

## **My Advice to Incoming CHM 4 Students (from Student #8)**

Throughout the semester in Chem 4 I have become not only more educated in chemistry but it has help me become a much better student. Many methods and strategies helped to my success in becoming a better student. Professor Paradis taught me many techniques in helping me pass this class and also increase my study skills. I knew coming into this chemistry course it would be a lot more difficult than the high school chemistry I took a while ago. The material would definitely be harder and I knew I had to put a lot more time into the class, which includes doing homework, and studying outside of class. Terrible time management and procrastination have been a weakness for me throughout my school career and I knew coming into college I would have to fix that. So with the help of Professor Paradis' help in these areas I was able to be successful in this chemistry course, by looking over material and using all the helpful worksheets that was given to me via online.

Time management was a needed skill I had to obtain in order to be successful in this class. On the very first day of class I remember hearing Professor Paradis tell us we needed to study for three hours for every hour we spend in class, so when it was all added up, we ultimately needed to study chemistry for nine hours every week. Right when I heard that my mouth dropped and I thought for sure I wasn't going to be successful in this class. So the first week when we started our lesson it was pretty tough studying all that chemistry but when I noticed it was time to do homework I finished it up faster than normal. So because I studied all of my notes and all of the practice problems in the book, I realized it helped a whole lot when doing my homework. That made me realize Professor Paradis was right about studying that much outside of class will be beneficial in being successful.

Good methods of study skills were also very beneficial to me throughout this semester because they really helped me understand the material and know how to solve many problems. For example, when we first learned about the many compounds we had to memorize because we will be using them for the rest of the semester, I put all the compounds on flash cards. Flash cards really help me memorize things and sure enough that next day I knew all the compounds and their charges, which was very important. Good study skills are key in being successful in this class and I recommend all incoming chemistry students to find good and efficient study skills so then they won't struggle throughout the semester. When students have good study skills then homework is a lot easier, and more importantly tests are easier as well.

Taking good notes is another thing I learned to be very important in this course. During lecture it is very important to take well organized notes because that is what students will need to study in order to do well on tests. Paying attention and taking organized notes also help you with homework because the problems done in class are very similar to the problems that will be asked on homework. Grades on homework reflect on how well you take notes and pay attention in class. So if students just take good notes everyday in class and pay attention on how to do the problems, then homework should be no problem. Also, attendance has a lot to do with this because not only do students need to take good notes, but every day there are clicker questions we do in class. Clicker questions are like mini quizzes in class that we do and if you get the questions right you get points for it, but if you don't you miss out on the points. Clickers are little handheld devices where students punch in there multiple choice answers and find out soon after if they've gotten the question right or wrong. Attendance is very important because if you miss a day or two, you miss the notes, and you miss the points you could have received for clicker questions. Clicker questions are very important because they are a good percentage of students' grades.

Overall this class takes a lot of time and focus if students want to be successful. But all the resources are given to the students from the help of Professor Paradis so it is all up to the students. Good study skills are needed to pass this course, and with those, it will be beneficial to students for other classes as well.