

## HOW IS COLLEGE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
High school is <i>mandatory</i> and <i>free</i> (unless you choose other options).	College is <i>voluntary</i> and <i>expensive</i> .
Your time is usually structured by others.	You manage your own time.
You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities	You must decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities. ( <i>Hint</i> : Choose wisely in 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 before. <i>You</i> must balance your responsibilities and set priorities.
<b>IN HIGH SCHOOL: You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behavior is out of line.</b>	<b>IN COLLEGE: You'll be regarded as old enough to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.</b>
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 12 to 16 hours each week in class
Most of your classes are arranged for you.	You arrange your own schedule with the help of your academic adviser. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
You are not responsible for knowing exactly what you need to take to graduate.	Graduation requirements are complex, and differ for different majors. You're expected to know those that apply to you.
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	COLLEGE PROFESSORS/INSTRUCTORS
Teachers check your completed homework.	Instructors don't always check completed homework, but they'll assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.	Instructors are not obligated to, and may not remind you of incomplete work.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Instructors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
Teachers are often available for conversation	Instructors are not always available; they

before, during, or after class.	expect you to seek them out during their scheduled office hours.
Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in student learning.	Instructors have been trained as experts in their occupational areas.
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.	Instructors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed.
Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.	Instructors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or, they may expect <i>you</i> to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.	Instructors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. Good notes are a must.
Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.	Instructors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.	Instructors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you'll be graded.
<b>STUDYING IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	
<b>STUDYING IN COLLEGE</b>	
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're expected to read short assignments that are discussed, and re-taught, in class.	You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing, which may not be directly addressed in class.
<b>IN HIGH SCHOOL:</b> You'll usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.	<b>IN COLLEGE:</b> It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments are based on the assumption that you've already done the reading.
<b>TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	
<b>TESTS IN COLLEGE</b>	
Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.	A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester, and cover large amounts of material. You, not the Instructor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test.
Makeup tests are often available.	Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.

Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts you should know.	Instructors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, and come with questions.
IN HIGH SCHOOL: Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve.	IN COLLEGE: Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.
<b>GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>GRADES IN COLLEGE</b>
Most assigned work is graded, then handed back for your review.	Assigned work may not be given a grade, nor handed by to you.
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.
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! They are usually "wake-up calls" to let you know what is expected--but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. Ignore them, and you may be shocked when you get your final grade. If you receive notice of low mid-term grades, see your academic adviser immediately!
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.
IN HIGH SCHOOL: Effort counts. Courses are usually structured to reward a good-faith effort.	IN COLLEGE: Results count! Although good-faith effort may encourage your Instructor's willingness to help you <i>achieve</i> good results, it is not a <i>substitute</i> for results in the grading process.
<b>CONCLUSION: COLLEGE IS NOT HIGH SCHOOL. PREPARE FOR IT NOW!</b>	

*BTC is an EO/AA educator/employer*  
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