Some Study Tips

1. Identify in your weekly schedule when you will do your chemistry study. Put in enough time. Add a little extra. Stick to the plan.
2. Find a peaceful distraction-free place to study.
3. Get the phone numbers of at least two classmates so that you feel you have someone you can call to ask questions. Form a study group to spend part of your study time together if that fits your style.
4. Before each week, look over what lies ahead in the next week.
5. Read, or at least skim, the reading assignment before lecture. When doing the thorough reading, do the WorkPatch and Practice problems. Make note of any questions you have.
6. Ask your questions in office hour or in class or lab or ask your classmates or tutors in the Physical Science Study Center (PS110).
7. Come to class ready to listen, concentrate, and think, not to sleep.
8. As soon as possible after class, take a few minutes to go over your lecture notes and clarify what you meant to write or identify questions you still have. Get your questions answered as above.
9. Before doing the homework problems, get out and review any class summary sheets or useful summary charts from the text. Look at the “Have you learned this?” vocabulary section and “Skills to Know” summaries in the textbook to review some of what you will use in the questions.
10. Do your homework problems before the next class and check your answers as best as possible. Compare your work with a classmate.
11. When you finish a problem, think back about your logic to get to your answer. Look back at the problem to identify clues in the question that will tell you when you have to use that logic. It is useful to try to explain your logic steps to a classmate. See if he/she has a different approach. Discuss. Try more problems if you do not feel solid on that topic. The goal is to be able to do problems of that general type not to memorize that problem. Exam questions are rarely totally identical to homework questions. Do NOT do your homework problems with one eye on the solutions manual. Copying is not learning as you soon will find out on an Exam.

Advice from former Chem 108 students from my class:

1. Don’t fall behind, do some homework every night. Don’t be scared, chemistry isn’t hard if you learn the material. Don’t miss labs, it’s much easier to do during normal lab time when everyone else is doing the same thing. When doing labs be very careful, measure slowly and accurately and follow instructions carefully and results will turn out much better.
2. I would ask more questions, study a lot more and make sure when I’m reading the chapter that really understand it. Also in class I would make sure I know the lecture. Coming to class every day help learn the topic.
4. Get your book as soon as possible. Look through it and read all the material before going into each lecture. Ask for help from teacher or other classmates. Get into a study group. Take notes and ask questions until it is clear to you. Review all of your notes, quizzes, exams, labs, and worksheets.
5. Even if you have learnt chemistry before, it REALLY pays off if you attend all lectures, do all the SDS, copy down notes and do ALL the recommended homework. Not only you’re SURE to get an A, if you are conscientious, you’ll not have to cram a lot for exams.
6. Familiarize yourself with the contents of each chapter before class. (Just browse chapter and view key terms and concepts.) Finish homework early enough to have true review time for Exams (cramming for Exam only confuses scope of material). Always do SDS assignments. Participate in class and ask clarifying questions, Dr. Long really knows the coursework and can explain in detail. Have fun, it is fascinating info!
7. Don’t miss any lab and homework. Get the higher grade at the beginning of this course, because it will become more harder later, if your score is too slow at the beginning, it will be harder to get better grade later. Get SDS as much as possible. Do the chapter’s problems, it will help you a lot. Don’t miss the class or lesson, you can understand and learn more.
9. You really need to keep up with your reading, HW and assignments. Once you get lazy and stop working, it is really hard to catch it again. It would be a really good idea to read through experiments before hand to make sure that you know what you are doing. Also, if you could, do all the SDS questions. That really helps at the end of the semester if you are a bit away from the second highest grade.
10. Hints for lab (especially for international students): Read ahead. Make directions into a list (step 1, 2) in the margin. Cross off in the margin as you do it. Read chemical name on bottle over and over to be sure you got the right chemical.
11. I would say that the exams could be a little difficult. I don’t know Chem 120 but I bet that the exams are going to be not too much more difficult. I feel that this class greatly prepared me for Chem 120 if I take it. Although it was difficult, it was enough to give me the knowledge I need to take more chem. classes.
12. By coming into Chem 108 fresh, uneducated about chemistry I was very questionable about my capabilities in the class. It seemed like everyone but me knew something about chemistry. It was hard and still is. For a new comer you have to be dedicated to it. For me that was hard because of me working 34 hrs a week, having 14 units, family issues. But I’m taking it next semester. I’ll be ready.