

Mindset Conference Breakout Session

Cheryl Moy

STEM Lecturer, Department of
Chemistry, UNC – Chapel Hill

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	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3
Average	76	74	79
Median	79	74	80
StdDev	14	13	12
Min	32	42	43

Average Difference between Exam 2 and Exam 1 = -4.7

Average difference above zero = 13 pts.

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What was different about Exam 2?

Dear ...,

Nice job on Exam 2! You made a significant improvement in your performance on Exam 2 in comparison to Exam 1. *I would like to hear what you did differently to prepare for Exam 2 and perhaps provide some testimonials to your classmates on how to prepare for Exam 3.* Would you be willing to share/send me what you did differently? I will keep the responses anonymous and you will not be identified if you would be willing to share a response.

“I prioritized the readings and the problem sets, doing a little bit each night instead of doing them last minute.”

“I think another key for me was starting early and never having to spend more than 3 hours a day of intensive studying.”

“On exam 1 I made a lot of silly mistakes, and I knew some of this had to do with the fact that I stayed up so late cramming the night before.”

“For exam 2 I made sure to study the material with time.”

“I think what helped me the most for this exam was to organize all the reactions we've learned. I remember you telling me that each reaction is like a tool that we use to build something and you've basically given us a toolbox full of tools and we have to decide which ones to use.”

“So for this exam I made a cheat sheet of a sort before I even started the problems. I wrote down all of the mechanisms from all three chapters and stapled it together, and added in the rules for each mechanism so I knew what something could and couldn't react with.”

“I made "study sheets," where I wrote out all the reactions we needed to know by chapter. I thought this would help me organize the reactions and realize what I had in my toolbox for synthesis problems.”

“For exam 2 I spent a lot of time writing out the reactions and information from the review sheet that you posted onto flashcards and spent about 2 days just looking at them and becoming more familiar with them. ”

“The night before the exam I just reviewed and annotated the study sheets and got a good night of sleep.”

“Then I just did all the studio worksheets together [again] like a pre-test to make sure I had everything down.”

“Finally the night before the exam I took the practice exams [in the textbook] for each chapter and if I missed something went back and reviewed it.”

[Few days before the exam] “I printed out blank copies [of the studio worksheets], stapled them all together, went to the library and treated it as one practice exam.”

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Average Difference between Exam 3 and Exam 2 = 7.4

Student Feedback on Exercise

I remember last semester you collected quotes and advice from students who performed well on the first exam and students whose performance improved on the second exam. Both the classmates I knew in the class and I really appreciated the helpful hints and used them to be successful in the course. It also showed you cared a lot about the students because none of my other professors at UNC have done that before. Consequently, I hope you will do a similar lecture when passing out exams this semester.