How to create a personal blog using Blogger

All GIS students at UWF will need to create and maintain a student blog at some point during their coursework. We suggest students create just one and maintain it for the duration of their GIS courses.

Your blog should be created with a gmail account using http://www.blogspot.com. We suggest that students use an email address that they can access after they are no longer a student at UWF (i.e. a personal gmail account as opposed to an assigned UWF student email). Blogger offers a fairly simple and straightforward way to create a blog where changes are easy to make. We encourage students to customize and personalize their blog while making sure to include the following items:

1. Set the time stamp correctly. This ensures that maps will be timestamped correctly and students will get full credit for the post.
2. Enable the comments section so that other students may comment on your maps.
3. Students do NOT have to make their blog public (i.e. searchable by Google) but they DO have to provide a link so that teachers can access their blog and add it to the program blog list for other students to view.

Step-by-step guide

1. **Open your gmail account** – It must be a gmail account, but please be aware that once you are no longer a UWF student, your student gmail account and blog site will be inaccessible (wiped) after 2 semesters of non-enrollment. We encourage students to use a personal gmail account to create a blog that they can maintain access to well after their UWF journey is over.

2. **Click on the Apps button** - This is located on the top right of the screen. It looks like a grid of 9 blocks. A dropdown will open with links to different Google Apps. Click on the more button to open a longer list of apps.

Find the Blogger icon. Click on the Blogger icon to open Blogger.
Once Blogger Dashboard opens, click on the **Create new blog button.**

**Title your blog. Create an address and select a template.** For example: Salina’s GIS Journey, Student’s GIS Blog, etc.

**View your blog**

**Congratulations!** You made your blog and you are ready to start blogging!

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**NOTE:** We encourage students to include a **profile picture** on their User Profile.
Completing the **About Me** section, found in the Layout menu, with information is also advisable as long as it is general and professional.

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