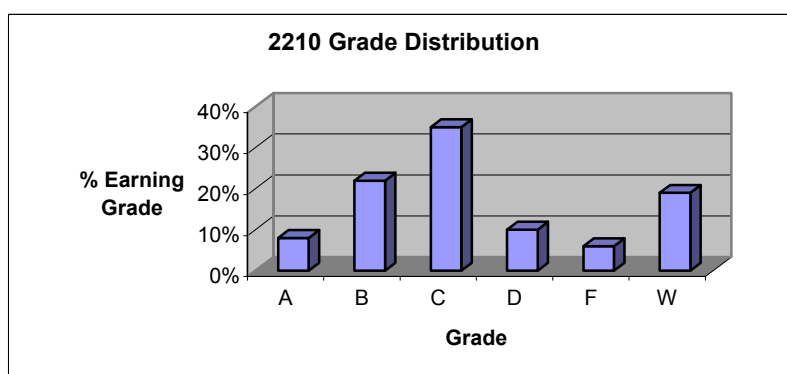


What You Can Expect From Dr. Grow's Organic Chemistry I Class

I have been a teacher since 1969 and have taught everything from 8th grade science to postgraduate biochemistry courses for students who already have their Ph.D. degree. I hold an A.A. degree from PJC (1964), a B.S. degree in biology from UWF (1969), and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida (1977). After teaching 6 years at UF's Medical and Dental Schools I came back to Pensacola. I have been teaching at PJC since 1988. My philosophy of teaching is "Tell students what you expect of them, explain the material clearly, and test them on what you said they should know." I believe in consistency and will always try to treat all students fairly. I operate by a clearly defined set of rules and try hard not to break them. Although my rules may give you the impression that I am unyielding, I am willing to discuss anything and ask that you come see me if you have any problems. I have an open door policy in my office and hope to see you there.

Below is a chart that shows how grades tend to distribute themselves in my classes. As you can see, only a little less than 10% of students can expect to get an "A" in my class. The high drop-out/failure rate is characteristic of all chemistry classes at PJC (25%). This is normally caused by a combination of factors including lack of motivation and poor math skills. In organic chemistry this is sometimes caused by the difficulty of the subject.



Organic chemistry is probably one of the top five hardest subjects taught at PJC. For this reason students will find it necessary to put forth a great deal of effort in order to succeed. In my class you can expect to spend at least 2 hours a day studying outside of class just for the lecture portion of this course. Because this is an advanced class I expect you to seek other sources of information besides my lectures. I recommend that you make full use of the organic chemistry study room we have set up for you. You will find that the tutorial programs are very useful and will let you know what you do and don't know. I believe that organic is the one course that can help you determine whether or not you have the academic ability needed to succeed in more advanced courses. This is why professional schools put so much emphasis on your grades in organic chemistry. You should be aware that a "C" in organic is considered by many to be a somewhat less than desirable grade if you wish to go on to post-graduate education such as medical or graduate school. I believe PJC offers you an excellent course in organic chemistry. So that you can compare your education at PJC to other colleges, I will give you the American Chemical Society's standardized exam in organic chemistry at the end of the second semester. Last year our students averaged in the 60th percentile, scoring better than 60% of the students at other colleges across the nation. One student scored in the 99th percentile.

Organic chemistry is a difficult subject but it serves as the foundation for many other courses you might take in the sciences. I am committed to teaching these important concepts at the university level because that is where you will go next. By providing you with organized lectures, clear explanations, personal help, and a positive environment for learning; we will try to make this course as easy as possible. Although I could teach a course where almost everyone makes an "A" or "B", I would be doing you no favor in the long term. At some point you will probably be required to rely upon your knowledge of organic chemistry, and if you have succeeded in my course I believe you will well prepared.