

**HOW IS COLLEGE DIFFERENT
FROM HIGH SCHOOL?**

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(Start with the first semester and then add later.)

You need money for special purchases or events.	You need money to meet basic necessities.
You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.	You will be faced with a large number of moral and ethical decisions you have not had to face previously. <i>You</i> must balance your responsibilities and set priorities.
Guiding principle: You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behavior is out of line.	Guiding principle: You are old enough to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES	COLLEGE CLASSES
Each day you proceed from one class directly to another.	You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening.
You spend 6 hours each day – 30 hours a week – in class.	You spend 15 to 22 hours or more each week in class (full-time student). Students with Lab-intensive programs, may spend even more hours in class and/or lab.
The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some do not.	The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams.
Most of your classes are arranged for you.	You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your academic adviser. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.

You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.	Graduation requirements are complex, and differ for different majors and sometimes different years. You are expected to know those that apply to you.
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	COLLEGE PROFESSORS
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

STUDYING IN HIGH SCHOOL	STUDYING IN COLLEGE
You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.	You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
You often need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to learn about them.	You need to review class notes and text material regularly.
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.

Guiding principle: You will usually be told in class what you needed to learn from assigned readings.

GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL	GRADES IN COLLEGE
Grades are given for most assigned work.	Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when test grades are low.	Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.	Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course.
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; they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your grades. If you receive notice of low grades on either an Early-Term or a Mid-Semester Progress Report, see your professors or your academic adviser.
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.

Guiding principle: “Effort counts.” Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."