ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Sensei LMS

The Insider's Guide

WordPress course plugin with a free core and a paid Pro tier



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among course and community platforms, read from Sensei LMS's own pages.

Made by Automattic · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2

GPA



Contents

01 Welcome
What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

02 What it costs
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

03 What it does
Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

04 Where it stands
Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

05 The alternatives
The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side

06 Quick answers
The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

07 About ToolGPA
Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Sensei LMS's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Sensei LMS's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.2

GPA, above 14 of the 41 other course and community platforms we grade

Sensei LMS is a WordPress plugin for building and selling courses, made by Automattic. The free plugin offers unlimited courses and students, basic quizzes, certificates and a distraction-free learning mode. Sensei Pro adds selling through WooCommerce, advanced quizzes, interactive lessons and cohorts.

> "
>
> **It runs only on a WordPress site you host yourself.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Sensei LMS**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

1 **Best for courses on WordPress with a free core**

It only runs on WordPress you host yourself, and selling courses and cohorts needs Pro.

2 **Paid plans start at $15 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $15 per month, billed yearly ($179), for Sensei Pro; the core plugin is free.

3 **There is a free plan**

Sensei Free: unlimited free courses, certificate builder, basic quizzes and learning mode, open-source and community supported.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Courses and quizzes**

Unlimited courses and students on the free plugin, with basic quizzes; Pro adds auto-graded, timed quizzes and AI quiz generation.

6 **Selling with WooCommerce**

Selling courses uses WooCommerce and is part of Sensei Pro, not the free plugin.

7 **Interactive Blocks**

Interactive videos, flashcards, image hotspots and accordions that work in pages, posts and lessons.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 14 of 41**

That is against the other course and community platforms we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **You could make this**

What Sensei LMS does at its core is online courses and templates, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

Sensei LMS at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from $15 per month, billed yearly ($179), for Sensei Pro; the core plugin is free

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
None stated

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Automattic

CATEGORY
Courses & Communities

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for courses on WordPress with a free core

Sensei LMS is a WordPress course plugin with a free core and Pro from $15 a month billed yearly. It only runs on WordPress you host yourself, and selling courses and cohorts needs Pro.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Sensei LMS	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	Sensei Pro is $15 a month billed yearly ($179), under the $29 cheaper quarter of courses and communities tools, but you also pay for WordPress hosting.
Free plan and trial	C	The free core gives unlimited free courses, a certificate builder and basic quizzes. Selling courses and advanced quizzes need Pro, and there is no trial.
Features	C	Courses, quizzes, WooCommerce selling, interactive blocks, groups and certificates. The listing's gap: selling, advanced quizzes and cohorts need Pro, and it doesn't host video.
Ease of use	D	It runs only on a WordPress site you host yourself.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with WooCommerce, VideoPress, YouTube and Vimeo connections.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Sensei LMS is for

- ✓ Fits if you run a WordPress site and want to start with free courses
- ✓ Works for a single site that will add WooCommerce to sell

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you don't want to host WordPress yourself
- ✗ Tight if you want to sell: selling and cohorts need Pro at $179 a year per site
- ✗ Watch out: there is no free trial, only the free plugin and a 14-day refund on paid plans
- ✗ Watch out: it doesn't host videos, so you pay for that elsewhere

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ WordPress users who want to start with a free LMS
- ✓ Course creators who want to sell through WooCommerce

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It runs only on a WordPress site you host yourself.
- ⓘ Selling courses, advanced quizzes and cohorts need Sensei Pro; one Pro license covers one site.
- ⓘ There is no free trial; the vendor points to the free plugin instead, and paid plans carry a 14-day refund guarantee.
- ⓘ Sensei does not host videos.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$15

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Sensei LMS has a free plan. Paid plans start at $15 per month, billed yearly ($179), for Sensei Pro; the core plugin is free.

> **The free core gives unlimited free courses, a certificate builder and basic quizzes.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

SENSEI FREE

$0

Open-source plugin you host yourself, with unlimited free courses, basic quizzes and a certificate builder.

INTERACTIVE BLOCKS

$5

per month, billed yearly ($60)

Interactive videos, flashcards, image hotspots, accordions, task lists and quiz blocks; Sensei LMS not required.

SENSEI PRO

$15

per month, billed yearly ($179)

Everything in Free plus selling courses, advanced quizzes, interactive lessons, groups and cohorts; 1 site.

SENSEI AGENCY

$30

per month, billed yearly ($360)

Sensei Pro and Interactive Blocks on up to 20 sites or 1 Multisite network.

The free plan

Sensei Free: unlimited free courses, certificate builder, basic quizzes and learning mode, open-source and community supported.

Read from senseilms.com on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

WordPress course plugin with a free core and a paid Pro tier. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, AI features, templates, online courses.

> **Courses, quizzes, WooCommerce selling, interactive blocks, groups and certificates.**

From our grade for features

Courses and quizzes

Unlimited courses and students on the free plugin, with basic quizzes; Pro adds auto-graded, timed quizzes and AI quiz generation.

Selling with WooCommerce

Selling courses uses WooCommerce and is part of Sensei Pro, not the free plugin.

Interactive Blocks

Interactive videos, flashcards, image hotspots and accordions that work in pages, posts and lessons.

Groups and cohorts

Sensei Pro adds group management, cohorts with scheduled access, and co-teachers.

Tutor AI

A feature listed on the pricing comparison for AI chat inside a lesson.

Certificates and learning mode

A certificate builder and a distraction-free learning mode come with the free plugin.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

WooCommerce
VideoPress
YouTube
Vimeo

Sensei LMS is made by Automattic.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

14/41

Other course and community platforms it is graded above

Sensei LMS's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 14 of the 41 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 11.

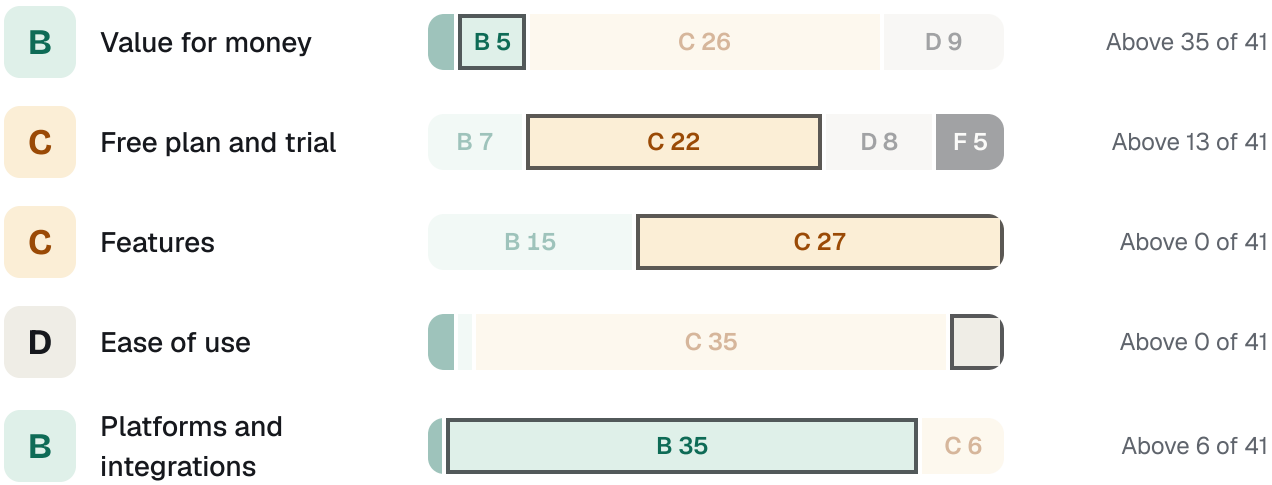
It stands best on value for money (B, above 35 of 41) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $15 a month, against a middle price of $49 for the category: 1 of the 36 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 3 tools score higher and cost less.

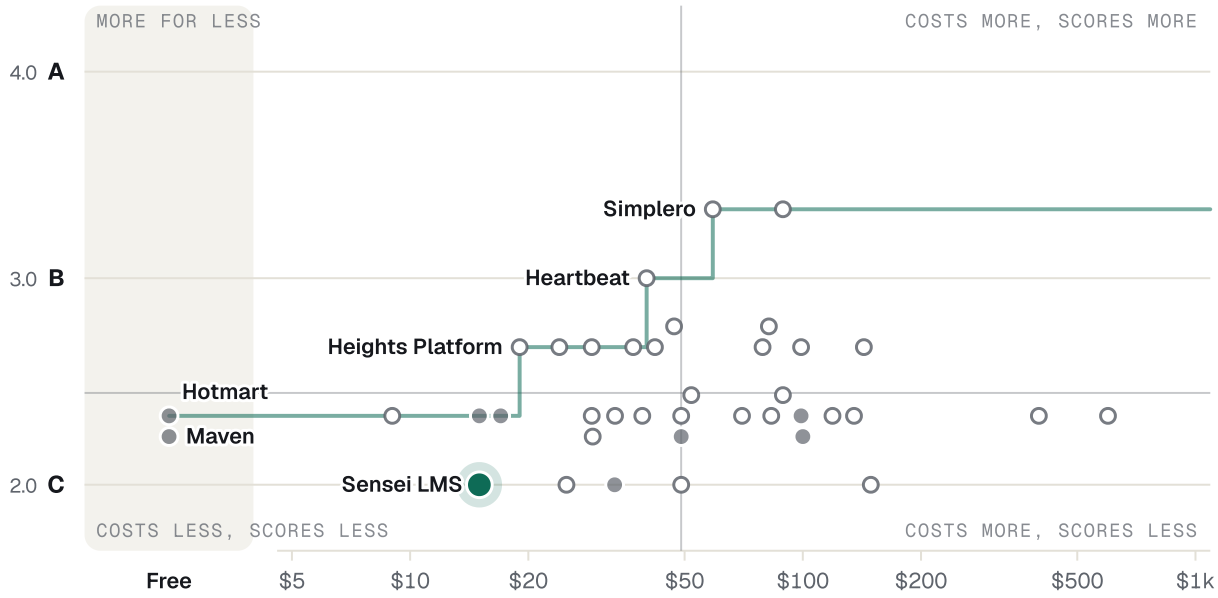
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 42 course and community platforms we grade, cut by the letter each got. Sensei LMS's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 39 course and community platforms. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Sensei LMS is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double) ⍰

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

You could make this

What Sensei LMS does at its core is online courses and templates, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

You would give up one thing, listed below, and little else. It costs $180 a year. An AI app builder starts at about $20 a month on our listings, and you only need it while you build. Sensei LMS is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could make

- Online courses and templates: an app builder makes these well.
- It runs in a browser, which is where something home-made would run too.

What you could not

- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Sensei LMS's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



LifterLMS, LearnDash, AccessAlly, Paid Memberships Pro and MemberPress

The 5 tools Sensei LMS is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

LifterLMS

2.2 GPA

Free plan · from $398/yr

WordPress LMS plugin with a free core and paid bundles.

- Sensei LMS is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- LifterLMS also covers marketing automation, reports and community.

Sensei LMS and LifterLMS compared in full

LearnDash

2.0 GPA

Free trial · from $350/yr

WordPress plugin for building and selling online courses.

- Sensei LMS has a free plan. LearnDash does not, though it has a free trial.
- Sensei LMS is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Sensei LMS also covers templates.

Sensei LMS and LearnDash compared in full



1.8 GPA

AccessAlly

Paid

WordPress plugin for courses, memberships and communities.

- Sensei LMS has a free plan. AccessAlly does not.
- Sensei LMS is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- AccessAlly also covers marketing automation, community and affiliate tracking.

Sensei LMS and AccessAlly compared in full



2.4 GPA

Paid Memberships Pro

Free plan · from $49/mo

Open-source WordPress membership plugin with managed hosting.

- Sensei LMS also covers online courses.
- Paid Memberships Pro also covers paid newsletters and community.

Sensei LMS and Paid Memberships Pro compared in full



1.8 GPA

MemberPress

From $399/yr

WordPress plugin for paid memberships, courses and communities.

- Sensei LMS has a free plan. MemberPress does not.
- Sensei LMS is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Sensei LMS also covers templates.

Sensei LMS and MemberPress compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

12

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Sensei LMS free?

Sensei LMS has a free plan. Sensei Free: unlimited free courses, certificate builder, basic quizzes and learning mode, open-source and community supported.

How much does Sensei LMS cost?

Sensei LMS lists 4 plans. Sensei Free: $0.

What platforms does Sensei LMS work on?

Sensei LMS is available on Web.

Does Sensei LMS have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Sensei LMS is listed for Web.

Does Sensei LMS have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Sensei LMS is listed for Web.

Is Sensei LMS open source?

Yes. Sensei LMS is open source, according to its own site.

What does Sensei LMS integrate with?

Sensei LMS's listing names WooCommerce, VideoPress, YouTube and Vimeo.

Who makes Sensei LMS?

Sensei LMS is made by Automattic.

What are the alternatives to Sensei LMS?

The closest alternatives to Sensei LMS in our directory are LifterLMS, LearnDash, AccessAlly, Paid Memberships Pro and MemberPress.

How does Sensei LMS compare with other course and community platforms?

Sensei LMS's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 14 of the 41 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 11.

Is Sensei LMS good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Sensei LMS B for value for money. Its paid plans start at $15 a month, against a middle price of $49 for the category: 1 of the 36 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Sensei LMS?

What Sensei LMS does at its core is online courses and templates, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Sensei LMS's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Sensei LMS's own pages on 12 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Automattic. Prices change, so check senseilms.com before you buy.

senseilms.com/pricing/

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038
Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

5,038
tools graded

95
categories

739
price changes on record

579
apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Sensei LMS, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/lms-wordpress-sensei

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Sensei LMS: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/lms-wordpress-sensei
```

Know someone choosing between course and community platforms?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/lms-wordpress-sensei/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded course and community platforms after Sensei LMS, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Courses & Communities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 42 course and community platforms we grade, compared

Circle Insider's Guide

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps

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Fourthwall Insider's Guide

Creator shop with merch, digital products and memberships

2.8 GPA

Simplero Insider's Guide

All-in-one platform for courses, community, email and coaching

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Sensei LMS's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Sensei LMS is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Automattic. Prices and plans change: check senseilms.com before you buy.