

Setting Up Python, VS Code, and GitHub Copilot

ECON 220 Laboratory

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1 Download and Install Python

1.1 Windows

1. Go to the official Python website: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>.
2. Click on the “Download for Windows” button to get the latest stable version (e.g., Python 3.x).
3. Once downloaded, run the installer.
4. During the installation, make sure to check the box “Add Python to PATH”.

1.2 Mac

1. Go to the official Python website: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>.
2. Click on the “Download for macOS” button to get the latest stable version (e.g., Python 3.x).
3. Open the downloaded .pkg file and follow the instructions.
4. Alternatively, you can also use Homebrew by running
`brew install python` in your Terminal if you have Homebrew installed.

2 Download and Install Visual Studio Code (VS Code)

1. Go to the official VS Code website: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>.
2. Click on the download link for your platform (Windows, macOS, or Linux).
3. Once downloaded, run the installer (Windows) or drag the app file into your Applications folder (macOS).
4. After installation, launch VS Code to confirm it opens successfully.

3 Install the Python Extension in VS Code

1. Open VS Code.
2. Click on the **Extensions** icon in the left-side activity bar (looks like building blocks).
3. In the search box, type “Python”.
4. Select the official Microsoft Python extension (commonly named “Python by Microsoft”) and click **Install**.
5. Once installed, you may need to reload VS Code for the extension to activate.

4 Enable GitHub Copilot

1. In VS Code, open the Extensions panel again.
2. Type “GitHub Copilot” in the search bar.
3. Install the **GitHub Copilot** extension.
4. After installation, you might be prompted to sign in to GitHub to authorize the extension.
5. Once authorized, open your user or workspace settings (e.g., go to **File → Preferences → Settings**) and search for “Copilot” to review configuration options.
6. Ensure that GitHub Copilot is enabled. If you see a “Sign In” or “Enable” button, click it to finalize the setup.

You are now set up to develop Python code in VS Code with GitHub Copilot suggestions enabled!