

## **My Advice to Incoming CHM 4 Students (from Student #5)**

It's the beginning of the semester and you are about to begin the journey that is CHM 4. This class is going to test your ability to succeed in future science classes, and as well as all your other college courses. You might be nervous, but everyone is capable of passing this class if you put the time and effort in. There are key study skills, preparation, and time management that will be the most effective for helping you thrive. If you do everything properly you will do a lot in this class, and be prepared to move on to CHM 1A.

A major component that is needed to help you pass is always coming to class prepared. That first includes reading the assigned material and understanding what you read. If you do the reading, but did not comprehend the information then that does benefit you at all. After reading the material and grasping the ideas presented taking proper notes before lecture is critical. I stress the word proper because you need notes that you can understand and briefly explain everything in the reading. During lecture there will always be at least one clicker question related to the reading so having notes to refer back to are always beneficial. Also some new concepts than you read are not discussed in lecture so reading and note taking is the only way to learn them. Coming to class prepared also means on review days that you actually go to class even if it's not required, and taking your practice exams before that day as well. By doing so you will know what questions you will need help with instead of waiting until the day before the test and not being able to complete the problem. Being fully prepared before every class meeting will greatly help you do well.

Although preparation is crucial, time management is also another significant aspect that you must do. There will be days that you might not feel well or have plans with your friends, and do not want to do any chemistry work. That's fine, but being able to balance your time effectively is going to help you out so much. For reading and homework assignments you will always have at least two nights to do the assigned work. Say it's Monday and you know you have reading due Wednesday, but you also have work until late Tuesday. That means you should plan ahead and either do your homework Monday after school or Tuesday before work. Simple planning will make all the difference.

When exam time comes around being prepared and managing your time are very important for helping you do well on your test along with proper studying. A very important part of studying is starting about a week before the test instead of cramming the night before. The class day before your test will always be a review session. So proper studying would be completing the practice tests beforehand. For me however, I always liked to leave one of them to do Sunday before the test just as a last reminder. On the day of the review session any questions that you missed on the practice tests and were not able to figure out make sure you ask how to do them. If you could not figure it out on the practice test chances are on the exam you will still not be able to do the problem. During the weekend before the exam spend a little bit of time on Saturday and Sunday refreshing your self on topics you had more trouble with. Exams are the majority of your grade so doing well on them is greatly going to impact your grade.

I've talked about three important elements that are going to help you succeed in this class as well as other classes, but there are specific aspects that are good to know for this class. At the beginning of the semester you are going to be given a list of important elements and ions that you will have to memorize. Begin memorizing these as soon as you are told to because these are extremely important for the entire semester. I recommend making flash cards for these and making the elements and important ions as separate colors. Keep these in your backpack and pull them out anytime you have an extra couple minutes or if you have a doctors appointment bring them with you while you wait. Any extra time you can spend memorizing these is highly recommended for this class and will be very helpful for CHM 1A. The room this class is going to be in will have numerous seats and I highly recommend sitting very close to the front. It will cause you to pay more attention, and not get distracted. Even though you will probably want to text or be on your phone even sending a quick text can cause you to miss something important. So once class starts put your phone away in your backpack until class is over it will really make a big difference.

These are some important tips that I found to be very helpful for me and allowed me to succeed in this class. I hope my advice will help you understand and allow you to do well. I have learned so much in CHM 4, and hopefully you will take as much out of the class as I have.