

Differences Between High School and College

For All Students

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Testing is frequent and covers smaller amounts of material	Testing is less frequent and may cover large amounts of material from reading, lectures and other sources
Teachers will remind students of deadlines, quizzes and tests	Students are expected to independently follow the syllabus for due dates and exams
Outside homework and study time may be minimal and test-preparation last minute	For every hour in class you can expect to spend 2 to 3 hours out of class on homework, reviewing notes and preparing for exams
Student may be reminded of missing or incomplete assignments	Students keep track of assignments and meet with instructors if needed
Homework is often checked and graded	Homework sometimes is just for the student's benefit to gauge understanding and to prepare for tests
A cumulative grade point average below 2.0 does not result in any sanctions	A cumulative grade point average below 2.0 can result in sanctions ranging from warning to suspension to dismissal
Parent advocates for student and has full access to educational records	Student advocates for self and controls disclosure of academic and financial information
Assignments are generally short and then discussed, and often re-taught, in class	Assignments may contain substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class
Student seldom needs to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough	Student needs to review class notes and test material regularly; assignments build on previously learned material
Time and assignments are often managed by others	Student manages their own time and complete assignments independently
Teachers will often provide information missed if absent	Students are expected to get information from classmates for missed classes
A typical school year is 36 weeks long with many classes spanning the whole year	The year is typically divided into two 16 week semesters. Summer classes are available. (Some colleges are on a trimester schedule.)
Textbooks are typically provided at no cost	Students buy or rent books for each class
Guidance is provided to ensure students meet graduation requirements	Advising is provided, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to know and to meet graduation requirements

For Students with Documented Disabilities

Laws and Documentation

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) focus on student success	A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) provides equal access
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
School provides testing/evaluation at no cost to the student's family	If needed, testing/evaluation is arranged and paid for by student
Documentation focuses on determining whether student is eligible for services based on specific disability categories in I.D.E.A. resulting in <i>I.E.P. (Individual Education Plan) and/or 504 Plan</i>	Documentation must provide information regarding the specific functional limitations and demonstrate the need for specific accommodations resulting in an <i>Accommodation Plan</i>

Student Self-Advocacy and Parent Roles

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Student is identified by the school, accommodations are arranged and student supported by teachers and parents	Student must self-identify to the Campus Accessibility Center (CAC) and follow process to arrange accommodations with faculty
Teachers approach student in need of help	Professors expect students to initiate contact
Special Education Department initiates meetings to check on progress and to develop post-high school transition plan	Student initiates a meeting at the beginning of each semester for accommodations and engages with Career Development Center, faculty and CAC for post-college planning
Special Education Department informs teachers of student strengths and challenges through distribution of I.E.P.	Student determines which instructors and college staff receive accommodation information; a diagnosis is not shared
Parent has access to student records and can participate in the accommodation process	Parent does not have access to student records without student's written consent

Class Requirements, Supports & Tests

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Teachers may modify curriculum and or alter pace of assignments	All students must meet the same course requirements without modifications
I.E.P. or 504 Plan may include modifications to test format and/or grading	Grading and test format changes are generally not available. Accommodations to HOW tests are given (extended time, test proctors) are available when approved by CAC
Tutoring and study support may be a service provided as part on an I.E.P. or 504 Plan	Tutoring DOES NOT fall under CAC. Students with disabilities must seek out tutoring resources as they are available to all students
Personal services for medical and/or physical disability are provided	No personal services are provided (examples: wheelchair, calculator, personal services)