

# Domain of One's Own: WordPress

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WordPress is an open-source, content management system (CMS) platform that you can use create a blog or a website.

## When to use WordPress

- WordPress is a great general-purpose web-publishing tool: [as of 2022, at least 65% of websites built with CMS a and 43% of all websites were built with WordPress](#). Thousands of WordPress plug-ins, themes, tutorials, and learning materials are created and maintained by a [rich ecosystem of WordPress developers](#).
- WordPress was designed for [blogging](#), as well as web page development, and is a good choice for sites that need blog features such as "posts," author attribution, collaborative authoring and editing, and reader comments.
- Note that there are **two** ways to get a WordPress site at Bryn Mawr:
  - **Install WordPress on your digital.brynmawr.edu domain** if you want complete flexibility to install themes and plugins AND are willing to assume the risks of and responsibility for updating, securing and backing up the website yourself.
  - **Create a site on the LITS-managed WordPress multisite, blogs.brynmawr.edu**, if you need a simple blog or website that doesn't require special themes or plugins and will be maintained for a long period of time or can be easily passed on to other people in the college community.

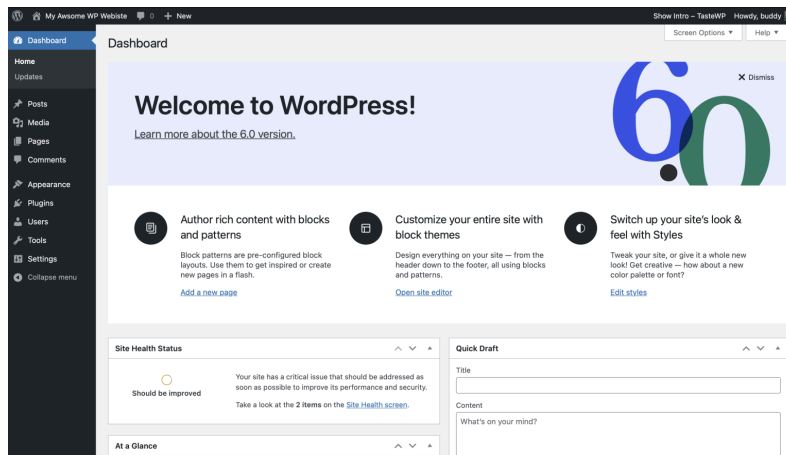
## Build a WordPress site

**Before you start**, you will need access to the following:

- [set up a Domain of One's Own account/domain](#)
- [install WordPress on your domain](#)

The process of building a WordPress site is very similar on [digital.brynmawr.edu](#) and [blogs.brynmawr.edu](#), but there are two key differences:

1. **You log in differently.** For a site on Domain of One's Own you can log in through [digital.brynmawr.edu](#) or directly using the login credentials you created for your site. See [Domain of One's Own: Log into and manage applications](#).



Logging in brings you to the **WordPress Dashboard**, click on the side menu options to:

- Create and manage **Posts, Media** and **Pages** (See [WordPress: Basics](#) and [WordPress: Embedding videos and other media content in blogs](#))
- Moderate **Comments** (See [WordPress: Moderating comments \(and spam\) in WordPress](#))
- Change your site's **Appearance** (See [WordPress: Working with WordPress themes](#))
- Configure **Settings** (See [WordPress: Privacy settings for your blog](#))
- Add and manage **Users** (See [WordPress: Adding users to your blog](#) and [WordPress: User roles for blogs](#))
- Install and activate **Tools** and **Plugins**.

Prefer video? See WordPress's [Getting to know the WordPress dashboard tutorial](#) and others in the [Getting Started series](#).

## 2. You can install and activate additional themes and plugins:

- Click **Appearance** and choose **Themes** to view and activate currently installed themes; click **Add New** to install others from the WordPress theme repository. See [WordPress's guide on Choosing and Installing Themes](#) for more information.
- Click **Plugins** to view and activate/deactivate currently installed plugins; click **Add New** to install others from the WordPress plugins repository. See [WordPress's guide on Choosing and Installing Plugins](#) for more information.

**Warning:** As with any software, themes and plugins need to be **kept up-to-date** to continue working and remain secure against hacking. If you want long-term stability with minimum maintenance, stick with themes and plugins that are widely used and have a history of being well-maintained. If you want to experiment with newer and less tested themes and plugins, be prepared to routinely monitor your site and find new solutions if something stops working. **Always delete themes and plugins you aren't using** to reduce your site's security vulnerabilities.

## Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Help Desk!**

**Phone:** [610-526-7440](tel:610-526-7440) | [Library and Help Desk hours](#) 

**Email:** [help@brynmawr.edu](mailto:help@brynmawr.edu) | [Service catalog](#) 

**Location:** Canaday Library 1st floor

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