Python, Conda, and VS Code Setup Guide

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# Step 1: Install Python

* Go to: <https://www.python.org/downloads>
* Click 'Download Python 3.x.x' (latest version)
* **Check 'Add Python to PATH' before installing**

# Step 2: Install Anaconda (conda)

* Go to: <https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution>
* Download installer for your OS and install
* Installs Python + conda package manager

# Step 3: Install Visual Studio Code

* Go to: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>
* Run installer with default options
* **Check 'Add to PATH' and 'Register Code as editor'**

# Step 4: Create & Activate Conda Environment

* Open Anaconda Prompt or terminal (**window + R and type cmd**)
* Create (Type this command): conda create -n myenv python=3.11
* Activate (Type this command): conda activate myenv

# Step 5: Install Python Packages

* Type this command: conda install pandas numpy matplotlib seaborn statsmodels scikit-learn
* Or use: pip install pandas numpy matplotlib seaborn
* Install Jupyter: conda install jupyter

# Step 6: Setup VS Code for Python

* Open VS Code
* Ctrl+Shift+P → 'Python: Select Interpreter'
* Choose the interpreter with (myenv)

If you forget to click on add to path while installing, follow these steps:

If you receive the error `'conda' is not recognized as an internal or external command`, it means Anaconda/Miniconda is not in your system PATH.

# Option 1: Use Anaconda Prompt

1. Click Start and search for 'Anaconda Prompt'.

2. Open it and type the following commands:

conda create -n myenv python=3.11

conda activate myenv

# Option 2: Add Anaconda to PATH Manually

## Step 1: Find Where Anaconda is Installed

Usually located at: C:\Users\<YourUsername>\anaconda3

## Step 2: Copy These 3 Paths

* C:\Users\<YourUsername>\anaconda3
* C:\Users\<YourUsername>\anaconda3\Scripts
* C:\Users\<YourUsername>\anaconda3\Library\bin

## Step 3: Add to Environment Variables

1. Press Windows Key + S and search for 'Environment Variables'.

2. Click 'Edit the system environment variables'.

3. In the System Properties window, click 'Environment Variables...'.

4. Under 'System variables' or 'User variables', select 'Path' and click 'Edit...'.

5. Click 'New' and paste the 3 paths one by one.

6. Click OK on all dialogs to save.

## Step 4: Restart CMD and Verify

Open a new Command Prompt and run:

conda --version

You should see the version output, e.g., conda 24.x.x

Now you can use conda commands normally in CMD or terminal windows.