

Differences Between High School and College

High School

Each day you proceed from one class directly to another – 30 hours a week in class

More time spent in class with teacher directing learning activities

Time is structured by others, with limits set by teachers, parents and other adults.

Less study time is required (1-2 hours a day)

Time often given in class to complete assignments

Teachers take time to remind you of assignments and due dates

Parents and teachers will remind you of your responsibilities and help you set priorities

Teachers will write important things on board for you to copy down

Teachers will draw connections and lead you through thinking process

You are expected to complete short reading assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class

Teachers will coordinate lessons with material in textbook

Teachers check completed homework

Teachers may approach you if they think you need help



College

Often there are hours between class – total of 12-20 hours a week in class

Less time spent in class. You are expected to do more independent learning outside class time. Group work may need to schedule meeting times.

You manage your own time and personal freedom – biggest challenge

More study time required – 2 hours of study for each hour of class time

Assignments completed independently outside class time

Professors expect you to read, save and consult the course outline

You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You must take responsibility for your own actions and consequences

Profs may lecture non-stop, expecting you to identify important points. PowerPoints are often a supplement, not a summary, so good notes are essential.

Profs expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics on their own

You are assigned lots of reading and writing that may not be directly addressed in class but may be tested.

Profs may not follow textbook and expect you to relate classes to textbook readings

Professors rarely check completed homework

Professors expect you to initiate contact if help is needed. You will need to make appointment during office hours.



Accessible Learning Services - Easy Start Transition Program

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You may be successful with very little studying

You may be used to studying or cramming the night before the test

Sometimes listening in class is enough

Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material

Make-up tests often available

Teachers rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events/other classes' tests

Accommodations for tests scheduled by teachers for students with exceptionalities/ disabilities

You can fail one course and still proceed to next year

High school staff will prompt you to choose your courses and your course schedule will be created for them

You are provided with textbooks at no expense

Teachers trained in teaching methods and how learning occurs

College

It's important to develop good study habits to be successful

You will need to revise every day because of volume of work covered and fast pace of delivery

You need to review class notes and text material on regular basis

Testing is infrequent, cumulative and comprehensive

Makeup tests are very rare. If they are possible, you must negotiate them with professor and arrange to write it in the Test Centre

Professors usually schedule tests without regard to demands of other courses or outside activities

You must request accommodations and schedule test accommodations at the Test Centre

Failure in one course may disrupt progress in program. Course that you fail may be a pre-requisite for several courses in next semester

Your schedule is determined by your program but you must register each semester in timely manner

You must budget and spend substantial amount on textbooks, or "rent" textbooks

Profs are trained as experts in their field.

