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What is a brand?

A brand is a person’s feeling about a product, service or company. Good brands stand out in the marketplace and connect with their audience in a way that builds trust and recognition. How a brand is perceived can determine its success and change the way their audience views its message.

Creating a unified identity is one of the key ways to enhance the value of the brand and establish a consistent visual bond with its audience. This document contains the information and resources needed to ensure that the brand’s visual identity is consistent across all aspects of the organization. These guidelines are an introduction to how to unify the brand by defining its logos, typography, colors, graphics and photography. Using them correctly helps align creative work and make it easier to create memorable internal and external communications across all materials.

As the organization continues to grow, the brand will too. Please take the time to read through the guidelines and get familiar with all of the brand assets.
Logo

A logo is a valuable asset. It serves as the face of a brand and is one of the first things a consumer associates to a company or organization.
The School's official unit logo should be the first choice designing branded materials.

The logo is available in four color options: Carolina Blue/black, Carolina Blue, black and white. The logo is also available in both a horizontal and vertical format.

**Minimum Size**
When PMS® 542 or black is used in printing of the logo, the minimum height of the Old Well in the logo is 0.25 inches. When the logo appears as a white knockout on a color, the minimum height of the Old Well in the logo is 0.3125 inches. If a 4-color process build is used to print the logo, the minimum height of the Old Well in the logo is 0.3125 inches.

**Usage Requirements**
When using a unit or department logo, the University's full name, "The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," must appear elsewhere on the publication. Unit and department logos can replace the main University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill logo on printed and online materials; it is not necessary to use both logos.
CORRECT USAGE

Clear Space
Appropriate clear space must be maintained on all sides of the logo. There should always be a minimum of 1/2 the distance “x” between the outside edge of the logo and any other page element, including the edge of the page, where “x” is equal to the height of the brandmark. This rule is in place to ensure the legibility and integrity of the logo.

Correct Usage
It is important to use the logo correctly in order to maintain consistency throughout the brand. Here are a few rules to remember when using the logo:

• Only show the logo in approved color variations
• Always scale the logo proportionately when resizing
• Leave appropriate clear space around the logo
• Choose a logo with maximum contrast when using it on a background
MISTAKES TO AVOID

Be sure to avoid some of the following mistakes when using the logo:

- Using low resolution images
- Stretching the logo out of proportion
- Placing the logo on top of conflicting or busy backgrounds
- Altering the color of the logo
- Applying special effects or gradients to the logo
- Substituting or recreating the logo

1. **DO NOT**
   Use a low resolution version of the logo.

2. **DO NOT**
   Alter the color of the logo.

3. **DO NOT**
   Stretch or compress the logo disproportionately.

4. **DO NOT**
   Apply special effects or gradients to the logo.

5. **DO NOT**
   Place the logo on top of a conflicting color or busy background.

6. **DO NOT**
   Recreate the type or substitute another typeface.
Taglines represent the vision and mission of the organization, creates a memorable first impression, and strengthens an audience's experience with the company.

The "Start Here / Never Stop" tagline was developed to reinforce the idea that there is limitless possibility within and beyond the walls of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

The tagline is available in two formats — vertical and horizontal, as shown. The tagline is also available in multiple color options: Carolina Blue, black, white, and all tones within the brand's secondary palette.
PAIRING

The tagline should always be paired with the School’s official unit logo. It is acceptable to use the tagline whenever the School’s unit logo is in view within the composition but can also be placed directly below or beside the unit logo (i.e., stationery, etc.). Refer to clear space requirements outlined on page 7.
Typography

A brand’s typography is more than a design element: it is a form of expression and a unique way to articulate its message. The right typefaces, used consistently, build character and tell a story.
Knockout is the primary typeface for all marketing and communication materials of the brand. This typeface has been carefully selected to best represent the brand’s image, and must be used whenever possible to maintain consistency.

All weights are acceptable, however, Junior and Regular weights should be the most prevalent (full and ultimate weights should be used very sparingly).

**Uses**
- Headlines
- Sub-Headlines
- Graphics

**Font Installation**
This font family can be purchased and downloaded using the link below:

typography.com/fonts/knockout/overview
SECONDARY TYPEFACE

Open Sans is the secondary typeface for all marketing and communication materials of the brand. It pairs nicely with the primary type and adds contrast to blocks of text.

All weights are acceptable, however, Regular, Medium and Bold weights should be the most prevalent.

Uses
- Display
- Sub-Headlines
- Block Quotes
- Body Copy
- Graphics

Font Installation
This font family can be downloaded using the link below:

fonts.adobe.com/fonts/open-sans
fonts.google.com/specimen/Open+Sans
SECONDARY TYPEFACE

Freight Text Pro should be used almost exclusively for body copy and sub-headlines.

All weights and their italic alternatives are acceptable for use.

**Uses**
- Sub-Headlines
- Body Copy
- Formal Communications

**Font Installation**

This font family can be downloaded using the link below:

fonts.adobe.com/fonts/freight-text
**TERTIARY TYPEFACE**

Kinescope is the tertiary typeface and should be used very sparingly for formal messaging or to add artistic contrast to the primary and secondary typefaces within a composition.

**Uses**
- Headlines
- Formal Communications

**Font Installation**
This font family can be downloaded using the link below:

fonts.adobe.com/fonts/kinescope
Typography is an effective tool in clarifying a message. Using a consistent type hierarchy can increase the readability of a message, making it more clear and meaningful.

The examples shown give some guidance on creating type hierarchy within a design. In general, maintain a balanced contrast between titles, subtitles and body copy.

---

**Dolor nihil enet**

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit ullam fermentum nisl nulla.

---

**PHASELLUS TINCIDUNT ENIM**

Color

Color is a fundamental form of expression. It captures passion and emotion that can be easily understood by all people. When used correctly, color provides a unifying and easily recognizable element to a brand’s visual identity.
The color palette has been divided into three categories — primary, secondary, and tertiary colors.

Primary colors should be the most prominent colors in a design. The secondary colors were chosen as an additional complementary palette, and should be used as supporting elements to help communicate the message.

Black, white and other tones in the tertiary palette are acceptable as accent colors, in addition to the colors within the brand’s color palette.
Accurate reproduction of the brand color palette is essential in communicating a clear and consistent message.

When printing your design, Pantone® colors should be used wherever possible. If your printing process does not allow it or they are not available, use the CMYK builds that have been created.

RGB and HEX formulas should be reserved for on-screen and digital use.

Tints of the colors may be used to add dimension and interest to a design.
Accurate reproduction of the brand color palette is essential in communicating a clear and consistent message.

When printing your design, Pantone® colors should be used wherever possible. If your printing process does not allow it or they are not available, use the CMYK builds that have been created.

RGB and HEX formulas should be reserved for on-screen and digital use.

Tints of the colors may be used to add dimension and interest to a design.
Graphic Elements

Other items such as patterns, textures, custom illustrations and icons bring an extra layer of personality. They help create consistency across a variety of pieces and build a stronger brand.
Custom patterns provide visual interest and can be used in a variety of ways when there is no access to photography or custom illustrations. They can be used as backgrounds, overlays or simply stand alone, and should follow the same color guidelines listed in this document.

Both the primary and secondary patterns hint back to the “Start Here/Never Stop” tagline for the School. These patterns build momentum and energy in a design composition.

When reproducing any pattern elements, only the original high resolution or vector graphic files should be used.
A custom set of shapes and textures helps to add life and dimension to the brand. They are designed to be layered together, allowing for a wide variety of customization. These elements should never clutter the page and take away from the primary message. When using approved shapes and textures, only the original high resolution or vector graphic files should be used.

**Grain Texture**
This texture should be used subtly as an overlay on color blocks or illustrations.

**Bitmap / Halftone Effect**
Apply this as a photo effect (outlined on page 27) or use as a texture in a composition for additional visual interest. Use sparingly as this texture can overwhelm a page if not balanced with other elements.

**Lines**
Use as decorative elements or as dividers to break up content on a page.

**Radial Starburts**
Highlight a design element by using this starburst graphic. This was inspired by the School’s mission to “ignite public conversation.”
Photography

A picture is worth a thousand words. Choosing the right subject matter and composition provides a visual connection between a brand and its message.
OVERVIEW

The Carolina photo style should be an authentic representation of who the University is and the values it stands for. Photos should reflect the beauty of the people and places that embody the brand.

Images should feel authentic and not overly staged whenever possible. They should highlight the characteristics of the brand without being too busy or hard to read.

For official photo guidelines see identity.unc.edu/content/photography
MISTAKES TO AVOID

Avoid using photos that are off-brand or contain the following:

• Emotionless images
• Bland color or poor lighting
• Cliché scenarios and staged interactions
• Obvious posing
• Obvious or poorly constructed post-production effects

DO NOT
Use emotionless images.

DO NOT
Use images with bland color or poor lighting.

DO NOT
Use images that are staged or obviously posed.

DO NOT
Use obvious post-production effects.
For imagery associated with a feature story or event, photo effects may be used to further enhance the message and capture attention. These photo effects should be used sparingly and never on small, thumbnail images.

**Duotone Effect**
Using specific tones from the brand’s color palette, a duotone effect may be applied to the image. This is a halftone reproduction of an image using the superimposition of one contrasting color halftone over another color halftone. This is used to bring out middle tones and highlights of an image. Choose colors that are complementary to one another and provide enough contrast to not cause visual image “vibration.”

**Bitmap / Halftone Effect**
Where appropriate — specifically for a more artistic approach to imagery in a composition — a halftone or bitmap effect may be used. Halftone is the reprographic technique that simulates continuous-tone imagery through the use of dots, varying either in size or in spacing, thus generating a gradient-like effect.
**Branded Material**

All of the rules, styles and elements of a brand work together to build a stronger image when applied across a variety of materials. They help solidify the brand’s message and make it distinct.
Cover art for the Hussman Communicator alumni newsletter has been used as a vehicle to showcase proposed brand updates including color, typography, and graphic elements. Descriptions for each can be found below.

**Concept 1**

This concept builds upon the vibrant color palette to convey the high-energy nature of the School. A gradient map photo effect can give a “punch” to any photo and create a beautifully artistic approach when combined with other elements. Here the background photo is combined with the primary pattern and larged blue gradiated stripes.

This concept leans on color to bring visual interest but also utilized clean white space in equal proportions for balance.
BRANDED EXAMPLES

Cover art for the Hussman Communicator alumni newsletter has been used as a vehicle to showcase proposed brand updates including color, typography, and graphic elements. Descriptions for each can be found below.

**Concept 2**

This grid-based concept subtly nods to the School’s benchmark by which industry leaders in media and journalism have come to measure themselves. To contrast, elements are bleeding beyond the borders of the grid to show that leaders are not born without questioning the standards. This concept provides a lot of flexibility since each content block — even the title — could be placed in a different location based on the photos and copy for each issue. Extending beyond this example, making and breaking the grid is the overarching brand and design style proposal.
Cover art for the Hussman Communicator alumni newsletter has been used as a vehicle to showcase proposed brand updates including color, typography, and graphic elements. Descriptions for each can be found below.

**Concept 3**

Combining photography, illustrations, interesting text treatments, silhouetted images, color blocks and vector art in a collage-like design style, this concept provides unlimited possibilities for highlighting content — especially content that may or may not have great photography! This branding approach also allows a lot of flexibility to be artistic and thoughtful in how you want to present your content. This approach can be playful or serious depending on your message.

**BRANDED EXAMPLES**

**CONCEPT 3**

A publication of the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

MJ.UNC.EDU/HUSSMANCOMMUNICATOR

**FEATURE STORY**

**TITLE GOES HERE IN THIS SPACE AND THEN MORE ON THIS LINE**

Feature story teaser text goes here accept as roblo molesti traper, quid quae nationem, sum ad exculsque ter occurrem rem aut auctus volerul lapontem saga. Et quaer in ronm savosque quidnam est hab et magna ipsum aut omneun. Temperum enimque pilzil quem peremptus Paga. Circulir quis sed modi ducim ep

mj.unc.edu/featurestory

**SOCIETY**

**idab.wells**

mj.unc.edu/featurestory

**PMS 7697 (Tertiary Color)**

**Stylized Photography (painterly effect)**

**Grain Texture Overlay**

**Illustrative Collage**

**Radial Starburst Line Art**

**Secondary Typeface (Open Sans)**

31 | Branded Examples
THE UNC BRAND

It is important to refer to the University-wide brand standards found on identity.unc.edu, and use them in conjunction with this brand guide. The more units that follow the UNC brand, the stronger and more recognizable it becomes.
QUESTIONS?
We would be happy to chat!

If you have any questions about branding or would like to schedule a time to discuss a new project please let us know.

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