



TRiO Student Support Services
South Dakota State University
You can go anywhere from here!

TRiO Student Support Services
Box 2815, SSU 065
SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007-0893
Phone: 605-688-6653

Tips for Success in Chemistry

- ↻ **Go to Class.** For most of us Chemistry is a very foreign subject and takes a lot of work, on your part, to understand it. Professors know this, and will reward you for going to class by giving extra credit examples, tips, warnings, etc.
- ↻ **Take your own notes.** Do not rely on the notes from the professor or website. Printouts can be confusing. Try to write notes in your own words, in your own thoughts so that YOU can understand them.
- ↻ **Read the book and do example problems.** Chemistry textbooks are usually very good at explaining a concept and then providing examples. This will help you to prepare for tests and indicate areas that you may struggle with.
- ↻ **Look at charts and lists in the textbook.** Take special note if the professor mentions them in lecture.
- ↻ **Get to know your professor.**
- ↻ **Ask questions.** Go in and ask the teacher for advice and /or what will be on the test. You will be surprised at how much information they are willing to share about a test/quiz.
- ↻ **BUY THE SOLUTIONS BOOK,** if there is one. Many of the questions at the end of the chapters can be difficult. Solution books offer step by step explanations of problems. But remember, YOU should do the work first. There is no point in getting the right answer if you don't know how you got it.
- ↻ **Be prepared and organized.** Take notes, text, calculator, etc to class everyday.
- ↻ **Be an active student.** If the teacher works a problem out on the board follow along and write it down!!
- ↻ **Be assertive.** If the teacher is going too fast, ask him or her to slow down so you can write down the example neatly and completely. This will be easier if you get to know the teacher early on.
- ↻ **Go to review sessions.** Teachers would not waste their time having sessions at night and outside of their hours if they did not think that students would benefit from them. So take advantage of the opportunity!!
- ↻ **Stay until the end of the review session.** Teachers are apt to give info at the end to benefit those who stayed for the whole session.
- ↻ **Sit in front.** It is easier to ask questions in front because the teacher sees/hears you more easily and you won't be so intimidated by your classmates if you can not see most of them.
- ↻ **When you get something wrong on a test ask questions.** Ask the professor for an explanation and correct it on the paper. This will help when it comes time to review for the final.
- ↻ **Go through the book, take notes and rewrite the notes given in class!!** Organize! You will be surprised at how compact you can make the information when you write it in your own words. This will help you to reduce study time because you have already covered all the information at least once on your own time.