

## How College Differs from High School

College and high school differ in many ways, from academic expectations and classroom structure to personal responsibility and time management. Understanding these differences can help you prepare for a successful transition to college.

### Responsibility and Independence

#### College Expectations for Responsibility and Independence

- College is voluntary and requires financial investment.
- You manage your own schedule and time.
- You decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
- You balance responsibilities, set priorities, and make independent decisions.
- There may be several hours between classes, and class schedules vary throughout the day and evening.
- You work with an academic advisor to build your class schedule.
- You are responsible for understanding graduation requirements.
- You are accountable for your decisions and their consequences.

#### High School Expectations for Responsibility and Independence

- High school attendance is mandatory and typically free.
- Your daily schedule is structured.
- Permission is generally required for extracurricular activities.
- Parents and teachers help manage responsibilities and priorities.
- Classes typically follow a fixed daily schedule.
- Most classes are assigned.
- Graduation requirements are monitored by the school.
- Teachers and staff provide guidance and reminders.

### Academic Expectations

#### College Expectations

- Semesters are typically 16 weeks long
- Classes may be much larger.

- Expect to study 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour spent in class.
- Regular review of notes and readings is essential.
- Reading and writing assignments are more extensive.
- Professors expect you to complete assigned reading before class.

### **High School Expectations**

- The school year typically spans 36 weeks.
- Classes are generally smaller.
- Less independent study is expected.
- Class instruction often reinforces textbook material.
- Reading assignments are shorter and discussed in class.
- Teachers explain what students need to know from assigned reading.

## **Professors vs. Teachers**

### **College Professors**

- May not collect every homework assignment.
- Expect students to seek help during office hours.
- Assume students obtain notes after absences.
- May lecture beyond the textbook.
- Expect students to identify key concepts.
- Expect students to follow the course syllabus independently.
- Attendance may not be taken every class.

### **High School Teachers**

- Regularly check homework.
- Reach out when students need assistance.
- Provide missed work after absences.
- Teach directly from the textbook.
- Highlight important concepts.
- Remind students about assignments and deadlines.
- Closely monitor attendance.

## Tests and Exams

### College Testing and Exam Structure

- Fewer exams covering larger amounts of material.
- Makeup exams are uncommon.
- Test schedules may overlap with other courses.
- Review sessions are limited.
- Exams emphasize applying knowledge.

### High School Testing and Exam Structure

- Frequent tests over smaller sections.
- Makeup tests are more common.
- Test schedules often avoid conflicts.
- Teachers conduct review sessions.
- Exams emphasize recalling information.

## Grades

### College Grading and Evaluation

- Grades may be based primarily on exams and major assignments.
- Extra credit is uncommon.
- Early exams often carry significant weight.
- Graduation generally requires meeting minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) standards.
- Results carry greater weight than effort alone.

### High School Grading and Evaluation

- Homework contributes more to grades.
- Extra credit is often available.
- Early low grades may have less impact.
- Passing required courses is often sufficient.
- Consistent effort is frequently rewarded.