

Notes to the Students

Welcome to CHM 101! This book contains laboratory and classroom activities designed to make you an active participant in understanding chemical concepts. This approach generally requires you to make observations and draw conclusions about a subject area before you receive lecture information on it. You are able to discover information yourself as scientists before you have done! You need to be open to the possibilities and be willing to take some risks. Your instructor is a guide to help you attain concepts and develop your critical reasoning skills.

Because you will be doing most of these activities without prior lecture information, we will not grade you on your answers for most labs. However, to determine if you have absorbed the material and developed requisite laboratory skills, there are four performance tasks that will be graded during the semester. Your instructor will tell you more about these (or any modifications) in class.

As students in CHM 101, you will use a number of tools employed by chemists such as the graphing calculator, probeware, and computer applications including Excel, Graphical Analysis, and Chime. A student computer laboratory in Chesapeake Hall Room 309 (CH-309) is open many hours each work for PGCC science students and we welcome you there. To assist you in handling, processing, displaying, and interpreting data members of the Physical Science Department have developed a number of resources including:

- ★ Data Handling and Analysis on the TI -82 and TI -83/83+ Graphing Calculator
- ★ Using Excel for Handling, Graphing, and Analyzing Scientific Data
- ★ User's Guide for Graphical Analysis for Windows
- ★ Student Guide to the Use of Chime

All of these resources, links to free software, career information, and information about additional chemistry courses and instructors at PGCC can be found at the PGCC Physical Science Web site:

<http://academic.pgcc.edu/psc>

Come visit us there!