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UNC Modular WordPress Theme available to campus users in February

Chapel Hill, NC – Members of the UNC community who work on departmental websites will soon have access to a new custom WordPress theme. The UNC Modular WordPress theme incorporates a simpler editing interface than current themes, meets current digital accessibility guidelines and meets the University’s identity and branding standards. ITS Digital Services will introduce the new theme on Monday, Feb. 3.

The UNC Modular Theme moves campus websites closer to meeting [UNC’s Digital Accessibility mission](#) and meets all [WCAG 2.0](#) accessibility guidelines for digital authoring tools.

Web architect lead, Michael Triplett said, “UNC Modular will be an accessible and user-friendly option for campus web designers and web developers as they await the release of an accessibility compliant version of the WordPress [Gutenberg editor](#).”

According to Triplett, UNC Modular offers academic departments an easier authoring experience and a more modern approach to layout than the traditional WordPress editor used in the current [Heelium](#) custom theme. “Modular requires less reliance on writing custom code for custom fields,” said Triplett. “Users don’t need to have extensive HTML mark-up knowledge since page layout is handled by interchangeable modules.”

The new theme is built using WordPress [Advanced Custom Fields](#) (ACF) and mirrors the look and feel of the newly redesigned unc.edu site.

Kim Vassiliadis, Digital Services and User Experience Manager, wanted to “give departments something that would mirror the University’s identity and branding. The Modular Theme has a consistent look and feel to the main UNC website using the same typefaces and a similar layout.”

“The initial design of UNC Modular was piloted in February 2018,” said Vassiliadis. “We are excited to release it to the University after a full year of development and testing.”

A handful of University sites began using the Modular Theme in September 2019 and the success of those sites opened the way for a full release of the theme in early 2020. UNC Modular can be seen in action at:

- <https://thewell.unc.edu/>
- <https://uncnews.unc.edu/>
- <https://realestate.unc.edu/>

User documentation and support for UNC Modular is available at uncmodular.sites.unc.edu or by contacting [ITS Digital Services](#).

About UNC ITS Digital Services: [ITS Digital Services](#) offers central WordPress-based web development and hosting for the university. Digital Services [staff](#) draw on experience in universities, government, non-profit agencies, publishing, design firms, and more. ITS Digital Services is connected to key central campus IT services such as database support, middleware, analytics and the help desk making it a great choice for you to quickly get the support you’ll need.

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