

# Differences between High School and College

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## Personal Freedom in High School

- High school is mandatory and free (unless you choose other options).
- Your time is usually structured by others.
- You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.

## Personal Freedom in College

- College is voluntary and expensive.
- You manage your own time.
- You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities.

## High School Classes

- Each day you proceed from one class directly to another.
- You spend 6 hours each day–30 hours each week–in class.
- Most of your classes are arranged for you.
- Teachers carefully monitor attendance.
- Classes generally have no more than 35 students.
- You're provided with textbooks at little or no expense.

## College Classes

- You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening.
- You spend 12 to 16 hours each week in class.
- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your academic advisor. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
- Instructors may not formally take roll, but they're still likely to know whether or not you attended.
- Classes may number 100 students or more.
- You need to budget substantial funds for textbooks, which usually cost more than \$200 each semester.

## High School Teachers

- Teachers check your completed homework
- Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.
- Teachers are often available for conversation before, during or after class.
- Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.
- Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.
- Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.

## College Instructors

- Instructors may not always check completed work, but they'll assume you can perform the same tasks on tests
- Instructors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
- Instructors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- Instructors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
- Instructors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. Good notes are a MUST!
- Instructors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it's due and how you'll be graded.

## Studying in High School

- You may study outside of class as little as 0-2 hours a week.
- You're expected to read short assignments that are discussed and often, re-taught in class.
- You'll usually be told in class what you need to learn from reading assignments.

## Studying in College

- You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
- You're assigned huge amounts of reading and writing that may never be directly addressed in class.
- It's up to YOU to read and understand the assigned material. Lectures and assignments generally proceed with the assumption you've already done so.

## Tests in High School

- Testing is often frequent and covers small amounts of materials.
- Makeup tests are often available.
- Teachers frequently arrange tests dates to avoid conflict with school events.
- Teachers frequently schedule review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.

## Tests in College

- Testing is usually infrequent and cumulative, covering large amounts of material.
- Makeup tests are seldom an option. If they are, you need to request them.
- Instructors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
- Instructors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to come armed with questions.

## Grades in High School

- Grades are given for most assigned work.
- Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when test grades are low.
- Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.
- You may graduate as long as you've passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.
- Effort counts.

## Grades in College

- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
- Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
- Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course.
- You may graduate only if your average meets the departmental standard—typically 2.0 or C.
- Results count.