

Three Tips to Improve Your College Experience

Colten Hall, Chemistry Peer Learning Consultant

1. In the first week or two of classes, sit down with each course syllabus and compile a semester assignment list. An example is attached below. Although it is subject to change as the semester progresses, usually most courses follow the dates they post at the beginning of the semester. Using a semester assignment list daily allows you to see upcoming assignments, quizzes, and exams so that you can better plan out your week. You will know how you can spend your time and are less likely to fall behind or get blindsided by assignments that are due. [Here is a template you can download and fill out!](#)

Semester Assignments Fall 2021

SOCI 101 **PHYS 211** **PHYS 221L** **BIOL 340** **BIOL 340L** **CHEM 420** **CHEM 422**

*Highlighted assignments are in progress. Assignments are deleted when complete.

Week One

M 8/23

First Day of Classes!!! Nothing due.

T 8/24

- Read textbook: all of chapter 1 and 2.1-2.3 in chapter 2
- Get and read through first lab in workbook

W 8/25

- Read chapter one
- Lab HW
- Intro to Toxicology reading
- Arsenic poisoning & "Napoleon, not killed by arsenic" readings
- Prelab reading and quiz

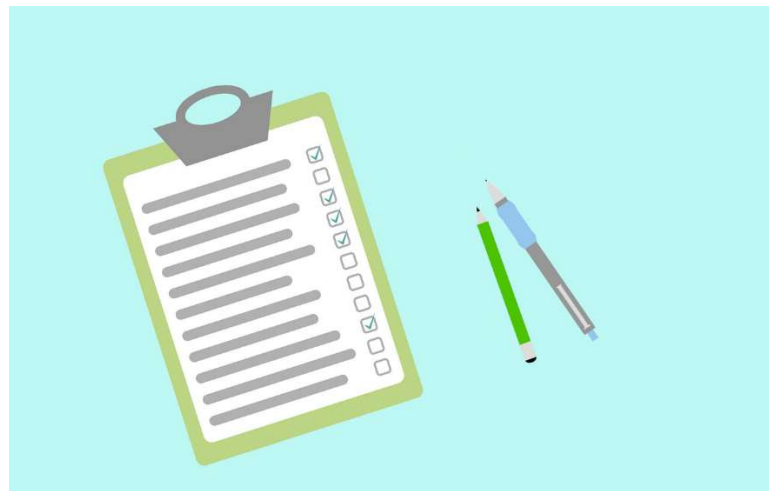
T 8/26

- Achieve HW
- Cell structure video and worksheet
- Read chapter 1
- Chapter 1 quiz

F 8/27

- Quiz #1 corrections

2. Use exams and quizzes as a basis for how to improve. Looking at what you missed on an exam can help you to understand how you need to study for the next exam. Instead of simply moving onto the next material, sit down and look over the exam and try to come up with the correct answer. Then the last step is to think about how the question was asked and why it was wrong in the first place. An example for missing a question: You ran out of time on the exam. If you ran out of time, it could suggest that in preparation for the next exam it could be beneficial to have a time trial using practice problems or having someone quiz you. Practicing the material tends to improve the swiftness and confidence when answering. [Here is a template by the ARC that you can download and use for reviewing old exams!](#)



3. Once you make a semester assignment list and you notice that the next week you have multiple assignments and multiple exams all throughout the week, it becomes time to plan. The first thing to try is to make available time in your schedule to accommodate all of your exams and assignments. Try to split up the studying and work over multiple days. If that is not possible and you have run into the worst case scenario where your schedule has little time to study with an exam the next day, I would study in the

following fashion: Look through your notes and the PowerPoints provided by the professor. Reading through the PowerPoints and notes will usually give you the basic information you need to know for the exams. If you have a decent grasp on the concepts of the material, you are able to use educated guesses on the exam. It should be noted that this is a last resort and should not be used in the place of studying, but rather if no time is available to study. Studying statistically leads to better results. After reading through the PPT and notes, if you have time, take a deeper look at the material, and try to quiz yourself on what you already read through. Redo practice problems and cover answers to questions in your notes and try to answer without looking.

The image shows a 'Weekly Planner!' template. At the top, the title 'Weekly Planner!' is written in a pink, cursive font on a light blue background. Below the title, there are seven columns, each representing a day of the week: Monday (green header), Tuesday (purple header), Wednesday (orange header), Thursday (pink header), Friday (red header), Saturday (blue header), and Sunday (yellow header). Each column contains a series of horizontal lines for writing, with rounded corners at the bottom.