

AceOrganicChem's suggested study paths for organic chemistry success

For A Students

Congratulations, you're in a tough course and you're doing really well. But how can you learn the material a little better, and keep your good grade momentum going? Here are our thoughts on how to do that:

- 1) Short videos on specific topics: It looks like you are already doing well on the general stuff, now let's see if you can get a more in-depth understanding of some of the more difficult reactions and concepts. Short videos on specific reactions or topics (like the ones you would find on YouTube) are the best way to do that.
- 2) Flash cards: Don't go for the generic or easy problems; you already know those. Go for more difficult or nuanced reactions and concepts. Even better, make you own flash cards.
- 3) Practice problems and old exams: We are going to recommend this to everyone (because it is what the profs said was best), but for you A students, it is a little lower on the priority list.
- 4) Spiderwebs: If you have the time, see how crazy and big you can make one of these. It will be a great study tool for you. If you want to know how to connect two functional groups, look up a new reaction and add it to your "reaction toolbox".

For B/C Students

OK, so your exams are not going as well as you would like them too. Not a big deal, you can pull it together and get that grade you want, let's maximize your study time:

- 1) Old practice exams: Professor said this was the number one way to study for organic chemistry. There are plenty of old exams out there. You should take a few and find out which topics you are weak in. Then, take that information and go to step two.
- 2) Flash cards: Find flashcards on the Internet, using the resources we pointed you too, for the topics in which you are weak and drill those into your head.
- 3) Tutorials: If you Google "organic chemistry tutorials" and the topic you are struggling with, you can find some great PDFs from other colleges to help you out. Very effective.

4) EASE mechanism course: You should take our two-hour course on mechanisms and reaction problems. It shows you a step-wise method to solve almost any organic chemistry problem. Huge help for students in the B/C grade range. It is free by going to <http://www.aceorganicchem.com/Elite/video/ease-method-videos/>

5) Spiderwebs: Try a simple one, using basic reactions you know. The simple act of connecting them will reinforce the connections between functional groups in your head.

If you are struggling to pass

The bad news is that you're not doing well and it can be really discouraging. The good news is that you have plenty of room to improve, but we need to maximize your study habits, because you don't have unlimited time. So let's work on these things and topics that are going to benefit you the most in the least amount of time.

1) Make sure you really understand the absolute basics: Nomenclature, resonance and structure are musts. If you don't know these, review them until you are comfortable because it is hard to improve if you don't have a good bed of knowledge to start with.

2) Flash cards: Go on the Internet and find the easiest flashcards you can, and do them over and over again.

3) A helpful book off of Amazon: Maybe your textbook just isn't resonating with you, so let's see if we can get you some different help. We really like "organic chemistry as a second language", (although it is a little pricey) it's highly rated by organic chemistry students.

4) Practice exams: Now go on the web (you might want to consider our website for this) and take the easiest practice exams you can. If you do well on the easy exams move to an intermediate level exam.

5) Course summary videos: Full lecture videos are too in-depth and time consuming for you right now and topic videos are too specific. The perfect videos for you are a set of videos (maybe 6-8 hours total) that summarize the entire course. These videos will let you get the biggest bang for your buck.



