

HOW TO STUDY FOR CHEMISTRY 1341/42

NEVER CRAM for exams. This may work in some of your other courses, but it will prove to be an ineffective approach to mastering the material in Chemistry 1341/42. You cannot adequately prepare yourself for exams in one or two days! A consistent, disciplined study is essential.

1. **Read the text assignment before coming to lecture.**

Jot down the key concepts and equations, along with any questions you have.

2. **Be an active listener during the lecture.**

Don't merely copy notes and equations. Do your best to understand how the concepts fit and work together; if you still have questions, ask before you leave the lecture hall.

3. **Do the assigned problems as soon as possible after the lecture.**

Complete the current assignment before the next lecture. Since lecture material builds on previously covered topics, this prepares you for the next lecture. **TAKING THE PROBLEM ASSIGNMENTS SERIOUSLY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE.** This will help prepare you for your weekly quiz—which in turn prepares you for the chapter exams. **HINT:** Review your lecture notes and reading material carefully *before* starting to work on the problems, and check the “checklist” below to identify learning goals. Careful review will provide you with the conceptual foundation you need for solving the problems. Aim for an understanding of the concepts, and how they are applied in calculations. Spend 20-30 minutes on any problem *before* looking at solutions. Use the solutions manual as a *tool* to check your understanding, never as a crutch!

4. **Make liberal use of office hours.**

During the course there **will be** lecture material and/or problem solutions that you do not perfectly understand. This is normal! Chemistry 1341/42 is a challenging course; even the most gifted student will benefit from taking advantage of the professor's help during office hours. Office hours are provided as a core part of this course to supplement the lectures and problem assignments—and to help you meet your academic responsibility of mastering this material.

5. **Return to step 1 for the next topic.**

BEFORE EACH CHAPTER EXAM:

1. If you haven't done the problem assignments, **STOP**. There are **NO** shortcuts. Go back and complete the assigned problems before you continue.
2. Review lecture notes carefully for concepts and problem examples.
3. Work through the exams on file in the library. Set an artificial time limit for yourself as if you were actually taking the exam. After time has expired, compare your work with the solutions on file.
4. If your work on the exams reveals a weakness in your preparation, review the relevant concepts and problems. Stop in during your professor's office hours (or make an appointment), visit SLAC, and ask questions!

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STUDENT LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (SLAC)