



STUDY TIPS¹ for CHEM 121:

In General:

1. Your primary study tool is the ChIRP and the exercises and problems contained within the ChIRP. Do the problems at least ONCE without looking at the answer key. After doing each question, assess the question closely-- what are you expected to know for each question? Match up the material in the ChIRP with the exercises and additional problems. This **TARGETED consultation of the notes** is far more productive than simply re-reading the book from start to finish.
2. When reading the ChIRP, after each short section, cover up the material and see if you can summarize what is being said, imagine why it is important and how you may be examined on it.
3. Connect the material with what you already know.
4. Students who re-write/re-organize their own notes in their own words and practice explaining concepts to others learn more and do better on exams. Students who re-read and merely highlight passages, or, only re-read their own highlighted passages, do not do as well. There's important brain activity that comes with attempting to produce or create one's own explanations, in the context of what's already in your brain. If you find you are bored, or your mind is wandering, or that studying seems too easy, what you're doing is probably a waste of your time!
5. After doing the problems, imagine ALTERNATIVE questions, variations that could be asked, or different questions that target the same goal. What are the answers to your own alternative questions? You'll likely need to consult the notes in order to answer some of these questions.

¹ Modified from "Succeeding at Learning 101" UBC Carl Wieman Initiative January 2008