A University is like a Health and Fitness Center for your Brain

When you pay tuition to an academic institution such as Purdue, it is like paying fees to join a Health and Fitness Center. Purdue is a place to exercise and develop your brain “muscle”; health clubs or fitness centers focus on exercising other muscles of your body. Your membership in a “mental exercise club” such as Purdue gives you the opportunity to take advantage of the resources Purdue makes available to exercise your brain just as joining a health club gives you the opportunity to take advantage of the health club’s equipment and resources. Simply being a member of either “club” does not guarantee success. As with a health club, the benefit you gain from a “mental exercise club” depends on the amount, and more importantly, the quality of effort you exert.

How Do I Learn From Lectures?

You can’t learn from lectures if you do not attend them or do not think about the information as it is presented during lectures.

You are responsible for all material covered and announcements made in lectures.

Before Class
- Complete the assigned reading and review the notes from the previous class.
- Download and print the student notes for lecture from the course WebCT page.

During class
- Write the date of the lecture on the student notes at the beginning of class if it is not on the first slide.
- Write information that is discussed in lecture but is not on the notes. The professor will give more information than is on the notes.
- Try to answer every CPS question.
- Write down each step of every problem or example even if you do not understand the step. You can always ask about it later.
- Write a question mark next to things you don't understand so you can return to them after class.
- Use shorthand or abbreviations so that you can write quickly, but understandably.

After Class
- Review your notes while things are still fresh in your mind.
- Check your text in order to understand those items that you did not understand and marked in lecture. If necessary, use office hours with any CHM 115 TA to help you.
- Never miss lecture. Chemistry is cumulative. What is presented tomorrow depends upon your knowledge of what was covered today. If you will miss class, then get a friend to take notes for you.
• It will take you at least three hours out of class for every hour we spend in class in order to study and learn the material. This means about 6 hours of studying. You may spend this time working on your lecture notes, reading the text, studying the required material, doing OWL homework, studying for exams, or other things. You may find yourself spending more than 9 hours per week if your math skills need improvement or if you took a chemistry course a few years ago. But if you are committed to your goals and dreams then dedicate yourself to spending the necessary time to study and do well.

• Copies of lecture notes take by a graduate instructor will be available in the Chemistry Resource Room (WTHR 117) within a day or two following the lectures. However, photocopies of these notes are not a substitute for attending lectures.

• Audio recordings of the lectures can be downloaded from the Boilercast website.

Finally, your ability to understand what you are currently learning may depend on your already having mastered earlier material. So, study chemistry every day and correct your mistakes as they occur.

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**When Should I Do Homework?**

*Your assigned homework is considered to be a minimum requirement for keeping focused and learning the material in each chapter. You should practice solving additional problems from the text similar to those assigned and some of those will be available on OWL.*

The following guidelines should be helpful if you want to do well in a technical course such as CHM 115 which will probably involve relearning concepts or learning concepts that you did not have in your high school chemistry course. Learning new material requires constant reinforcement which means you may have to change your study habits.

• Do some work in chemistry every day. Work at least two chemistry problems each day. If you are drawing a blank about the problem after 10-15 minutes, go on to another a problem. Seek help from a CHM 115 TA the next day during office hours. After a day or so, solve related problems in the text.

• Even though OWL usually asks for your final answer only, it is important that you write down your complete problem solutions. You can fool yourself into believing your understand if you do not write your steps. You must practice if you are going to be proficient and efficient during exam times!