

Chemistry Study Tips

Mindset

- College chemistry requires understanding concepts and not just memorizing formulas. Understand the **why** and **how** behind the formulas and your struggle to memorize them would be less intense.
- Think of your chemistry course as time-consuming rather than hard.
- It is alright to be confused. Being confused does not mean you cannot do chemistry. Try to figure it out on your own by rereading your class notes, consult your text book, look at sample problems and see your professor.

Lectures

- Preview your lecture by reading or skimming the chapter to be covered.
- While taking notes, be sure to leave space so you can later add notes from your textbook.
- Make note of headings or concepts for your notes.
- Review you class notes at the end of the day.

Reading Your Textbooks

- Focus on the objectives listed on your syllabus and correlate them with those in the book.
- Constantly paraphrase the material as you read.
- Translate words into symbols and visual images and vice versa.
- At the end of each section make a brief note on your textbook or notebook.
- Focus on and explain to yourself diagrams, charts, examples and formulas.
- Work out each example as you read.
- Remember reading a chemistry book takes longer than other reading. Do not be surprise if it takes you an hour to cover five pages.

Homework & Studying

- Work through as many problems as you can. Quantity counts just as much as quality. Solve them until you are well versed to where you can do it quickly and easily.
- Figure why you may missed each problem to prevent repeated mistakes in the future.

Exams

- Get plenty of sleep the night before your exam.
- Apportion your time wisely: work on the easy sections or problems then return to difficult ones.
- Expect a few difficult questions and don't let them throw you off balance. Skipping them to work on easier problems will help you gain new insights by the time you return to them. Clearly write out each step even if you think it may be wrong. Chances are, your instructor will give you partial credit for your reasoning.
- Upon getting your exam back, rework all problems you missed and determine why you missed them. This will help you avoid making the same mistake in the next exam.