

ESS and SI Leader Tips for Studying Chemistry 105/106

ESS has asked our Supplemental Instruction (SI) leaders to share their best strategies for doing well with particular courses. Here are their recommendations for Chemistry 105/106.

1. CHEMISTRY 105/106 are not memorization courses. The material builds on itself and becomes increasingly complex.
2. Do all homework problems. Many of the test questions resemble homework problems.
3. Simply glancing at the problems or using the book to figure them out will not suffice. Be able to go through every problem and solve it in an efficient manner.
4. Do not just memorize the steps to solving problems. Understand the chemistry behind the problems.
5. Know the theoretical basis for all of the problems. Test problems, which are often variations of "standard" homework problems, require an in-depth knowledge of the concepts.
6. Attend all of the lectures. Lectures are sequential in nature. You will need to understand the previous course content to get the most understanding out of each class.
7. Learn the material a little bit at a time. By spending a short time each day looking at the current material, you will stay caught up with the course and benefit the most from the lectures. SI sessions will help you stay current with course material. However, SI sessions are not a substitute for attending class. You will need both: classes and SI sessions.
8. Cramming for tests will not work in these courses or any other chemistry courses.
9. Use the available resources outside of class including talking to professors during office hours, attending SI sessions, or obtaining a tutor.

