

These tips will help you achieve success in your chemistry courses.

Read your textbook or online resources.

Prepare for class by completing the weekly readings assigned in your course outline. Write down new formulas, vocabulary and definitions, and familiarize yourself with key concepts.

Construct a reference sheet.

Copy key concepts and formulas onto a reference sheet that you can refer to when completing homework or studying. If your instructor allows you to bring a "cheat sheet" into a test, use this reference sheet as a starting point to identify key information.

Complete all assigned homework.

Chemistry is learned through practice, and homework is a great source of practice! When completing homework, think about the type of question asked and how the question relates to key concepts. Identify the variables involved and possible formulas you can use to answer the question. Make sure you are learning the concept, not the question - the best way to do this is to practice with multiple questions!

You might be tempted to complete all your chemistry homework in one sitting. Resist this temptation and spread out your practice so that you are answering the same types of questions over many days. This will help you store how to solve these types of problems in your long-term memory.

Organize your homework.

Find similar example questions in your textbook or notes, and observe how the question is answered.

Map out how you will answer the question, and in addition to showing the steps to the solution provide a description of the steps. Consider using the three column note template, available in SALS ONLINE.

Look for similarities in groups of problems. Identifying common features in homework questions will help you to recognize that type of question on a test.

Use a different textbook or online resources to practice more questions or to get an alternate explanation of a concept.

Complete reviews and practice tests.

Test reviews and practice tests are useful tools when preparing for tests. They help you to identify any information you may be missing or do not understand.

Write practice tests in a test-like environment. Write in a space with no distractions, using only the resources you will have during the test, and set a timer for the same duration of the test.

Do not look at the answers until you have finished the test. Then correct any mistakes directly on your test paper so that you remember the correct information.

Complete reviews and practice tests early enough that if you have any questions you are able to ask your instructor.

Take advantage of all available resources.

Your instructor

- Peer tutoring

Your course outline

- Study groups

Study guides/online and textbook resources

- Course tutorials at SALS

SALS ONLINE – Chemistry

- SALS learning skills advisor/coach for chemistry

If you have any questions, please email sals@durhamcollege.ca.