

title: Installing Python on your Personal MacOS Laptop subtitle: Quick Python Guide author: - Jeremy Yuan

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Introduction

Python?

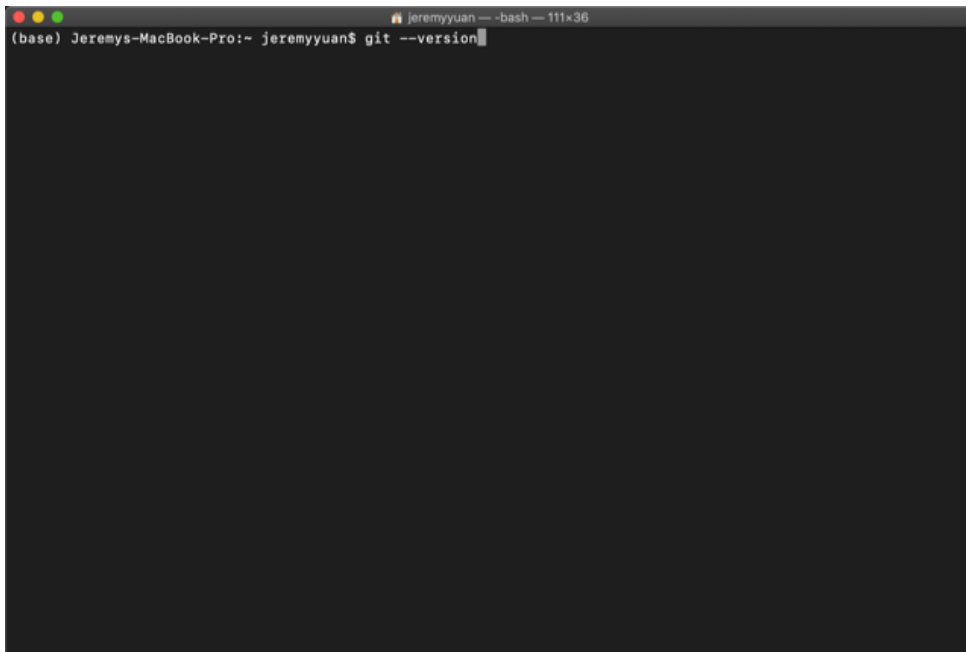
MacOS X already comes with Python 2 installed already. However, Python 2 is now heavily outdated, so although it is sufficient for learning python, it is not useful for development. For CMSC 12100, you are going to want to use python 3 or higher.

This will be a step-by-step guide for installing Python 3 on your personal macbook.

Installing Python on MacOS

Open the Terminal:

Installing Python on MacOS requires using the terminal and the command line.



You can find terminal and open it by spotlight searching for it or searching for it in your applications.

Downloading and Installing XCode:

In the terminal window, type the command

```
$ xcode-select --install
```

Make sure to type it character-for-character; if you forget a space or a hyphen, the command most likely will not work. This will prompt you to install XCode Command Line tools, which is a package of terminal packages that gives you access to popular development commands. Installing this package now will help you throughout the entire computer science sequence.

Follow the instructions to install XCode. Make sure to install in the default location it gives you.

Downloading and Installing Homebrew:

Homebrew is a package manager specifically designed to install packages that Apple (MacOS) didn't bother to install for you. This is an installer that will help you install many special packages that are necessary for this class and other classes in the future.

In the terminal window, type and run the command

```
$ /bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install.sh)"
```

Allow for Homebrew to install in the default location before proceeding to the next step. If you would like to read more about Homebrew, you can find their website here: <https://brew.sh/>.

Once you've installed Homebrew, insert the Homebrew directory at the top of your **PATH** environment variable. You can do this by adding the following line at the bottom of your `~/.profile` file.

```
$ export PATH="/usr/local/opt/python/libexec/bin:$PATH"
```

Downloading and Installing Python 3

Now that we have installed the necessary tools to start as a Python programmer, we can physically download and install Python 3.

Still in the command line of Terminal, type and run the command

```
$ brew install python
```

You can check the version of Python that you just installed by typing and running the command

```
$ python --version  
Python 3.7.1 # Success!
```

Congratulations, you have successfully installed Python 3 onto your personal computer!