

High School vs. College

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Following the rules in high school

High school is *mandatory* and usually *free*.

Your time is structured by others

You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.

You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.

Each day you proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours each day (30 hours a week) in class.

Most of your classes are arranged for you.

You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.

Guiding principle: You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.

Going to high school classes

The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some don't.

Classes generally have no more than 35 students

You may study outside the class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.

You seldom need to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough.

You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.

Guiding principle: You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.

Choosing responsibility in college

College is *voluntary* and expensive.

You manage your own time.

You must decide whether to participate in curricular activities.

You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.

You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend only 12 to 16 hours each week in class.

You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your adviser. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.

Graduation requirements are complex, and differ from year to year. You are expected to know those that apply to you.

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.

Succeeding college classes

The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams.

Classes may number 100 students or more.

You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.

You need to review class notes and text material regularly.

You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.

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.