

# Python, Anaconda, and Virtual Environments

Morgan McCarty

22 February 2023

## 1 Installing Python and/or Anaconda

### 1.1 Download and Install

<https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution>

Download corresponding version of Anaconda for your operating system.

Follow the instructions using recommended settings

### 1.2 Adding to Path

This step will vary significantly for each OS

#### 1.2.1 What is Path?

Path is an environmental variable which allows programs to be run from the command line/terminal without being directly accessed in the current folder (or without a directory being provided). This means that any program or folder of programs added to Path will function with just their command entered into any terminal.

#### 1.2.2 Benefits of Adding Programs to Path

There are many benefits to doing this - notably you can execute programs with considerably less setup and it makes detection of system commands (built by those programs) much easier

#### 1.2.3 Risks of Adding Programs to Path

There are system commands that, if overridden, can severely mess up your computer if they can no longer be executed (thankfully this is easily reversible)