

## Differences between High School and College

Your experiences in college will be very different from those of high school. Below are some of the most important characteristics of each.

<b>FOLLOWING THE RULES IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>CHOOSING RESPONSIBLY IN COLLEGE</b>
* Your time is structured by others.	* You manage your own time.
* You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities	* You must decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
* You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.	* <i>You</i> must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.
* Each day you proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours each day--30 hours a week--in class.	* You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend only 12 to 16 hours each week in class
* Most of your classes are arranged for you.	* You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your adviser. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
* <b>Guiding principle: You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.</b>	* <b>Guiding principle: You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.</b>
<b>GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES</b>	<b>SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE CLASSES</b>
* The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some don't.	* The academic year may be divided into semesters or quarters.
* Classes generally have no more than 35 students.	* Classes may number 100 students or more.
* You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	* You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
* <b>Guiding principle: You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.</b>	* <b>Guiding principle: It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.</b>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS</b>	<b>COLLEGE PROFESSORS</b>

* Teachers check your completed homework.	* Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
* Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.	* Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
* Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	* Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
* Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	* Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
* Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.	* Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
* Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.	* Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
* Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	* Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
* Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	* Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.
* <b>Guiding principle: High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.</b>	* <b>Guiding principle: College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.</b>
<b>TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>TESTS IN COLLEGE</b>
* Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	* Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
* Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.	* Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the

	demands of other courses or outside activities.
* Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.	* Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.
* <b>Guiding principle: Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.</b>	* <b>Guiding principle: Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.</b>
<b>GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>GRADES IN COLLEGE</b>
* Grades are given for most assigned work.	* Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
* Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low .	* Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
* Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.	* Watch out for your <i>first</i> tests. These are usually "wake-up calls" to let you know what is expected--but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades.
* You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.	* You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard--typically a 2.0 or C.
* <b>Guiding principle: "Effort counts." Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."</b>	* <b>Guiding principle: "Results count." Though "good-faith effort" is important in regard to the professor's willingness to help you <i>achieve</i> good results, it will not <i>substitute</i> for results in the grading process.</b>



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