

Installing Software You'll Need

The college set up a **Dreamspark** account for you where you can **download free software**.

By now you should have received an email with your username and a link to sign in.

When you sign in you might need to **register** to complete your registration.

- Check out the following items:

Put the following items in the shopping cart and check them out for \$0.0 (no credit card required)

- Microsoft Visual Studio Professional 2012 **Web Installer** 32-bit (English) – DreamSpark
(How to find it: Microsoft Visual Studio 2012 > Microsoft Visual Studio Professional 2012 > ..)
It'll be a lengthy installation. If you have problems with the internet connection you can also choose the alternative version without web installer. In that case you'll need to create a DVD for the installation.
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Express 32/64-bit WoW (English) – DreamSpark

After the order has been submitted (for no cost) it shows a receipt that includes the **Product Key** and a **download link** (button). Start the download. The product key you'll need it later.

FYI: You'll also receive an **email** with a link to the order receipt.

- Download the Software:

In my case it didn't start downloading because pop-ups were blocked, so I allowed pop-ups from Dreamspark.com

The installation required 4 steps:

1. Download SDM installation file (link provided)
2. Run the SDM installation file
3. Download the .SDX file for VS2012 (link provided)
4. Once the .SDX file is downloaded the SDM launches and downloads Visual Studio 2012
If it doesn't start the installation automatically you can open the .sdx file to start the download of the software
The download of Visual Studio 2012 can take quite a while (plan on ½ an hour to an hour)
There is also a Visual Studio 2012 update – that is fast
SQL Server didn't take a while, too

- Launch Visual Studio:

At this point you are ready to launch Visual Studio.

The first time you run VS you are asked to choose your default environment settings.

I chose Visual **C# Development Settings**

For those of you, who'd like to have a first look on their own pace I can recommend the following [walkthrough to explore Visual Studio](#)

It is based on the General Development Settings, that are slightly different from the C# settings. Below I point out the few differences that affect the walkthrough

- The Tool window on the left side is not open but there is a TOOLS menu-item on top
- You can open the Options dialog box like this: TOOLS > Options
You'll see all options right away (no checkbox to check)
- FYI: How to add a TextBlock : Click on the TextBlock in the Toolbox, then click on the Window in design view
When adding a TextBlock your XAML-code might look different. That's no problem, as long as the design view looks similar