How to Succeed in Chemistry  
(Chem 4 & 1A)

Go through the list and circle all of the things you currently do. Then go through and highlight all of the things that you could add in to your schedule. Begin practicing and slowly adding the highlighted items to your study schedule; try adding 2 at a time.

1. Attend every lecture. You can get behind very fast if you do not attend every class.

2. Consider learning chemistry like you would learn a foreign language. If there are words you don’t understand, look them up in a science dictionary. Look up terms or concepts online; watch tutorial videos.

3. The best way to learn chemistry is to practice, practice, practice. There are plenty of practice problems in your textbook.

4. Ask the professor, TA, or PAL Leader for clarification immediately following lecture.

5. Keep up on your homework. Even if it is not collected. Practice, practice, practice.

6. Study 2-3 hours for every unit you are taking. It is recommended to study chemistry 5-6 days each week in 1-2 hours blocks.
   - Chem 1A: 5 units x 2-3 hours of study per unit = 10-15 hours of studying each week
   - Chem 4: 3 units x 2-3 hours of study per unit = 6-9 hours of studying each week

7. Identify your study times and mark them on your calendar. Study times should be treated as appointments, not as being optional.

8. Find a study buddy and/or put together a weekly study group with peers from class.

9. Do not procrastinate! Do homework early and have as much time as possible to do it. Try to do the homework the same day of the lecture.

10. You will be tested as an individual. Despite the helpfulness of your friends, tutor or study group, in the end your grade will be based upon your individual performance. Be sure to “go solo” on a few exercises/homework to make sure you understand the material.

11. Review your notes as soon as possible after class to cement the information into your knowledge-base while the concepts are still fresh in your brain.

12. Make use of available resources! Professor’s office hours, PAL office hours (SQU 248), Math Lab (BRH 118), PARC tutoring (Lassen 2200).

13. Memorize all ion names.

14. Create flashcards and you can pull out during free moments to learn equations, mater terminology, identify compounds.

15. Learn important prefixes and suffixes. You’ll quickly be able to identify and diagram compounds once you learn characteristics groups such as –amine, -oate, oxy- and hydroxy-.

16. Make your learning active. Talk through a problem. Write it on a white board. Create diagrams or mnemonics to help you remember the material.

17. Take all practice exams with your book and notes closed. Time your practice exams.

18. Correct your exams and quizzes. Learn from your mistakes.

19. Join a PAL (or do the PAL worksheets if you aren’t in a PAL).

20. Keep track of your grade progress in each class. If you aren’t happy with your grade, go get help ASAP.

* PAL worksheets can be found at: www.csus.edu/stem/PASS/PAL%20Worksheets.html