**Tips for success in chemistry** *(and other classes):*

You are responsible for your education. This is a fast-paced and rigorous course. Plan to spend a minimum of 5-10 hours a week outside of class for chemistry; other classes will take additional time.

Many students do not know how to study at the college level effectively. If you’ve never learned how to study, how can a professor expect you to know? Well, here are some pointers.

- **Come to class.** Be an active participant during class. Take some notes. Attempt to work the example problems given in class before I show you the solution. Ask questions during class.

- **Read the textbook before lecture.** You don’t want me to read the text to you during class, so you are expected to read all assigned sections in the book. It is assumed that each student has read the appropriate assignment before class and I will point out the important points of each chapter.

- **Do all of the assigned homework problems.** If you get stuck, read the relevant section of the text again, and look for examples in the text or your notes. The worked examples have great tips on how to solve problems. If you’re still stuck, move on and come back to that one later. Post your questions on the discussion board. If you don’t do well on them, do more problems.

- **Work with a study group on some problems, but make sure you do some on your own.** If you cannot do them on your own (if you look at your notes, the example in the book, or someone else helps you) this should tell you that you do not understand the material well enough, so keep doing problems until you can do them completely on your own, just like you will have to do on exams and quizzes. Practice so you never get them wrong.

- **Study groups are great, and I want each student to have at least one study partner.** Students with peer networks do better in college. However, a study group should be a supplement to independent work, not a substitute. Study with people who try hard.

- **If you’re having problems, please come and see me as soon as possible.** Please do not wait until it is too late.

- **On quizzes and exams, expect to see some problems that require you to combine concepts or strategies, or use a new strategy based on other things you should have mastered.** Do not expect to see only problems exactly like HW or examples. Practicing a lot of problems and understanding concepts will help get you through these more challenging problems.

- **Find something to like about chemistry.** It’s easy, and lazy, to dismiss a class by saying “I hate it.” Look for a topic, problem type, or challenge that you can appreciate in each of your classes. That will make your classes a lot easier to attend, and will make studying a bit less painful.

**In summary:**
- ★ Read the book
- ★ Do the homework and the suggested problems; do some of them on your own
- ★ Keep up, don’t try to cram
- ★ Come and see me when you need help
- ★ Study more than you think you should

Take responsibility for your learning, and challenge yourself to learn as much as you can