

SUCCEEDING IN SCIENCE

	USUALLY	SOMETIMES	SELDOM
1. I have the necessary background and skills to handle my courses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I work on learning the basics of each concept in the lecture (vs. just taking notes.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I make a prompt, brief review of my notes before the next class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I spend most of my study time in the course actually solving problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I look for and attempt many of the harder problems associated with each concept.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I stick to a time limit on each problem I attempt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I have developed a variety of help sources for when I'm stuck.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I focus on learning and understanding the basic principle associated with each concept, i.e., crucial formulae, definitions, explanations, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I carefully analyze and try to understand how a general concept is applied to a specific solved example (vs. memorizing the example.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. After getting the solution to a harder problem, I reflect on what made that problem difficult.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I try to predict the harder problems that are likely to appear on the exam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How well did you score? If you have checked off the **SELDOM** column 5 or more times, ask for extra hints at The Math & Science Centre, F-540B.

Here are some ways to help you succeed in your science courses:

1. **Discipline and hard work** are the **keys to success**. Depending on how much of a natural you may be or how much material you have seen in high school, **your marks will be proportional to the amount of work you do**.
2. **Use your time productively**. A science student can't afford to go out every night. Limit yourself to weekends and holidays.
3. Good **note-taking skills** are necessary to succeed in the sciences. Draw ample **diagrams** and **graphs** while taking notes. Write down what the teacher is saying and not just what is being written on the board.
4. **Limit the amount of distractions** around you. Try to stay **attentive** in class and don't distract those around you.
5. **Don't limit yourself to pure memorization**. Although very effective in high school, it's harder to pull off in CEGEP. **Understanding** is the key to doing well on tests. You will find how easy things can be if you take the time to understand the basic theoretical concepts.
6. **Do problems**. Do as many different problems as you can. Don't limit yourself to just the homework the teacher has assigned. You would be surprised how many questions and problems in your textbook will resurface in tests and even in exams.
7. **Read ahead**. Get in touch with what the teacher will be covering the next class by leafing through your textbook. This will make things much easier for you in class.
8. **Don't cram for exams**. This works for selected few, but not for the majority of students. Pace yourself and review your material at least two weeks prior to an exam.
9. Last but not least, **like what you do**. The more interested you are in your science course, the better you will do. If you find that you hate every single science course you take, chances are you're not in the right program.