



INTERFACE
THE WEB SCHOOL

WORDPRESS SPECIALIZATION

Time to level up? In this course you'll dig deep into the platform that powers 1 of every 4 websites on the Internet.

FALL 2017 SYLLABUS

WORDPRESS SPECIALIZATION SYLLABUS

Course Description

In this course, you'll learn the skills required to start a career in WordPress development by turning your own web pages into working WordPress themes, and finely customize both public pages and the editing experience for any kind of client and content. You'll learn to think like a developer and to build tailor-made WordPress sites for both public users and content managers.

Our WordPress course is held at Flywheel (420 S. 14th Street) – a managed WordPress hosting and software company based right here in downtown Omaha.

Course Prerequisites

- Working knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and jQuery, as assessed by the Specialization Course Assessment
- A Gold level or higher on the NCRC prior to the start of class
- A MacBook Air or Windows laptop, included in your tuition [\$1,000 discount if you are providing your own laptop]

Course Objectives

You're about to take your knowledge of HTML and CSS up a notch by changing your static web pages into a dynamic WordPress theme! Basic JavaScript and programming fundamentals are applied as you learn not only how to accept, manage, and display user content with highly customized themes and templates, but also touch on security, performance, accessibility, design, and proper hosting environments. Finally, you'll learn the ins and outs of how PHP and MySQL work together to form the core of WordPress so that you'll be well prepared to build a fully customized WordPress website to fit any user or project.

Additional Information

For information regarding class structure, assessments, attendance and participation policies, and grading policies, please see the Interface School Course Catalog.

UNITS

Outlined below are the units for this 12-week course. Keep in mind that we do not expect you coming to the course knowing the different terms, languages, and technical words that are included in the units. We'll teach you it all with hands-on instruction!

WEEK 1

Introduction + Reinforcement

- Set up necessary tools, apps, and programs
- Review programming foundations with JavaScript
 - If statements, variables, comparison operators, concatenation, debugging
- Work with jQuery for basic interaction and DOM manipulation

WEEK 2

Introduction to WordPress

- Continue reviewing JavaScript + jQuery
- Introduction to WordPress
- History of WordPress
- Set up Flywheel account to create WordPress demo sites
- Install and use themes and plugins
- Modify a WordPress site through FTP

WEEK 3

PHP and Server-side Scripting

- Continue basics of WordPress
- Introduction to PHP
- PHP vs. HTML/CSS/JS
- Set up local environment to run PHP
- PHP coding
 - Conditionals, variables, loops, working with strings, etc.
 - Building on themes from JavaScript

WEEK 4

Advanced PHP + Introduction to MySQL

- Advanced PHP concepts
- Associative arrays, objects, HTML form submissions via PHP
- Introduction to SQL
- Database basics
 - Running queries, working with MySQL, database fundamentals, connecting to a database in PHP
- Mixing PHP and MySQL
- Overview of a basic web app using PHP and MySQL

- WEEK 5** | **How WordPress Works**
- How PHP and MySQL power WordPress
 - Install WordPress and run it locally
 - Anatomy of a WordPress theme
 - Creating child themes
 - What the WordPress template hierarchy is and how to make it work for you
 - Template tags and custom WordPress PHP functions
 - The WordPress loop
- WEEK 6** | **Deeper Dive into WordPress Themes + Project**
- Continuation of WordPress theme assembly
 - Delve into WordPress loop and the functions.php file to handle enqueueing of scripts and stylesheets
 - Create custom menus and widget areas
 - Define projects
- WEEK 7** | **Advanced Custom Fields + Client-Friendly UX**
- Custom post types and Advanced Custom Fields
 - Work with a WordPress theme to create client-friendly user experiences
- WEEK 8** | **Converting HTML to WordPress Theme**
- Convert a static HTML site into fully customizable WordPress theme
- WEEK 9** | **Archives and Advanced Custom Fields**
- WordPress archive pages
 - Custom archives
 - WP_Query and looping through custom post data
 - Custom taxonomies and advanced features of Advanced Custom Fields
- WEEK 10** | **Flex Week**
- Flex week for project work time, additional coverage of difficult topics, or exploration of advanced topics by request
- WEEK 11** | **Advanced Theme Functionality**
- Advanced theme development
 - Template parts
 - Sorting code with theme template files
 - Accessibility
 - Project work time

WEEK 12

Full Start-to-Finish Building

- More advanced theme development
 - Custom admin stylesheets, editor stylesheets
- Create custom plugins
- Add shortcodes to a theme for client use
- Design fundamentals and advanced CSS review
- JSON and the WordPress REST API
- Project work time

WEEK 13

Going Live

- Overview of going live
- DNS, domains, and migrations
- WordPress performance optimization
- Overview of WordPress multisite
- Complete portfolio project site

NEXT STEPS

Are you ready to change your career path and learn an incredibly valued skill set? [Apply](#) today. There's no risk in applying!