

HOWDY!

Succeeding in First Year Chemistry

(It Can Be Done)



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

Welcome to Texas A&M

First year chemistry can be a daunting subject if you are not prepared. Here are some basic steps that will help you succeed in this course.

- Attend Class. You cannot learn it if you are not there
- Do your Homework. It is essentially a free grade, as long as you sit down and do it
- Visit your ... Whether it is your Professor, TA, SI, or your someone else who passed the class, go talk to them for help with concepts you don't understand.
- Take Time to Study. Spend about 3 hours studying for every credit a class is worth. It doesn't have to be all at one time, but plan accordingly

Remember, you will get from this course what you put into it.



Welcome to your new life

This chemistry course is going to be harder than High School and this is why.

1. The course moves faster, a lot faster
2. The information is more in depth
3. The problems are more complex
4. You must master the concepts to apply them to the exams
5. The exams are challenging, are cumulative, and require critical thinking



Welcome to your new life

You cannot be afraid to talk to your professor. Ask questions in class, go to office hours, attend study sessions, and email them. If you do not ask for help, no one will know you need help.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Sometimes learning the right way to do something comes from doing it the wrong way.

Do not rely solely upon technology for help get the answers. Sure you can look up the answer on a search engine, but until you write it out yourself and do it yourself you won't be able to master the skills.

Put your phone away, close the movie and social network pages and try to stay focused on the information the professor is giving you. If you aren't paying attention in class, it makes the class that much harder to pass.



Common Pitfalls

Here are some examples of what not to do:

- Skip class. Most professors give attendance points, be there to earn free points
- Wait till the last minute to do homework. This does not give you time to receive help on problems you get stuck on nor learn the material before having to utilize that knowledge on an exam
- Not attending free help sessions. Between the Professors, TAs, SI Leaders, Help Desk, Study Hub, and Academic Success center, you can find someone to help you FOR FREE!
- Party hardy. Going out and having fun is okay, just don't let it be all you do. If you are taking 15 credit hours you should be spending at about 45 hours a week studying for your various classes, less than that can severely affect your grade.



How your GPA can be affected

Students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

- Studied over 30 hours per week outside of class
- Took notes by hand and reviewed the material prior to the next class
- Read the material covered in class in the textbook prior to the next class
- Attended office hours
- Actively participated in class
- Completed homework well in advance of deadline
- Practiced problems repeatedly and learned how to properly apply the concepts taught

Students with a GPA of 2.0 or lower

- Studied less than 20 hours per week outside of class
- Did not take notes or review materials
- Got behind in reading and often didn't even open the textbook
- Did not seek outside help
- Were distracted in class or did not attend classes regularly
- Waited until the last minute to attempt homework
- Looked up answers to problems instead of trying to work them out on their own

Learn beneficial study methods

Here are some study methods that can help you retain the information you are learning

1. Read chapters covered in class within 24 hours of the lecture
2. Attend class, actively participate, take notes, review notes that evening

Continued...



Learn beneficial study methods

Here are some study methods that can help you retain the information you are learning

- 3 When you are ready to sit down and study:
 - a) Select a portion of the material to cover for about 40 minutes
 - b) Read the text, highlight important information, take more notes, work sample problems, draw a map of how to get from A to D so that you don't miss the steps in between. Do this for about 40 minutes
 - c) After 40 minutes, take a break, stretch, walk, do something else for 10-20 minutes.
 - d) Study some more



Learn to manage your time

Time management is key to life in college.

- Make sure you know where your classes are, how long it takes you to get there, and alternate ways to get there in case of construction or an accident so you can still be on time.
- Plan ahead for the week. Set aside time for eating, sleeping, social interaction, and other activities as well as time for study.
- Get a planner. Use a calendar to set reminders for important dates or tasks such as exam dates, report and research paper deadlines, etc.
- Take care of yourself. Set aside time for physical activity and make time to see the doctor if you are sick.



Get the most out of homework

Start the problems the day they are assigned, when the information is fresh

Work the problems out, try not to use any answer keys.

Pace yourself, but know your limit. If it takes more than 30 minutes for you to solve, get help



Where to get help

Help comes from many sources

- Professor (email or office hours)
- TA (HELD 406 Monday – Friday)
- SI Leaders (Check with your professor on times these happen)
- Academic Success Center (9th floor Rudder Tower)



Gig 'em and Good Luck

You've got this

