

Set Yourself Up for Success in College Chemistry

1. Preview the Topic Before Class

- Watch a short video
- Read the textbook
- Review with a TA or someone who already understands it

2. Engage in Class

- Take handwritten notes: writing reinforces memory
- Pay attention to worked examples: your professor will model the correct method and technique

3. Practice Step by Step (after class)

- Mimic your professor's examples using your notes with simple problems from your textbook
- Then solve simple problems without using your notes

4. Increase the Challenge

- Add complexity by combining concepts
- Try challenge problems
 - Example: use a polyprotic acid instead of a monoprotic acid

5. Test Your Understanding

- Solve problems start to finish
 - Did you get the right answer?
 - Identify where you got stuck or made errors

6. Use Office Hours and Ask Better Questions

- Meet regularly with your TA and professor
- Bring specific questions like "How does equilibrium shift with temperature changes?"

7. Use Practice Problems with Solutions Wisely

- Work through the problem BEFORE looking at the solution.
- Check your answer
- If you get stuck, use the solution to identify gaps in your understanding

8. Avoid Cramming. Learn Consistently

- Work regularly through the year
- Your brain is literally building neurons, this takes time
- Cramming leads to forgetting; especially before the exams

Summary

- Preview
- Take notes
- Mimic examples
- Practice independently
- Connect multiple concepts
- Identify gaps in knowledge
- Use office hours regularly
- Study steadily throughout the year

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