

# How is College Different from High School?

It's important to know the realities of the college experience. These lists are not meant to be discouraging or overwhelming but are intended to help you reframe your expectations of how college differs from high school.

<p><b>Personal Freedom in High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High school is <i>mandatory</i> and <i>free</i></li> <li>- Your time is structured by others</li> <li>- You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities</li> <li>- You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of deadlines, and to guide you in setting priorities</li> <li>- Guiding principle: You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behavior is out of line.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Personal Freedom in College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- College is <i>voluntary</i> and <i>expensive</i></li> <li>- You manage your own time</li> <li>- You decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities</li> <li>- You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities</li> <li>- Guiding principle: You will take responsibility for what you do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Classes in High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You spend six hours each day, or about 30 hours per week, in back-to-back classes</li> <li>- Most of your classes are arranged for you</li> <li>- Teachers monitor your attendance</li> <li>- Classes generally have fewer than 35 students</li> <li>- You are given textbooks at little or no expense</li> <li>- Your counselor guides your course selection and monitors credits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Classes in College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You will spend 12 to 16 hours per week in class, with hours in between classes</li> <li>- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your academic advisor</li> <li>- Professors may not formally take attendance</li> <li>- Classes may have as few as 5 or as many as 100 students</li> <li>- You need to pay for textbooks, which can cost \$100 per class or more</li> <li>- Graduation requirements are complex, can differ between majors, and you need to know those that apply to you. Use your Advisor for help!!</li> </ul>
<p><b>High School Teachers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remind you of incomplete work, assignments, and due dates</li> <li>- Approach you if they believe you need extra help and are often available for conversation before, during, or after class</li> <li>- Provide you with the information missed when absent</li> <li>- Often write information on the board for your note-taking</li> </ul>	<p><b>College Professors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expect you to consult the course syllabus as a reminder of expectations and due dates</li> <li>- Expect you to determine if you need extra help and are available only during set office hours</li> <li>- Expect you to get from classmates any notes or information you missed when absent</li> <li>- May not follow the textbook, providing only supplemental material that they also expect you to retain</li> <li>- May lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify important points for note-taking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Studying in High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You may study outside of class as little as two hours per week</li> <li>- You are expected to read assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught in class</li> <li>- Guiding Principle: You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Studying in College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You need to study two to three hours outside of class for each hour in class and review class notes and text material regularly to avoid having to re-learn before a test</li> <li>- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class</li> <li>- Guiding principle: It is your responsibility to read and understand the assigned material and <b>synthesize your own thoughts after doing so</b></li> </ul>

# How is College Different from High School? (cont.)

## Grades in High School

- Your grade is constantly updated via a SchoolView or CampusPortal so you know instantly what your grade is at any given point in the semester
- Your parents have access to this information via a parent portal or even instantaneous SMS
- An A grade may be very easy to achieve in high school, and less than an A can seem like a failing grade to some students
- Colleges pay close attention to grades, so if you are college-bound, you may put a lot of weight on grades rather than employment, extra-curriculars, etc.
- Guiding Principle: Grades, grades grades! Grades determine the impression of students' success, and act as a currency for getting into college. As such, they are reported daily and constantly

## Grades in College

- You are responsible for estimating your own grade based on graded assignments, quizzes and exams. Generally, the syllabus will indicate a percentage weight for homework/participation/exams. But your actual grade will not be posted anywhere until after the final exams are graded
- Your parents do not have any more information on your grade progress than you tell them. The parent portal, if you sign the FERPA waiver, only lists the grades for finished courses—just like your SIS view
- A B or C grade is a fine achievement for the average college student. A's can be extremely difficult to achieve in college. It may be necessary to reset expectations because college is much more demanding than high school. Discuss this with your parents to avoid a lot of self-inflicted pressure and stress
- Future employers care more about your diploma and your breadth of experience than your grades. Unless you plan to apply to a graduate school program, focus your energies on high impact learning opportunities such as student leadership positions, study abroad, meaningful student work award employment, and internships
- Guiding Principle: It is more important to focus on how well you learn the material and retain it in order to use it in life, as well as the experiential learning outside of classroom; The development of your whole person through the college experience