

Stanford CME 241 Winter 2025 - Assignment 0

due Sunday, January 12th @ 11:59 PM

1. Make sure you have access to the course Canvas and Ed Discussion pages (email [Neel Narayan](#) if you do not)
2. Install/Setup LaTeX/Markdown for technical writing and Python 3 for coding (optionally Jupyter, if you prefer working with .ipynb instead of plain .py).
3. *Fork* the [Code Repo associated with the RLForFinanceBook](#) and get set up to write code (for future assignments) that uses classes/functions from this code repo, see below. Choose your favorite IDE or text editor.
4. Create clearly-named directories for assignments and the course project for the Course Assistant ([Neel Narayan](#)) to review and grade - each team of up to 3 (who submits together) should send Neel their forked repo URL and *git push* their work by the due dates (to their forked repo).¹
5. **Optionally**, you can create the same virtual environment I use and replicate my dependencies with the following instructions:

- After forking the repo on your laptop, create a virtual environment with the following shell command (from the RL-book directory):

```
$ python3 -m venv .venv
```

- Then, each time you're working on this project, make sure to activate the venv with the following shell command (again, from the RL-book directory):

```
$ source .venv/bin/activate
```

- Once the venv is activated, you should see a (.venv) in your shell prompt
- Now you can use pip to install dependencies inside the venv, for example:

```
(.venv) $ pip install matplotlib
```

- Initially, you can install every Python package you need to work this git repo with the following shell command (again, from the RL-book directory):

```
(.venv) $ pip install -r requirements.txt
```

- To work with the appropriate file paths of the Python files in this repo from the RL-book directory, execute the following command from the RL-book directory (this creates a package):

```
(.venv) $ pip install -e .
```

- To make sure you are all good, verify with the following command from the RL-book directory:

```
(.venv) $ python -m unittest discover
```

If all is good, you should see an "OK" on the last line of the output upon running this command.

- Some installations (e.g. Python 3.10) may run into build errors. Please check Ed for updated requirements.txt files or contact the Course Assistant if failures continue.

¹We expect teams formed for assignments to remain consistent throughout the quarter. If issues arise, let us know.