This week we will review the basic vocabulary and mathematical procedures you need to master Chemistry 112. Take the time now to review or re-learn the metric system, metric conversions, and simple graph theory. You have a job to do this semester. This is the first set of tools you need to help you do the job well.

Read Appendix A for an overview of some of the mathematical information you will need throughout the semester. Then work through the following Chapter 1 problems with help from the text:

Chapter 1: 1.4, 1.8, 1.10, 1.14, 1.18, 1.20, 1.22, 1.28, 1.34, 1.38, 1.44

Professor’s Note: The number one obstacle to student understanding is unfamiliarity with vocabulary. Many words used in chemistry texts have exactly the same meaning as when they are used in other contexts. Some words, however, will have different meanings depending on the context in which they are used. In the back of your notebook, begin a list of the words and terms unfamiliar to you as you read your text. Define, or give an example of each. Use this list as an aid in studying for quizzes and exams. NOTE: Often an unfamiliar word will be used to describe or name a fairly simple idea. Don’t let the words confuse you!! To begin with, if necessary, learn the concept and don’t worry about what it is called. Then when you have the concept, associate it with it’s name. Remember, they are only words!

Chemistry 112 moves at a fairly rapid pace. It is imperative, therefore, that you attend every class and discussion section, as some material will not be repeated. What can you do to help you keep up with the class? 1) Read each section before you come to lecture. In lecture, listen for the explanations of things you did not understand in your reading. 2) After each lecture, attempt to do the problems associated with that lecture. 3) If, after doing all of this, you still don’t understand the section, GET HELP IMMEDIATELY!

Each section builds on preceding sections. Each new chapter assumes understanding of the chapters that went before. In the beginning it may seem that you are memorizing a lot — that’s normal. Soon, the memorized words and definitions will become part of your understanding of chemistry. Talk about your chemistry problems with your study partner or group. Challenge each other to prove how an answer was obtained. Think of the possible variations that could exist in a problem. This will deepen your understanding of chemistry.

Above all — don’t try to work in a vacuum. Work together and help each other learn.