Top 10 Tips to 'Become a Scientist'

1. Prepare
Science is rich with content, and it builds on itself. You’ll need some foundational information to get started.

2. Practice
Spend time with the material to truly learn it. Use tools like Prep and SmartBook® 2.0 for practice.

3. Become the Teacher
The best way to determine if you know the content is to explain it to others. Form study groups and help test each other.

4. Avoid Cramming
Study regularly, as there is just too much information to learn it all at once. Set a schedule to build your knowledge of the material.

5. Refresh Frequently
Science builds on prior knowledge, so go back and be sure you know what you learned earlier and can relate it to the new material.

6. Design the Experiment
To do good science, you must be able to design scientifically sound experiments. Use the Scientific Method to become a better critical thinker.

7. Develop the Technical Skills
Science is more than just concepts in a book. It is also about knowing how to perform the techniques, use the equipment, and carry out the experiment.

8. Collaborate
No researcher works alone. Learn how to collaborate effectively, share ideas, and produce a better product by relying on the strengths of others.

9. Decipher the Data
A key part of science is understanding the data that are presented. Graphs, tables, pathways, etc. are all key components in doing science.

10. Think Critically
Experiments never work the first time! A key part of doing science is thinking critically about how to improve the process and what you can learn from unanticipated results.