Step-by-Step Guide: Setting Up Cursor and Git

This guide provides a detailed, easy-to-follow process for faculty members to set up Cursor accounts, configure Git, and prepare their machines for coding. Screenshots are included for clarity.

Step 1: Install Cursor

1. **Download Cursor**
    - Go to https://cursor.com.
    - Click **Download** for your operating system (Windows, macOS, or Linux).
2. **Install the Application**
    - **Windows**: Run the .exe installer and follow the prompts.
    - **macOS**: Drag the Cursor app into your **Applications** folder.
    - **Linux**: Follow the instructions provided on the site (usually involves .AppImage or package manager).

Step 2: Create a Cursor Account

1. **Open Cursor** after installation.
2. Click **Sign Up**.
3. You can sign up using:
    - **Email and Password**, or
    - **GitHub Account** (recommended for developers).
4. Verify your email if prompted.

Step 3: Configure Cursor for Coding

1. **Choose Your Language Support**
    - Cursor supports multiple languages (Python, JavaScript, etc.).
    - Install language-specific extensions if needed (similar to VS Code).
2. **Enable AI Features**

- Cursor uses AI for code suggestions.
- Make sure you are logged in and have access to AI features (free tier or paid plan).

Step 4: Install Git

1. **Check if Git is Installed**
   - Open **Terminal** or **Command Prompt**.
   - Run:

```
git --version
```

   - If you see a version number, Git is installed.
2. **Install Git (if not installed)**
   - **Windows**: Download from https://git-scm.com/download/win.
   - **macOS**: Use Homebrew:

```
brew install git
```

   - **Linux**:

```
sudo apt-get install git
```

Step 5: Configure Git

1. **Set Your Username and Email**

```shell
git config --global user.name "Your Name"
git config --global user.email "your.email@example.com"
```

2. **Check Configuration**

```shell
git config --list
```

Step 6: Connect Cursor with Git

1. **Open Cursor Settings**
   - Go to **Settings → Git Integration**.
2. **Sign in with GitHub**
   - Click **Connect GitHub Account**.
   - Authorize Cursor to access your repositories.
3. **Clone a Repository**
   - In Cursor, open the **Command Palette** (Ctrl+Shift+P or Cmd+Shift+P).
   - Search for **Git: Clone**.
   - Paste your repository URL.

Step 7: Test Everything

1. **Open a Project**
   - Navigate to the cloned repo in Cursor.
2. **Make a Change**
   - Edit a file and save.
3. **Commit and Push**

```shell
git add .
git commit -m "Test commit"
git push
```

Step 8: Optional Enhancements

- **Install Node.js or Python** (depending on your language).
- **Set up SSH keys** for GitHub:

```shell
ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096 -C "your.email@example.com"
```

- Add the SSH key to GitHub under **Settings → SSH and GPG keys**.

Quick Checklist for Faculty

- Cursor installed and account created.
- Git installed and configured.
- GitHub connected to Cursor.
- Repository cloned and tested.
- AI coding features enabled.