

prog00 Setup: Installing the C Compiler

Programming — Medina County Career Center

What This Is

Before we can write C programs, we need to install a compiler. Our school computers don't have one available from a regular command prompt, so we're going to install one using a tool called MSYS2 that's already set up to work without admin rights.

This only needs to be done once. If you already did this, you can skip ahead to the programming walkthrough.

Step 1 — Download MSYS2

Go to <https://www.msys2.org/> and download the first file at the top of the page. It will be called `msys2-x86_64-20251213.exe`.

Step 2 — Run the Installer

Double-click the downloaded file and follow the prompts. **Use all the default settings.** If the installer asks about other programs on your computer (like Anaconda), just leave the defaults and continue.

When the installer finishes, a terminal window should open automatically. **Close that window** — we need a different one.

Step 3 — Open the MinGW64 Shell

Click the **Windows search bar** (bottom left of your screen) and type:

```
C:\msys64\mingw64.exe
```

Open it. A terminal window will appear with a colored prompt — this is the **MinGW64 shell**.

Step 4 — Install GCC

In the MinGW64 shell, type this command and press Enter:

```
pacman -S mingw-w64-x86_64-gcc
```

When it asks you to proceed, type **Y** and press Enter. Give it a minute to finish.

Step 5 — Verify It Worked

Type this and press Enter:

```
gcc --version
```

You should see version info like `gcc (Rev...) 14.x.x`. If you see that, **you're all set**. If you get `command not found`, raise your hand.

You're Done

You now have a working C compiler.