



4) Flask Installation & Setup Lesson

# Install Python and Setup a Virtual Environment for Flask

3 min to complete · By Brandon Gigous

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For this course you will need Python 3.6 or higher. Check whether your system fulfills those requirements by typing the following into your terminal:

```
python3 --version
```

```
# or
```

```
python --version
```

```
# OUTPUT
```

```
Python 3.6.15
```

If you do have Python installed, it'll likely be a higher version than this, but as long as it's 3.6 or above, you'll be fine for this course.

## Install Python

If you don't have a fitting Python version installed, please follow the instructions in our Python 101 course - [How to Install Python](#), and work your way through that section to get set up. Make sure that you are able to enter the Python interpreter, and that the version is at least 3.6. Once that is complete, return here to continue with setting up your virtual environment.



**Info:** This course already assumes some familiarity with programming, so it won't go into detail regarding the installation process. If you have troubles with the setup, please reach out [on Discord](#).

## Create a Virtual Environment

Once you have Python installed, it's time to set up a virtual environment. It's important to keep the project's dependencies and libraries contained in a virtual environment, so that you can develop your first Flask app without worrying about those pesky library clashes. Throughout this course, you'll be using the [venv](#) python module to create virtual environments.

If you aren't already there, go ahead and change your directory to your [flask-webdev](#) project folder. It would look something like this if you followed the folder structure instructions up to this point:

```
$ cd ~/Documents/CodingNomads/projects/flask-webdev
```

Then in the command line use Python to create your virtual environment:

```
$ python3 -m venv env
```

The choice is yours in what to name your virtual environment folder. In this case, the name [env](#) is used. Now all you'll need to do is "activate" the virtual environment. In your command line, type:

```
$ source env/bin/activate
```

ACTIVATED!

With your environment activated, you should see `(env)` at the beginning of your terminal input. Remember, you'll want to activate your virtual environment *every time you begin work on your project!* All the dependencies and packages you'll need will be packed in the virtual environment as you continue developing.

Now for the moment you've been (very patiently) waiting for: installing Flask! Just one more click to the next lesson...

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