

High School vs. College

As you transition from high school to college, you may be surprised at how different these two environments can be.

ACADEMICS

HIGH SCHOOL

In classes 30+ hours a week

Class attendance is closely monitored

Instruction is by lecture, learning activities, games, group work, etc.

Around 30-35 students per class

Teachers approach you if you need assistance

Little control over class schedule

Grades are based on multiple homework assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, etc.

May study very little outside of class

Teachers tell you what's due for the next day

Much assistance from teachers

Memorization

COLLEGE

In classes 12 to 15 hours a week

Class attendance is rarely monitored (*although if you do not attend and miss important lectures, you may suffer consequences come grading time*)

Instruction is mainly by lecture

Can range from 10 students to 500+ students per class

Professors expect you to initiate contact if you need help

Arrange your own class schedule

Grades are usually based on one or two tests and possibly an essay paper or group project

Should study 2 to 3 hours for every hour in class

You are expected to read the syllabus for assignment due dates

Learning is more independent

Analysis

INDEPENDENCE/RESPONSIBILITY

HIGH SCHOOL

Live with parents

Curfew

Parents manage money

Parents do your laundry (if you're lucky)

Parents make sure you are fed

Parents/teachers may make decisions for you and help solve your problems

COLLEGE

Live with roommate

No curfew (depending on school/dorm)

Need money management skills

You do your own laundry

Must make/buy your own food

You make your own decisions and solve your own problems

TIME MANAGEMENT/STRESS

HIGH SCHOOL

Time is very structured

Less stressful

COLLEGE

Time is more flexible; time management skills are crucial

New experiences, schedule, making new friends, etc. can be stressful

EXTRACURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCHOOL

Moderate amount of clubs/organizations to join

Old friends

Prom

Slumber parties

COLLEGE

Abundance of clubs/organizations to join

New friends

Sorority and Fraternity formals

Greek parties