

How is College Different from High School?

Following the Rules in High School	Choosing Responsibility in College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your time is structured by others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You manage your own time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>You</i> must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guiding Principle: You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guiding Principle: You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.

Going to High School Classes	Succeeding in College Classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classes generally have no more than 35 students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classes may number 100 students or more.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You seldom need to read anything more than once and sometimes listening in class is enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You need to review class notes and text material regularly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often retaught, in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guiding Principle: You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guiding Principle: It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.

Tests in High School	Tests in College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Makeup tests are often available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Makeup tests are seldom an option.

How is College Different from High School? (continued)

High School Teachers	College Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers check your completed homework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may not always check your homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers provide you with information you missed when you are absent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors expect you to get the materials or notes from any classes you missed from classmates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus. It will spell out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Principle: High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Principle: College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.

Grades in High School	Grades in College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades are given for most assigned work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Principle: “Effort counts.” Courses are usually structured to reward a “good-faith effort.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Principle: “Results count.” Though “good-faith effort” is important in regard to the professor’s willingness to help <i>you</i> achieve good results, it will not <i>substitute</i> for results in the grading process.

- Adapted from <http://smu.edu/alec/transition.asp> (2007, June 29).