

This information sheet highlights some of the differences students experience between high school and college.

Responsibility in High School

- High school is mandatory and usually free.
- Student's time is structured by others.
- Students can count on parents and teachers for reminders of responsibilities and to help set priorities.
- Students aren't responsible to know what is needed to graduate.
- Parents may help with advocacy and communication.

High School Classes

- Class sizes are generally small (20 kids).
- Students usually take the same classes for an entire academic year.
- Students go from one class directly to another, spending a full day in classes.
- Most classes are arranged for the student.
- Students may not need to study much outside of class.
- Students are expected to read short assignments that are discussed and re-taught in class.

High School Teachers

- Teachers check homework and remind students of incomplete work.
- Teachers approach students to give help.
- Teachers provide information when students miss classes.
- Teachers present information to help students understand materials in readings.
- Teachers write notes on the board.
- Teachers remind students of assignments and due dates.
- Teachers monitor class attendance.

Responsibility in College

- College is voluntary and usually not free.
- Students manage their own time.
- Students are responsible for themselves and setting priorities.
- Students are expected to know graduation requirements that apply to them and can be complex and differ from year to year.
- Students are responsible to advocate for themselves.

College Classes

- Classes will vary in size from small to large (20-100+kids).
- Academic year is divided into semesters, with different classes taught each semester.
- Students often have hours between classes, with times varying through the day.
- Students arrange their own schedules.
- Students typically need to study 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
- Students are assigned large amounts of reading and writing outside of class.

College Professors

- May not check homework or remind students of incomplete work.
- Expect students to initiate contact if help is needed or attend office hours.
- Expect students to get missed information from classmates.
- Expect students to read textbooks independently.
- Expect students to identify important points discussed in your own notes taken.
- Expect students to read and follow the course syllabus for assignments, due dates and grading.
- May or may not take attendance.