

The Difference Between *High School and College*

High School	College
High School is mandatory and free (unless you choose other options).	College is voluntary and expensive.
Others usually structure time.	Students manage their own time.
Parents and teachers often remind students of their responsibilities and guide them in setting priorities.	Decision-making is largely the student's. The student must balance their responsibilities and set priorities.
Classes are structured and scheduled one after the other.	There are often hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening.
6 hours each day – 30 hours a week – are spent in class.	Approximately 12-16 hours each week are spent in class.
Classes are arranged.	Each student decides his or her own schedule in consultation with an academic advisor. 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.
Classes generally have no more than 35 students.	Classes vary greatly in size and may include 100 or more students.
A counselor guides course selection and monitors credits.	Each student must know the requirements for their major and program of study.
Teachers remind student of assignments, due dates and incomplete work.	Professors may not remind students of incomplete work. They expect students to read, save and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected, when it is due and how it will be graded.
Teachers approach you if they believe assistance is needed.	Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect the student to initiate contact if assistance is needed.
Teachers are often available for conversation before, during or after class.	Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.

High School	College
Teachers provide information missed if you are absent.	Professors expect students to obtain notes from their classmates if they miss class.
Students are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.	Students are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing, which may not be directly addressed in class.
Students generally receive assignments in both written and oral form, and may hand those assignments in during class time.	Students are often required to use email and the Internet for communication, class projects, submitting assignments, etc.
Through vehicles such as the IEP students, parents, teachers, counselors and support staff work together to ensure that student needs and accommodations are provided.	Students, not teachers, counselors or parents, must be able to identify their disability, provide documentation, and request Considerations for the College Search accommodations and supports.
Students are usually corrected if their behavior is inappropriate.	Many moral and ethical decisions will arise. Students must take responsibility for their actions and decisions as well as the consequences they produce.
Review sessions are often held prior to tests. Test questions are usually directed at the ability to clearly recall what has been learned. Make-up tests are frequently available.	Students must work independently to prepare for tests. Review sessions by professors are rare. Students often must be able to apply information in new contexts. Make-up tests are unusual.
Students are not responsible for knowing graduation requirements.	Students know and ensure they complete graduation requirements, which are complicated and may change.

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