

My Advice to Incoming CHM 4 Students (from Student #4)

If you put in your best effort, you will most likely succeed in any class. CHM 4 is not one of those classes you can just get by without trying; it is a class that requires you to constantly study for. Meaning that the best way to make sure you pass the class is to do the work that is required, such as, attending class, reading the book, doing the homework, and studying. I must admit that the first time I took this class I did not pass. However the second time around, it was much easier because I made sure that I did all four of these things.

The first time I took this class, I felt that I didn't need to attend the class because no attendance was taken. However, Professor Paradis required us to use the clickers my second time around, which was a great motivation to attend class because it counted as points towards our grades. Although the clicker questions were only worth one point each, they were used everyday at least 3 times. On days where attendance was low, sometimes Professor Paradis would make the clickers worth three or five points each to reward those who attended class, so attend class because every point counts. Plus the clicker questions helped reinforced the material being taught, so if you didn't understand something you would know right away and would be able to seek help as soon as possible.

I know that it is difficult to sit down and read a text book, but believe me that reading the textbook for CHM 4 would help you succeed in class. The reading complements the material, so if you read before class you would understand the material better. Plus, Professor Paradis likes to ask clicker questions about the reading that he assigns (this is one way he is able to make sure if you are prepared for class or not). Another reason why you should read the textbook is because Professor Paradis doesn't go over everything in class, but he will expect you to know all the material for the exams. Besides, the reading from the text book is very short, so it wouldn't take long to read anyways. To make your reading more efficient, take down notes while you read, highlighting the important information so you are well prepared for class. The more times you see or hear something the more familiar you will become with it.

Homework is given routinely. It might seem long and repetitive but it is essential to understanding the material. There are two portions to the homework; a practice section and a graded section. I used to skip the practice section because doing both sections seemed forever. However, I found that when I did the practice section, my homework score would be higher. That is because when it came time for the graded section I already knew what to do. So I suggest that you do both sections, because it will make a difference in your homework grade.

Make sure you lay out your schedule and allow yourself enough time to study before the exams. You all should be able to pass all the exams because he gives you old exams to study from (which are very similar to the exams he will give you). If you do the practice exams, there should be no surprises when you take your exam. My mistake the first time I took the class was not doing these practice exams. It wasn't until I took CHM 4 again that I realized that these practice exams made a huge difference in my test scores.

Professor Paradis provides you with so many tools to succeed in his class, all you have to do is put the effort and time into it. He gives you old practice exams and studying techniques. Take advantage of what he gives you; he gives you all the tools to pass the class. Make sure you do the practice exams and attend class for the clicker questions, because they will make a great difference in your grade. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you are struggling. If you are still struggling, go to office hours and Professor Paradis will do his best to answer your questions and help you with your problems. If however you can't make it to office hours attend the CHM 4 tutoring center, they will help you out step by step until you understand the material. Remember, there is always help out there if you need it, so take advantage of what is given to you. However, passing the class depends on you; you have to put in the effort and time to succeed. Good luck!