WordPress is an open-source, content management system (CMS) platform that you can use to 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:
  1. **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.
  2. **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](http://digital.brynmawr.edu) and [blogs.brynmawr.edu](http://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 | Library and Help Desk hours
Email: help@brynmawr.edu | Service catalog
Location: Canaday Library 1st floor