing, called tracking, also helps make the type easy to read. Outside of headlines, it's usually acceptable to use the default tracking; however, you may need to increase tracking at smaller sizes, and decrease it at larger sizes. Optical kerning should be used when available.

The term "tracking" refers to overall letterspacing for groups of letters and entire blocks of text. The term "kerning" refers to selective letterspacing between pairs of characters.

Leading that's too loose leaves too much pause between lines.

17 PT. TYPE/30 PT. LEADING

Leading that's too tight leaves too little pause between lines.

17 PT. TYPE/14 PT. LEADING

When leading is correct, the reader won't even notice.

17 PT. TYPE/20 PT. LEADING

Tracking that's too loose leaves too much space between letters.

+75 TRACKING

Tracking that's too tight leaves too little space between letters.

-75 TRACKING

When tracking is correct, the reader won't even notice.

-10 TRACKING

#### Hint

Trust your eye. If the space between lines or characters looks too tight or too loose, it probably is. Remember, the main purpose of leading and tracking is to make it quick and easy for readers to digest multiple lines of copy.

#### **Typesetting Examples**

The following pages show just a few examples of how we can combine our different typefaces to establish hierarchy and create visual interest in a layout. There are many ways this can be done, so use these samples as a baseline and modify them as needed.

When using Kepler in headlines, reserve the use of italics for calling out keywords. This will draw attention for the user and also emphasize the importance of the idea in the headline.

# In the heart of the heartland, built on grit and resiliency

Kepler Regular and Kepler Italic Size: 46pt Leading: 44 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 0 pt

#### IT IS WHO WE ARE, WHO WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN

Bowling Green State University is a public university for the public good. It is more than a tagline, more than a motto.

Europa Regular Size: 21 pt Leading: 21 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 0 pt

Univers Roman Size: 11 pt Leading: 17 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 0 pt

#### **Typesetting Examples**

# Always a Public University for the Public Good

Kepler Semibold Semibold Italic Size: 34pt Leading: 36 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 0 pt

# A community for everyone, a home for every dream.

Kepler Standard and Kepler Italic Size: 48 pt Leading: 48 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 0

66

We believe that

if you build a life

around what moves

you, you'll always

keep moving forward.

— JANE HERMANN '23

Europa Regular Size: 12 pt Leading: 20 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 20 pt A PLACE
TO BELONG,
A PLACE
TO EXCEL.

Europa Size: 18 pt Leading: 18 pt Kerning: Optical Tracking: 10 pt

# Graphic Elements

## **Graphic Elements Overview**

The BGSU brand has a set of graphic elements that create a unique look and make us recognizable. These elements can be dialed up or down individually depending on the audience, to add a richness and depth to compositions and create visual interest.

ARTS TOURISM

TECHNOLOGY

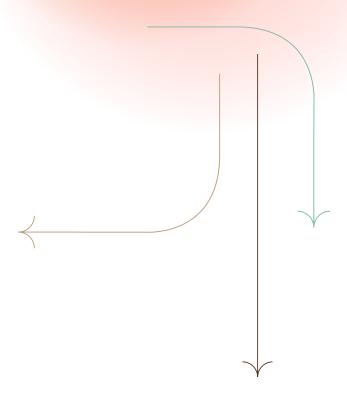
SCIENCE FINANCE

TRANSPORTATION

66

We believe that if you build a life around what moves you, you'll always keep moving forward.

— JANE HERMANN '23



#### **GLOW**

The glow element can help you add text on top of slim contrast images. The glow is developed to be use sparingly, to make text more legible. The color of the glow can be our lighter colors of our supplemental color options or a tone of the color to better blend in the design. The edges of the glow should be soft enough to not notice where it ends.

#### **How to create custom Gradient Meshes**

- 1. Create a white rectangle in Illustrator
- 2. Select the Gradient Mesh tool (U)
- Click a number points in the rectangle to create the mesh
- 4. Select different points and add primary and secondary colors (typically warm tones)
- Adjust the point placement and bezier handles to create dynamic and interesting shapes
- 6. To create a transparent background, select the white points around the shape and set their opacity to 0%
- Copy and paste the gradient mesh into Photoshop as a Smart Object
- Apply Filter → Noise, start with 5% and adjust based on the scale of the gradient mesh to match the noise in the existing set of gradients.

#### **GLOW**

**EXAMPLE APPLICATION** 



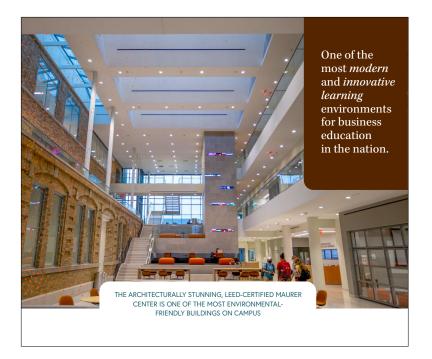




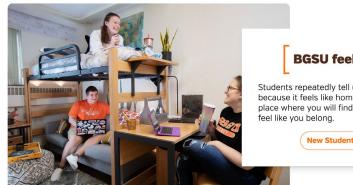


## Radius on images and shapes

Adding a .25 for print, 12 px for digital, to images or shapes matches the tag element. It shouldn't be over used and can be used with square images and shapes. When overlaying elements, both hard and curved edges can be used.



#### **EXAMPLE APPLICATION**



#### **BGSU feels like home.**

Students repeatedly tell us they choose BGSU because it feels like home. Living on campus is a place where you will find your community and truly feel like you belong.

**New Student Housing Guide** 

#### **Tags**

Tags are a highly flexible visual element that can serve a number of purposes. They can be used as labels for content, create emphasis, or as a wayfinding device. In digital applications they can used as a filter, button, displaying selected options and the corresponding content. Tags are a great way to incorporate secondary colors but should not be overused. On digital applications, tags should include some type of interactive state for a user and are best for hyperlinked buttons.

**ARTS** 

**TOURISM** 

**TECHNOLOGY** 

**SCIENCE** 

**FINANCE** 

**TRANSPORTATION** 

**DEGREE OVERVIEW** 

Minors

Applied Statistics

Business Pre-Law

Entrepreneurship

General Business

Economics

Finance

Insurance

#### UNDERGRADUATE

#### degree options

The Schmidthorst College of Business offers a multitude of undergraduate degree options, including 14 specializations and 11 minors. Our programs and specializations are aligned with growth industries and highly desirable skillsets that make our graduates . Finance extremely sought after.

Undergraduate degrees Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) Bachelor of Science in Economics

#### Specializations

- Accounting
- Applied Economics
- Business Analytics and Intelligence
- Economics
- Individualized Business (self-design)
- Information Systems
- Information Systems Auditing & Control
   International Business
- Insurance
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing
- · Sales and Services Marketing
- Supply Chain Management

#### **EXAMPLE APPLICATION**

#### **BGSU PRESIDENT RODNEY K. ROGERS** AND DR. SANDRA B. EARLE

invite you and a guest to a reception at the University House to celebrate this year's SICSIC unmasking

#### Saturday, Feb. 19 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.

- 1. Check your inbox for an email from President Rogers and Dr. Earle
- 2. Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 16, using the email link



A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD:

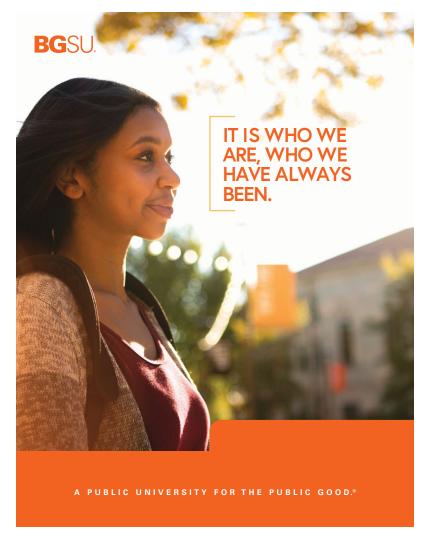
Office of the President Bowling Green State University 220 McFall Center Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0010

- 3. Contact Ann Neely, Manager of Presidential and Signature Events, at alinenk@bgsu.edu, if you have any questions.

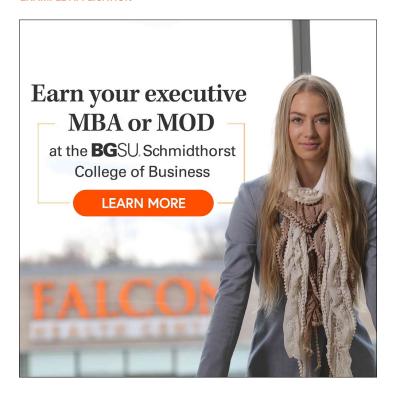


#### **Brackets**

Brackets should be used for quotes, subhead, and to accentuate key information. Double quotes should be used for quotes and highlighting information, and single quotes can be used for larger text including headlines and secondary callouts. Brackets should be used sparingly and not more than 1-2 in a piece.



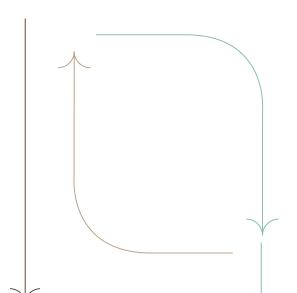
#### **EXAMPLE APPLICATION**





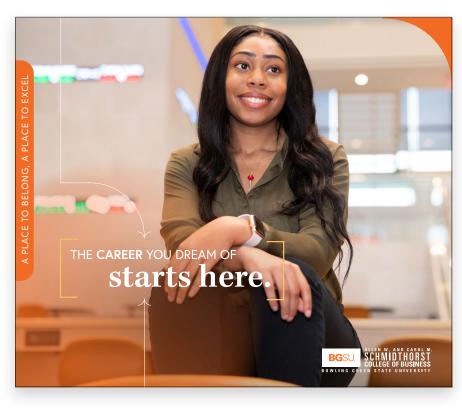
## **Arrows**

Arrows will be used to highlight content and draw attention to key information. Arrows should look lightweight and the arrow point should match the angle of our other shapes. Arrows should be used sparingly.





## **GRAPHIC TREATMENT EXAMPLE**





# Photography

# **Photography Overview**

Visually presenting the University in an authentic and unique photographic style is the best way to captivate our audience and emotionally connect with the students. We use a wide range of photographs to showcase our unique people, experiences and settings. Whether we're using existing photos or shooting new images, each image should fall into one of the following categories: portraits, moments and places.

Photography plays a major role in overall composition, so it's important to choose the best possible image for every layout. Full bleed photos convey a sense of openness and create negative space that leaves ample room for messaging. Be sure to select photos that feel candid and natural and relate well to the content

## **PORTRAITS**



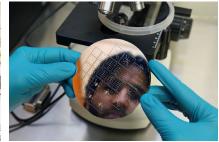




**MOMENTS** 







**PLACES** 







## **Portraits**

Our people—students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members—are the driving force for what we do, as well as the audience we wish to reach. Images in this category should feel candid, natural and in the moment. These images should have a shallow depth of field and can have a soft focus—conveying a mood rather than being technically flawless. Capturing a sense of curiosity, interest or discovery is a great way to communicate the individual student's journey.

Photographing people in their natural environments is important. Subjects can be looking at the camera or not, but they should always be shot in an environment, not in a studio or another location that feels overly stylized. Use natural lighting as often as possible.











## **Moments**

Images in this category reflect the experiences our students have at BGSU—capturing moments with faculty and with each other, in and out of the classroom. These photos should feel natural, candid and engaging. A captivating or real moment that is impactful and conveys a sense of movement, illustrates an individual or group's objective, and most important, helps tell the story.











## **Places**

Location-based photography helps establish our setting for audiences who are new to BGSU and reinforces it for those who are already familiar. These photographs represent the campus environment and our surroundings. A cinematic and epic quality, with wide and aerial photos that achieve balance and large-scale symmetry. Images of campus need to convey an appropriate level of energy, movement and excitement, and should authentically represent the on-campus experience.













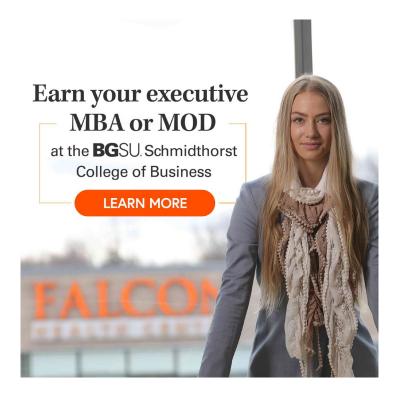
# Sample Tactics

# **Flyer**



## **Digital Ads**











WE'RE ALL COMING TOGETHER FOR ONE THING: WE WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

- SARA, BGSU PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

## **Email**

## BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

President Rodney K. Rogers and University Advocate Sandra B. Earle invite you and a guest to the

## SICSIC Unmasking Alumni Reception



### Saturday, February 19

3 to 4:30 p.m.

University House 700 S. Wintergarden Road Bowling Green, OH 43402

RSVP by Feb. 16

You and a guest are invited to a reception at the University House to celebrate this year's SICSIC unmasking. Please RSVP by Feb. 16. Attire is Falcon casual and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided. A face covering is required indoors when not actively eating or drinking.



If you have questions please reach out to Ann Neely, Manager of Presidential and Signature Events, at <a href="mailto:alinenk@bgsu.edu">alinenk@bgsu.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:419">[419]</a> 372-2240. Please indicate any dietary restrictions or any special assistance needed to fully participate in this event prior to the event.

To individuals with disabilities, please indicate if you need special services, assistance or appropriate modifications to fully participate in this event by contacting Accessibility Services, access@bgsu.edu, 419-372-8495. Please notify us prior to the event.

220 McFall Center | Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0010 | 419-372-2211 | president@bgsu.edu

# **T-shirt**

