

GitHub Account Creation Checklist

Follow these steps to create a free GitHub account and set it up for use in college courses and projects.

Get ready

- Have an email you can check right now.
- Pick a few ideas for a username (no spaces; letters, numbers, hyphens).

Go to GitHub

- Open your browser and go to github.com.
- Click Sign up.

Enter your info

- Email: type your email.
- Password: create a strong password (use a password manager if you have one).
- Username: choose a short, easy name (e.g., first-last, dtimmer-eng).
- Complete the quick puzzle/check (proves you're human).
- Click Create account.

Verify your email

- Check your inbox for a message from GitHub.
- Click the Verify link. (Check spam/junk if you don't see it.)

Choose a plan

- Select Free (this is enough for most classes and projects).

Basic setup (you can skip)

- GitHub may ask a few questions about your experience. You can Skip or answer quickly.

Turn on 2-factor login (strongly recommended)

- Click your profile picture → Settings → Password and authentication.

- Under Two-factor authentication, choose Passkey (Touch ID/Windows Hello), or Authenticator app, or SMS.
- Save your recovery codes in a safe place.

Protect your email privacy (optional but good)

- Settings → Emails → check Keep my email addresses private.
- Also check Block command line pushes that expose my email.

Set up your profile (optional)

- Add your Name, Bio, and a Profile picture (avatar). This helps classmates and instructors recognize you.

(Optional for students) Get the Student Developer Pack

- Visit education.github.com/pack and sign in.
- Click Get your pack and follow the steps (you may need school email or student ID).
- This can unlock GitHub Pro and many free tools for coursework.

Quick Tips & Fixes

- Username taken? Try a hyphen or add your grad year: first-last-2026.
- No verification email? Check spam, then click Resend verification on GitHub.
- Forgot password? Use Forgot password? on the sign-in page.

What you can do next

- Create your first repository (folder for code/notes).
- Install GitHub Desktop or use the web editor to add files.
- Share your repo link with teammates or your instructor.