

WordPress Developer: Learn PHP, JS, Theming & REST API

Master WordPress development with PHP, JavaScript, and the REST API to build custom, interactive websites for clients or personal projects.

Programming Instructor: David Carter • 5 sections • 53 lessons • 19.75h total

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About this course

WordPress powers a significant portion of the web, but many developers find it challenging to go beyond standard themes and plugins. This course helps you bridge that gap by teaching you to code custom solutions from the ground up. You'll gain practical skills in PHP, JavaScript, WordPress theming, and the WP REST API. The format includes video lessons, step-by-step projects, and real-world case studies to prepare you for professional development work.

Course curriculum

Introduction to WordPress and Development Basics

- **What WordPress Is and How It Powers Websites (15m)**
Understand the core of WordPress and its role in modern web development.
- **Setting Up Your Local Development Environment with Docker (20m)**
Step-by-step guide to configuring a local WordPress environment using Docker for efficient development.
- **Navigating the WordPress Dashboard for Developers (18m)**
Explore the dashboard with a focus on developer tools and settings.
- **Understanding WordPress Content Types: Posts, Pages, and Custom (22m)**
Learn how WordPress organizes content and how to use custom post types.
- **Exploring the WordPress Core and Its Ecosystem (16m)**
Get familiar with WordPress core files, themes, and plugins ecosystem.
- **Introduction to Developer Tools and Code Editors (14m)**
Set up essential tools like VS Code and Git for WordPress development.
- **Version Control Basics with Git for WordPress Projects (25m)**
Master Git basics to manage code changes in WordPress projects.
- **Your First WordPress Site: Installation and Configuration (30m)**
Practical session to install and configure a WordPress site from scratch.

PHP Fundamentals for WordPress

- **Introduction to PHP Syntax and Variables (18m)**
Cover PHP basics including syntax, variables, and data types for WordPress use.
- **Control Structures: Loops and Conditionals in PHP (16m)**
Learn to control program flow with loops and conditionals in PHP.
- **Functions and Scope in PHP (20m)**
Understand how to define and use functions, including variable scope.
- **Object-Oriented Programming Basics in PHP (22m)**
Introduction to OOP concepts like classes and objects for better code structure.
- **Working with Arrays and Data Structures (18m)**
Handle data with arrays and other structures in PHP for WordPress development.
- **Introduction to WordPress Hooks: Actions and Filters (25m)**
Deep dive into WordPress hooks system to modify functionality without changing core files.
- **Using WordPress Template Tags in PHP (20m)**
Learn to use template tags to display content and data in themes.
- **Database Interactions with wpdb Class (22m)**
Connect to and manipulate the WordPress database using the wpdb class.
- **Error Handling and Debugging PHP Code (19m)**
Techniques for identifying and fixing PHP errors in a WordPress context.

- **Secure PHP Practices for WordPress Development (17m)**
Apply security best practices to prevent common vulnerabilities in PHP code.
- **Building a Simple Plugin with PHP (30m)**
Create a basic WordPress plugin to solidify your PHP skills in a real project.

JavaScript and Front-End Interactivity

- **JavaScript Fundamentals: Variables, Functions, and Events (18m)**
Start with JavaScript basics tailored for WordPress front-end development.
- **ES6+ Features for Modern JavaScript Development (22m)**
Explore ES6+ syntax like arrow functions, promises, and modules for cleaner code.
- **DOM Manipulation and Event Handling (20m)**
Learn to interact with the Document Object Model and handle user events.
- **Introduction to jQuery in WordPress (16m)**
Use jQuery for simpler DOM operations and AJAX calls in WordPress.
- **AJAX Basics for Dynamic Content Loading (25m)**
Implement AJAX to load content without page refreshes for better user experience.
- **The WordPress Block Editor: Understanding React Basics (30m)**
Get introduced to React fundamentals as used in the WordPress block editor.
- **Creating Custom Blocks with JavaScript (28m)**
Build custom blocks for the block editor using JavaScript and React.
- **Enhancing User Interactions with Client-Side Scripting (22m)**
Add interactive features like modals and sliders with JavaScript.
- **JavaScript Debugging and Performance Tips (18m)**
Debug JavaScript issues and optimize performance for faster sites.

WordPress Theming and Customization

- **Understanding WordPress Theme Structure (18m)**
Break down the anatomy of a WordPress theme and its files.
- **Creating a Child Theme for Safe Customizations (20m)**
Set up a child theme to customize without losing changes on updates.
- **The Template Hierarchy: How WordPress Selects Templates (22m)**
Understand the logic behind WordPress template selection for pages and posts.
- **Customizing Themes with CSS and Preprocessors (25m)**
Apply styles using CSS, and introduce preprocessors like SASS for efficiency.
- **Adding Custom PHP Templates to Themes (28m)**
Create custom templates for specific pages or content types in themes.
- **Implementing Responsive Design with Media Queries (22m)**
Make your themes adapt to different screen sizes using CSS media queries.
- **Accessibility Standards in WordPress Themes (20m)**
Ensure themes are accessible to all users by following WCAG guidelines.
- **Using Custom Fields and Metaboxes (24m)**
Add custom data to posts and pages with fields and metaboxes.

- **Theme Customizer API for Live Changes (26m)**
Use the Customizer API to allow live previews of theme settings.
- **Building a Custom Homepage Template (30m)**
Design and code a unique homepage layout for your theme.
- **Integrating Theme Options with Customizer (22m)**
Add and manage theme options through the Customizer interface.
- **Theme Security and Performance Optimization (18m)**
Secure your theme against attacks and optimize for speed.

WP REST API and Advanced Interactive Projects

- **Introduction to RESTful APIs and Principles (16m)**
Learn the basics of REST architecture and how APIs work.
- **Exploring WordPress REST API Endpoints (20m)**
Discover default endpoints provided by WordPress for data access.
- **Making GET Requests to the WP REST API (18m)**
Fetch data from WordPress using GET requests with JavaScript.
- **Authentication Methods for WP REST API (22m)**
Secure your API calls with authentication techniques like cookies or tokens.
- **Creating Custom REST API Endpoints (28m)**
Extend the API by adding your own endpoints for custom data.
- **Modifying and Extending Default Endpoints (24m)**
Alter existing endpoints to include additional data or functionality.
- **Building a Front-End with React for WordPress (30m)**
Use React to create a decoupled front-end that communicates with WordPress via REST API.
- **Using Vue.js to Create Interactive Interfaces (28m)**
Implement Vue.js for building dynamic user interfaces with WordPress backend.
- **Implementing Search and Filtering with REST API (25m)**
Add search and filter features using REST API queries.
- **Real-Time Updates with WebSockets and REST API (22m)**
Integrate WebSockets for live updates in interactive applications.
- **Case Study: Building an E-commerce Plugin with REST API (35m)**
Real case study of developing a plugin that uses REST API for e-commerce features.
- **Advanced Security for REST API Integrations (20m)**
Protect your API integrations with advanced security measures.
- **Project: Interactive Portfolio Website Using WP REST API (40m)**
Capstone project to build a full interactive portfolio site with front-end and REST API.

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