

How to Succeed in Chemistry

General:

- Do a small amount of chemistry each day (time management).
- Come to all of the classes.
- Be prepared for class. Bring your calculator, i>clicker, handouts, etc. to class.
- Participate during class. When examples are given in class, try them and ask questions if you do not understand. It's okay to get the wrong answer to a question, most likely other students having the same problem. Participating in class will show you where you might have problems on the homework and midterms.
- Copy down everything that I write on the board so that you can review it later. It is also helpful to review your class notes the day after class to make sure you understand what you wrote down.
- Get help before you get too far behind. Take advantage of my office hours, TA office hours, and CLAS.
- Chemistry, like a language, requires you to memorize certain material. Make flash cards to help you memorize equations, definitions, chemical symbols, names, unit conversions, etc.
- Be prepared to spend about two to three hours at home for every one hour of lecture. More time might be needed for the harder concepts.
- Form a study group.
- Check the course website frequently.
- Go to your professor's office hours.

Homework:

- Make sure to complete all ALEKs homework. ALEKs will help you build the skills you will need to apply to the harder book problems.
- Do all of the book problems. The book problems will help you develop your critical thinking skills. The homework problems that I assign are not special. Therefore, if you are having trouble on a concept, do similar problems from the book.
- Mark any questions that you struggle with so that you can go over them later.
- Start your homework early.
- The more problems that you work, the better you will understand chemistry.
- Do your homework in a quiet place.

Exams:

- Start studying a week before the exam, not just the night before.
- Take the practice test like a really exam (give yourself 50 min and only a calculator and the constant sheet).
- Find a good study partner.
- Rework all of your homework problems.
- Review lecture notes, paying special attention to problems that were given in class.
- Come and see me if you are having a hard time with concepts so that I can clear them up before the test.
- When taking the exam, do "easy" stuff first, so if you run out of time you will get points for the topics that you understand the best.
- Make sure that you units for each answer.
- If you have more additional time go back and check your answers.
- After you get your exam back go back over the concepts that you missed.