

Advice from AP Chem Alumni

Dear AP Student,

If there was ever a place that embodied heaven and hell at the same time, you are in it right now. This class has given me the most out of any class I've ever taken. I have never learned more. But, to set this knowledge, you have to do the work. Whatever you think you know about chemistry, throw it out the window. You know nothing at all right now. Just put in the work, stay dedicated, and don't slack and the rewards are innumerable. There is only one thing I have left to say, good luck.

-Keith

This is a really great but fast paced class! Be ready to study your pants off! ☺ Do the work and you'll be fine!

-Anonymous

Dear Future AP Chemer,

Poor test scores are a part of life; learn to live with it. Do problem packets and at least you'll pass. And don't worry, Lumsy won't judge you if you fail. Enjoy the best/worst class ever☺. But don't worry, it'll be the most memorable class you take. If I could make it out, all of you can!

-From a Survivor,
Sudeepti Vedula

You're in for a whirlwind of FRQ's, practice problems, all-nighters, early study sessions, but also a lot of fun and a lot of knowledge. If you do the work each night, read the textbook, and study, you'll get a 5 and you can skip a ton of classes in college. You'll also have spent a year with two of the coolest teachers alive, and do really great labs and have tons of fun. So sit back, be prepared to work, and unfriend procrastination, and you'll like AP Chem.

-Anonymous

The 10 Commandments of AP Chemistry

1. Thou shalt work hard and enjoy AP Chemistry.
2. Thou shalt read thy textbook and respect Lord Zumdahl.
3. Thou shalt pay attention in class so as not to fall behind.
4. Thou shalt not cram the night before and forget lessons immediately after the test-it will not help thou before the AP Exam.
5. Thou shalt attend all extra credit sessions-they raise thy grade significantly.
6. Thou shalt understand, not memorize, lessons.
7. Thou shalt not sleep in class.
8. Thou shalt perform the labs and prelab to the best of thy abilities.
9. Thou shalt stay organized by checking Edmodo and the syllabus.
10. Thou shalt appreciate 3 *Idiots*.

-Divya Korada

Advice for AP Chem Students

1. Always, ALWAYS, read the book.
2. Don't be afraid to ask questions. In fact, everyone else will love you for asking the question they were all too scared to ask.
3. Videos will save your life.
4. Never forget what you learned in the beginning of the year. Trust me, it will hound you until the end of your AP Chem experience.
5. Titrations will get better.
6. If you can, sit in the front of the room.
7. Become best friends with your lab partner. You'll become dependent on them.
8. Don't think you're cool for not wearing goggles and an apron during lab.
9. Appreciate homework. It's the only way you'll get better.
10. After the AP Exam, chem will be your most fun class, so make it to the end.

-Kobi Dent

To the incoming kids:

This class is ridiculously fun and ridiculously difficult. But you can handle it by studying/reading a little before class, paying attention on class, and crying the day before a test. Honestly, it's manageable and it prepares you well for the AP Exam. Good luck!

-Anonymous

Dear future AP Chem kid,

Boy, you're in for a ride! Yes, it's going to be incredibly hard, and yes, you are going to question your life choices, but by the end, you're going to know more random sciency stuff than every before. Honestly, do all the practice problems, try and read as much of the book as possible, and internalize the notes packets, and you'll be fine. At times it's going to ruin your nights and days, but just push through. The feeling you get when you finally do well on a test (after a string of C's) is unparalleled. Just keep going, studying, and push through for 3 Idiots movie watching time. Drink lots to coffee/tea, google hangout your lab partner to figure out things and go to the wiz-iq sessions. You can do it and then just be proud of all you have accomplished. AP Chem is crazy and it's hard, but you will eventually survive. You go, Little Team Tujagues! :)

-Love, Santosh

Hey! You're probably freaking out about this class if you're a junior and if you're a senior, you're already waiting for second semester to start. I just want to say I've been through this class as a senior who just didn't care and I survived AP Chem. Word of advice: stay on top of your work if you want to really excel in this class and you have to read ahead. Do the homework, and study every day. After a certain point you'll get used to it. I did not. I was a senior who didn't care and I still managed to pull off solid B's. Either way, you will have fun in your class and believe it or not, you'll come out smarter (to the kids who don't care.) Good luck to you next year because this will be your hardest class in high school, but you'll do just fine. The AP Chem teachers care about each and every one of you!

-from an AP Chem survivor
Praakruti Cherukuri

Dear Future AP Chem Student,

Chemistry is fun, but it's hard. If you cannot dedicate time to doing the notes and studying outside of class, you should not take this class. The labs, peers, Mrs. Pittenger's job stories... They're the only time we paid attention 😊(jk)

I (Jessie) have no regret in taking this class. I really like calculations, and all the math. If you're a math person, you'll surely enjoy AP Chem because it involves decent amounts of calculations. If you're strong conceptually, you'll ace through it.

I (Mahika) found chemistry to be a very interesting subject. I think having a genuine interest and passion is what allowed me to perform well. Find a way to make chemistry fun and interesting for you. Are you Magnesium? Because I'm oxygen, and whenever I'm with you I just LIGHT UP!!!!

Make sure you choose a lab partner who wants to make a chemical reaction with you if you know what I mean. 😊

-Mahika & Jessie

Incoming AP students,

AP Chem requires a lot of reading beforehand. Come prepared to class for each lesson so you can ask questions beforehand. This class isn't easy and you need to take the time and effort out to study for it. You won't do well if you don't take it seriously.

-Anonymous

This class can be hard. But this class can be fun. Enjoy this class for what it is. It will challenge you, but at the end of the day, it is worth it because you will actually learn. Don't stress out too much. You will have arguably the best AP Chemistry teacher out there. The most important thing about this class is not the grades, but doing well on the AP Exam (as in getting a 5).

-Sarthak Patel

Do the labs! Read the textbook if you really don't know what's going on. Make sure you know how to do each type of problem on the problem sets. Memorize solubility rules!!! If you're taking AP Physics at the same time, thermochemistry will be a giant mess. If nothing else, at least know/learn titration stuff really well. Don't trust seniors to put in a decent amount of effort, especially after first semester ends.

-Anonymous

Dear current AP Chem kid,

Well, ya made it here. Hopefully you were smart and actually did the chem summer homework, because if not...you're kinda screwed.

Sorry, did I scare you already? Okay, okay, just get the tears out of the way now. LOL. I'm just joking (for the most part). TBH, as a senior coming into chem last year, I was scared like I knew that AP Chem was going to be one of my hardest classes. And it was. But it was also one of the most fun too. So please don't be like me, a procrastinating, sleep-deprived zombie with coffee running through my veins. The key to excelling through this class is honestly and brutally simple: do your work. I know this sounds extremely cliché. but you're only going to get out whatever you put into this class. do the summer work, please, start the year off on a high note. And do this:

- Do the FRQ's by yourself first. Then you can check them online, but PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD, TRY THEM YOURSELF FIRST.
- Try not to do pre-labs the morning of lab or on the car ride to school.
- Come to the extra credit sessions in the morning. You'll need it.
- Read the textbook as you learn the material in class. I can assure you, there is no worse feeling than sitting in the first row, absolutely clueless as Tujague is teaching.
- Don't be discouraged by a few C's at first. But again, don't be okay with them. Your grade will be salvageable but don't count on the curve. Aim for the highest grade you can.
- Enjoy the class like it actually is fun. You know what they say: you become closer when you're all tortured together.
- Don't break any lab equipment.

HAVE FUN! I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I SURVIVED THE CLASS!

-Yours truly, Sana Ajani

Dear Future AP Chem Student,

You have just, for some reason, decided to take this course which will be the death of your senior year. You will see a lot of try hards, but don't be afraid. You don't have to do too much work. You will get a load of supplementary material, but if you read the chapter in the book only once and pay attention in class and do the example problems in class, you will be perfectly fine. You should only occasionally need to look at your supplementary practice. Just don't fall too far behind. If you bomb something--I am sure everyone else did too--there will be a curve (almost every time). Only the first month feels ridiculous, then it's very laid back.

-Anonymous

Dear Future AP Chemistry Students,

Welcome! By taking this class, you have just signed off 1 year of your life to a lot of work. Just kidding. In reality, you have made the smartest decision of your life. AP Chemistry is not just a class, it's a way of life. It's an alternate lifestyle, a cult following, and it's so much fun. Throughout my time during senior year, the one class that I looked forward to going to was AP Chem. Why? Because of the teachers and the overall atmosphere. Everyone is relaxed and chill and just there to enjoy school and have a good time. The teachers are beyond chill and help you not only in chemistry, but also in life. They have great senses of humor and are very cool people. But the thing that made me like them the most was their passion. Their genuine extreme passion for the subject of chemistry and for their students. There was never a time when I did not feel comfortable asking a question in class because I knew Ms. Tujague would answer it and be right (well most of the time). Their passion is very inspirational as it allows us as students to really get into the subject of chemistry, not just as another class in our schedule but as a subject of mystery and intrigue. But by no means think that this class is easy and simple. It IS a tough class with a good amount of work. You as a person have to decide whether or not you wish to do the work. Most of the time I chose not to put in effort and it cost me dearly in my grade. However, I believed that I should study to learn chemistry not just to pass the class, and so that view drove me into putting forth some effort. This class is a tough class if you just end up fooling around all the time. Yet, AP Chemistry is the perfect blend of difficulty, enjoyment, and sarcasm. Get ready to be sassed by both teachers, copy homework free response question answers from the college board website, and have the time of your life. This is not just an ordinary class, it's the best class the school has to offer. So welcome to AP Chemistry, and get ready to shed tears of misery, joy, and sadness when the year eventually comes to an end.

Sincerely,
Priyan Gandhi