

Suggestions for Improving Your Chemistry Performance

1. Show clear, complete work for all problems in notes and homework.
2. Make sure class notes and lab notebook are well organized, complete and accessible.
3. Copy notes and examples presented in class even if you don't understand the material. Later you can ask questions or try to figure out the material.
4. Make sure that you understand the concepts. Explain them to someone else or start with a blank sheet of paper and construct a lesson you could teach. If there are points that you do not understand, ASK FOR HELP!
5. Learn the necessary factual material. Practice writing this material on a blank sheet of paper.
6. Make sure that you understand the purpose of each lab and the calculations involved. Talk to your lab partner about what is going on and why.
7. Look for the big picture. How do the class concepts, lab work, and the world interrelate?
8. LISTEN FOR INSTRUCTIONS. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.
9. In homework, notes, tests, labs, and quizzes, DO NOT RUSH AND DO NOT TAKE SHORTCUTS.
10. Skip lines between major points in your notes and between all problems. This allows space to add information later and it makes it much easier to see what you are doing.
11. To study for tests and quizzes, REWORK problems from your assignments.
12. Recopy your notes and problems to help remember them. Try to reorganize and classify information and problems. Look for key words.
13. Check all work for correctness and details.
 - a. Are the significant figures/digits correct?
 - b. Are all of the appropriate units included?
 - c. Do the units cancel properly?
 - d. Did you show the mathematical formula involved?
 - e. Did you solve in symbols before you solved in numbers and units?
 - f. Did you answer the question that was asked?
 - g. Are the chemical formulas correct?
 - h. Are the formula weights correct?
 - i. Are the chemical equations correct?
 - j. Are all the chemical equations balanced with the lowest possible coefficients?
 - k. Did you circle your answer?
 - l. Did you show all your work for each problem?
 - m. Is your work organized so that anyone can follow your problem-solving process?
14. Make sure that your time is not overbooked. You will not be able to consistently get the details if you are tired and stressed.
15. Make sure that you devote some time every day to chemistry, whether you have homework or not. Use the time to review your notes, clarify concepts, or reorganize information.
16. Make sure that you get enough rest so that you can think clearly and avoid errors.