

Study Suggestions for Chemistry

1. Homework and problem solving:

- Read any assigned material before class, with “Using Reference Material” as a guide. Look at the questions first, if it helps. At this stage, you are introducing the material to yourself. Don’t expect total understanding.
- When you sit down to work, gather your materials (don’t forget calculator, periodic table, and notes from class that include examples, diagrams, and suggestions.)
- Class notes contain examples of problems to work. So does the text. Use them.

2. Lab work:

- Have the prelab portion of your lab book prepared prior to coming to class.
- Read the procedure until you have a mental picture of what you are to do. Lab is not cooking class.
- Know exactly what data you will need to collect and why.
- Have a data table prepared with a list of the data you are going to need to record.
- Refer to the handouts on general lab notebook preparation as you prepare so you can be sure you haven’t forgotten anything in your preparation.
- Use the handouts for the specific lab with any notes you took in class to guide your work and fill in specifics
- Turn the lab in on time!

3. Ion Quizzes

- Make flash cards. Have someone else quiz you – or quiz yourself.
- Write out sample quizzes for yourself. Take and score them.
- Write out practice quizzes for a friend, then share them.
- Ask someone to quiz you aloud by reading the ion names and having you respond with the ion formula and charge.

4. Tests

- Review the Objectives for the topic. Be sure you can explain each concept; or list, define, identify, calculate, discuss, analyze, predict, etc as stated.
- Work problems.
- Study what you DON’T know. Don’t waste time studying what you already know well.
- Attend review sessions when offered.

5. Semester Exam

- Use the study guide you received on the first day of class.
- Learn for mastery the first time. The exam is very general and tests your understanding of concepts and your ability to use knowledge rather than to recall trivia.

6. In General:

- Use your syllabus to keep a perspective of how things fit together and to stay current.
- Study a little each day. Be sure, when class is over, that you know what you were to know that day. If you do not – ask questions.
- Use the Objectives handouts to stay focused. At the beginning of a topic, they show you what’s coming next.
- If, at any point, you feel behind or confused, or have any question at all, ask!