

Advice for Introductory Biology Students

1. Lecture and textbook use

- Always go to lecture (Monday 12:00-12:50 pm VLH, T + Th 9-10:20 am VLH).
- Take thorough, handwritten notes including equations and diagrams.
- Ask questions during or right after lecture or later by email or in person.
- Before lecture, skim relevant textbook sections to preview the concepts.
- After lecture, use the textbook to reinforce what you've learned in lecture.
- Read extra references and review lecture PowerPoints on Moodle.
- Read your email regularly for updates on course information.

2. Before coming to lab

- Read the entire lab handout for that week.
- Do the Pre-lab exercise on Moodle by 1:00 pm on your lab day for credit.
- Outline the procedures in your lab notebook to make your lab go smoothly.
- Make tables for data and observations as needed.
- Calculate solution recipes as needed.

3. During lab

- Annotate your lab handout with any changes in procedure noted on the board.
- Ask questions of your lab instructor and professors. That's what they're there for.
- Record all data and observations in your lab notebook.
- Think about what the results mean.
- Analyze data (depending on group or class data set availability).
- Start writing your lab report and get feedback from your lab instructor.
- Set a meeting time to finish the group report.
- Get your lab partners' full names and cell phone numbers.
- Participate and take notes during lab discussions.
- Ask questions of the professors regarding lectures.

4. After lab

- Work on writing your report while the lab is still fresh in your mind.
- Reread the introduction to the lab and lab report instructions before writing.
- Refer to the Lab Report Instructions (section S) while you are writing.
- Use the Biology Science Center tutors Sun, M, T, W, Th 7-9 pm in B5/B7.

- Carey or Ned can look over your rough draft with you the day before it is due.
- Be thorough so that the report will be useful to you when studying for an exam.
- Upload the pdf of your lab report before it is due in case of technical difficulties.

5. In preparation for exams

- Outline your lecture notes to review facts and to see connections among concepts.
- Use the textbook to help clarify lecture topics.
- Check Moodle for sample test questions and other resources.
- Attend the review session when there is one.
- Ask questions of faculty and Carey.
- Organize a study group.
- Use the tutors: Biology Science Center in B5/B7 Sun, M, T, W, Th 7-9 pm
- Use the DoJo drop in tutoring center (http://web.reed.edu/academic_support).
- Use an Individual tutor (<http://info.reed.edu/tutor/tutors.taf>).

6. During exams

- Write your name legibly on every page as pages are separated for grading.
- Guess if you don't know an answer. No points are subtracted for wrong answers.
- If you are not sure of the answer to an essay question, start by defining the terms.
- Pace yourself to avoid running out of time. Blanks get no partial credit.
- You are allowed to take the exam anywhere, but don't waste time walking too far.

7. After getting your lab reports and exams back

- Read the examples of good lab reports (on bulletin board outside of B7).
- Review keys to exams (on bulletin board outside of B7).
- Ask for clarification, if needed, on your lab report and/or exam comments.

Condensed version

- Come to lecture and take notes.
- Come to lab prepared to participate and get the most out of it.
- Produce quality lab reports.
- Study for exams using a variety of resources.
- Follow up after lab reports and exams are returned to you.
- We're here to help! See pages D-1 and D-2 for contact information.