

## Grade Improvement Options for General Chemistry

You have just completed a chemistry exam and may be one of the students who did not earn the grade for which you had hoped. The reasons some students do not do well in chemistry are varied and are often different for individual students. You are probably taking chemistry because you have chosen a major that requires this course. Students take chemistry for different reasons and may need grades in specific ranges to be successful in their chosen field. For example, if a student wishes to go to medical, dental, or veterinary school a minimal acceptable grade in the course is a B. Someone who wishes to earn a degree in biology, horticulture, medical technology, and certain other fields may only need to complete the course with a grade of C. Some students only need to pass the class, and a grade of D will satisfy their requirements. Because the course is taught at the university level (as it should be), some students find it difficult to succeed. As your instructor, I could make the course easier and write exams that everyone could pass. However, this would be a grave disservice to those students who need the knowledge base only obtained when the course is taught at the appropriate level. After you have completed Chem I and Chem II you will most likely take Organic chemistry; a more difficult course. After Organic, most will take biochemistry; another difficult course that requires a knowledge of chemical concepts. Others will go on to take the examinations required for professional school like the MCAT, PCAT, and DAT. I do not believe that I am some difficult teacher who is teaching the course at some elevated level that prevents normal students from passing. I am simply teaching the course at the level that I KNOW will be expected of you at some later time. I make no apologies for the difficulty level of this course. However, that does not help the students who are having difficulty and really only need to pass the course with a minimum passing grade. For this reason, I have developed an option for students who wish to elevate poor grades to minimal passing grades. This means students who are getting D's who wish to earn C's and students who are failing who wish to earn D's. I am NOT offering an option to students with C's or B's who wish to earn B's or A's. If you scored a C or B on the exam I will allow you to earn extra points to increase your grade to a higher C or B. I firmly believe that A's and B's should be awarded only to students who demonstrate above average ability in this course. This means earning a grade of A or B by getting high grades on given exams. A grade of A is supposed to mean "exceptional mastery of the subject matter." B means "above average mastery of the subject material." The grade improvement options below only apply to students who have earned grades of less than 70% on the exam. Students who have scored between 60 and 69 on the exam can raise their grade by up to 25% of the points missed, not to exceed 73. Student who scored from 50 to 60 can raise their grade by up to 25% of the points missed, not to exceed 68. Students who have scored less than 50 can earn additional points but cannot raise their grade higher than 62. Students with C's or B's on the exam can earn extra points to increase their grades to C<sup>+</sup> and B<sup>+</sup> respectively. To earn extra points for final grade improvement, **you must do this extra work for every exam on which you scored less than 70%**. Follow the instructions below. Read them carefully.

To improve your grade on an exam you must do the following. There is no partial credit and you must do exactly what I show below. Failure to follow instructions will result in a failure to earn any extra points.

1. Make a copy of your exam.
2. On a separate sheet of paper (not the exam), write each question you missed, the correct answer for that question, and an explanation of why your answer was wrong and the concept behind the correct answer. You do not need to use a separate sheet of paper for each question. Simply writing the correct answer to a question will not earn extra points. It is the explanation that is important to me. You must correct all incorrect answers to earn any points. If only some, and not all, of the missed questions are corrected you will not receive any bonus points.
3. Staple your corrected answer sheet(s), with your name written on the front, to the FRONT of the exam copy and turn the packet in to me within one week of the day exams were returned to the class. **NO PACKETS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE EXAM KEY HAS BEEN POSTED!**