

What are the differences between High School and College?

(Adapted from Taft College Counseling Center, thanks to the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center at Southern Methodist University.)

IN HIGH SCHOOL	IN COLLEGE
<p><u>High school</u> is <u>mandatory</u> and <u>free</u>. <u>Your time</u> is structured by others. <u>You need permission</u> to participate in extracurricular activities. <u>Parents and teachers remind you</u> of your responsibilities and set priorities. <u>You spend 6 hours each day – 30 hours a week – in class</u>. <u>Your classes are arranged</u> for you. <u>You are not responsible</u> for knowing what it takes to graduate.</p> <p>Guiding principle: You are <u>told what to do</u> and corrected if your behavior is out of line.</p>	<p><u>College</u> is <u>voluntary</u> and <u>expensive</u>. <u>You manage</u> your own time. <u>You decide</u> whether to participate in co-curricular activities. <u>You balance</u> your responsibilities and set your priorities. <u>You spend only 12 to 16 hours each week in class</u>. <u>You arrange</u> your own schedule. <u>You are expected</u> to know and fulfill complex graduation requirements.</p> <p>Guiding principle: <u>You take responsibility</u> for what you do.</p>
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES	COLLEGE CLASSES
<p>The School year is 36 weeks long. <u>35 students</u> or fewer per class. <u>You may study</u> outside class as little as <u>0 to 2 hours a week</u>. <u>You seldom need</u> to read or study outside class. <u>Short assignments</u> are discussed, and often re-taught, in class.</p> <p>Guiding principle: you will be <u>told in class what you need to learn</u> from assigned readings.</p>	<p>The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters. Classes may number <u>100 students</u> or more. <u>You need to study</u> at least 2 to 3 hours for each hour in class (<u>25 to 40 hours/week</u>). <u>You need to review</u> class notes and text material regularly. <u>Substantial amounts of assigned reading and writing</u> may not be directly addressed in class.</p> <p>Guiding principle: Professors assume that <u>you read and understand the assigned material</u>.</p>

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	COLLEGE PROFESSORS
<p><u>Teachers check your homework.</u> <u>Teachers remind you</u> of your incomplete work. <u>Teachers approach you</u> if they believe you need assistance. <u>Teachers are often available</u> before, during, or after class. <u>Teachers are trained in teaching.</u> <u>Teachers give you information you missed</u> when you were absent. <u>Teachers present material.</u> <u>Teachers write information for you to copy.</u> <u>Teachers impart knowledge</u> and facts and draw direct connections. <u>Teachers remind you</u> of assignments and due dates. <u>Teachers carefully</u> monitor class attendance.</p> <p>Guiding principle: <u>High school is a teaching environment</u> in which you acquire facts and skills.</p>	<p><u>Professors assume</u> you did your homework. <u>Professors may not remind you</u> of incomplete work. <u>Professors expect you to initiate contact</u> if you need assistance. <u>Professors expect and want you to come to their scheduled office hours.</u> <u>Professors have been trained in research.</u> <u>Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes</u> from classes you missed. <u>Professors give background information.</u> <u>Professors expect you to identify the important points in your notes.</u> <u>Professors expect you to think</u> about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics. <u>Professors expect you to track your own work and consult</u> the course syllabus (outline). <u>Professors may not formally take roll</u>, but they usually know whether or not you attended.</p> <p>Guiding principle: <u>College is a learning environment</u> in which you synthesize knowledge.</p>
TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL	TEST IN COLLEGE
<p><u>Testing is frequent</u> and covers small amounts of material. <u>Makeup tests are often available.</u> <u>Teachers frequently rearrange test dates</u> to avoid conflicts. <u>Teachers frequently conduct review sessions.</u></p> <p>Guiding principle: <u>Mastery is the ability to reproduce what you were taught.</u></p>	<p><u>Testing is usually infrequent</u>, only 2 or 3 tests in a semester. <u>Makeup tests usually are not available.</u> <u>Professors usually schedule tests without regard</u> to other courses or outside activities. <u>Professors rarely offer review sessions</u>; students are expected to bring questions.</p> <p>Guiding principle: <u>Mastery is seen as the ability to apply what you've learned or to solve new kinds of problems.</u></p>
GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL	GRADES IN COLLEGE
<p><u>Most assigned work is graded.</u> Consistently good <u>homework grades</u> may raise your overall grade. Extra credit projects are available. You may graduate as long as you have <u>passed</u> all required courses with a grade of D or higher.</p> <p>Guiding principle: "<u>Effort counts.</u>" Courses reward a "good-faith effort."</p>	<p><u>Most assigned work is not graded.</u> <u>Grades on tests and major papers</u> usually provide most of the course grade. Few or no extra credit opportunities. You may graduate only if your <u>average</u> in classes meets the <u>department's standard for the major</u> – check your catalog.</p> <p>Guiding principle: "<u>Results count.</u>" "Good-faith effort" will not substitute for results in the grading process.</p>