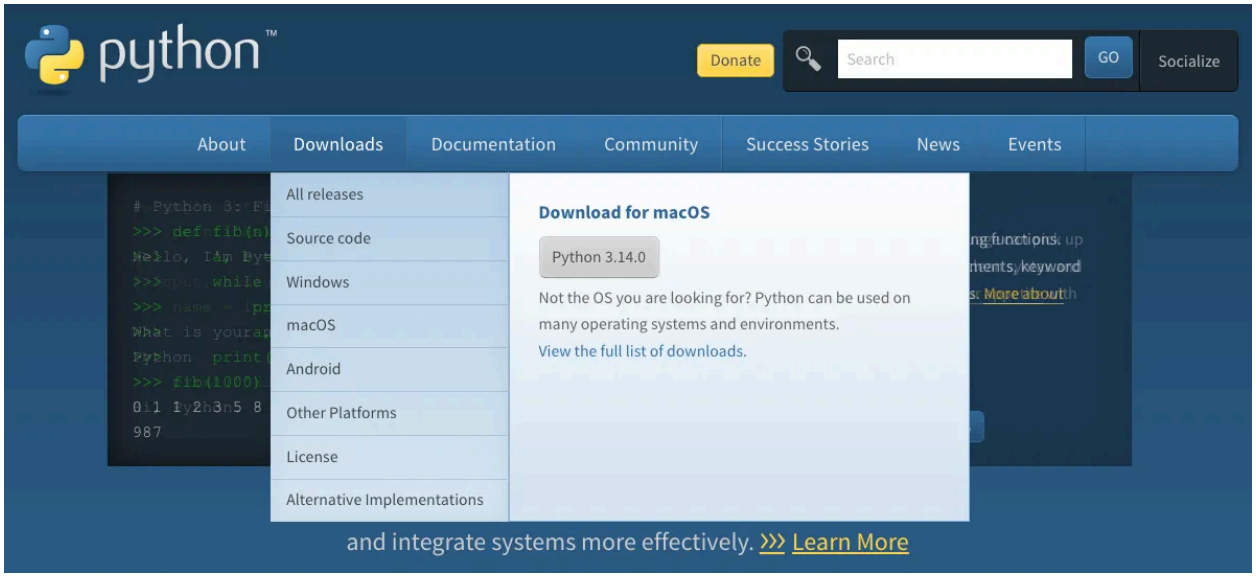
Python MacOS set-up guide

Step 1: Downloading Python

To install Python for MacOS, go to https://www.python.org/. When you hover over the download button, the Python side can detect what system you are using and will show you what version you will need to install. Click on the Python 3.14.0 and wait for it to download.



Alternatively, the preferred method for MacOS is to download via Homebrew. If you don't have Homebrew, go to https://brew.sh/ and copy the install code into your terminal:

Once you have Homebrew installed, to check the latest version, in your terminal, type: **brew --version**

At the time of writing, Homebrew is version 4.6.16.

Step 2: Install Python

To install Python, type this in your terminal:
brew install python3

To check the version that Python has been installed:
Python3 --version

At the time of writing, Python is version 3.14.0.

Step 3: Install Python Extensions in VSCode

At this point, we've installed the Python **interpreter** — this is the actual runtime that executes Python code on your machine.

However, **VS Code** is a text editor, and to work effectively with Python projects — including features like code completion, debugging, and error checking — it needs a few additional extensions.

Make sure to install the following extensions in VS Code:

- **Python** – enables core Python support such as running scripts, managing environments, and basic IntelliSense.
- **Python Debugger** – allows you to set breakpoints and step through your code.
- **Pylance** – provides fast, intelligent auto-completion, type checking, and code navigation.

These extensions turn VS Code into a powerful Python development environment.

Step 4: You have Python installed!! 🐍

Now that everything is installed, let's test to make sure it's working correctly.
Open VS Code and create a new file — for example, demo.py.

Add some Python code (as shown in the image below), then run it using the terminal:
python3 demo.py

You should see the output appear directly in the terminal: