



# HOW IS COLLEGE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

## Personal Freedom in High School vs. In College

### In the High School...

- Parents have access to school records, student progress, and other information.
- High school is *mandatory* and *free* (unless you choose other options).
- Your time is often structured by others
- You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities
- You can count on parents, guardians, and/or teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.
- You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behavior does not meet expectations
- Disability Accommodations and curriculum modifications for Students with Disabilities is the responsibility of the high school.

### In College...

- The academic records of college students are protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). College staff may not share information without the students' consent
- College is voluntary and can have costs associated with courses, fees, and resources
- You manage your own time. It is the responsibility of the student to understand deadlines, course requirements, and due dates without reminders from educators.
- The student has the right to decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities and determines for themselves what activities they have time and space for outside of their coursework.
- Students must balance their own responsibilities and set priorities, including how they manage their time.
- Students are expected to take responsibility for their own choices and actions, and the consequences of those actions.
- The responsibility for identifying, documenting and disclosing a disability falls on the student. The implementation of accommodations is led by the student and

facilitated through a team effort involving the students are expected to reach out to the Disability Access Center for support with these processes

## High School Classes vs. College Classes

### In the high school...

- Each day you typically proceed from one class directly to another, with built in passing periods and lunches
- You spend roughly 6-8 hours in the classroom each day (30-40 hours per week).
- Your school year is around 36 weeks long. Some classes are one semester in length, while others may be a year-long course.
- Most of your classes are arranged for you by your high school counselor
- Teachers carefully monitor and report your classroom attendance
- You are provided with textbooks and little to no expense.
- You may be able to take the school bus to your campus each day.
- Your high school counselor keeps track of your graduation requirements and ensures you are on track to graduate

### In College...

- Classes are intermittent. You may have some classes back-to-back on some days, while other days you may have larger gaps between classes.
- The typical student spends 12-18 hours in the classroom each week.
- The academic year is divided into quarters (Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring).
- You are responsible for selecting your own courses (although it is always recommended that students meet with their college Academic Advisor to map out their college plan).
- Professors may or may not keep attendance (or issue grades/credit based on attendance). It can depend on the course.
- Students are responsible for purchasing/acquiring their own textbooks for each course.
- Graduation requirements can be complex and different for each major/program. You are expected to meet with your advisor and know your own graduation requirements.

## High School Teachers vs. College Professors

### In High School...

- Teachers often remind you of your assignments and check on your completion of those assignments.
- Teachers will provide you with information you may have missed while you were absent.
- Teachers present material to help you understand your textbooks
- Teachers approach you if they believe you may need assistance.

## In the College...

- Professors expect you are turning your work in on time (as outlined in the course syllabus) and typically do not remind students of due dates.
- Professors expect you to reach out for information/notes from classes you may have been absent. They will not automatically give you those things.
- Professors expect you to read and understand your textbook material and typically spend class time amplifying and adding to that material. You are expected to come to class prepared, with assigned readings completed.
- Professors are open and ready to help, but they expect students to ask for help when needed. This includes engaging in the classroom AND utilizing professor office hours.
- You are expected to keep and frequently review your syllabus and understand all course requirements.

## Studying in High School vs. Studying in College

### In High School...

- Much of the work is completed in class. You may only be expected to study 0-2 hours per day.
- You can often understand the material after one presentation.
- You are expected to complete shorter assignments which are often covered in class
- You are often given study guides or told directly what you need to learn from each topic (or assignment).

### In College...

- Students are expected to study 2-3 hours per each enrolled credit hour. This means if you are enrolled in 15 credits at the college you will typically be in the classroom for 15 hours a week, and expect to study an additional 15-30 hours per week. You are in class less than high school but expected to study more.
- You should be reviewing class notes and textbook material frequently.
- You may be assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing that may not be covered directly in the classroom, but you will still be tested on.
- It is up to you to read and understand assigned material, lectures, and assignments... or ask for help when you need it.

## Tests and Papers in High School vs. College

### In High School...

- Testing is frequent and covers smaller amounts of material (like units)
- Makeup tests are often available
- Teachers may rearrange test dates to avoid conflicts with school events
- Teachers may hold review sessions in class and point out concepts that will be on the tests
- Teachers provided step-by-step assistance with essays and papers.

## In College...

- Testing is less frequent and usually covers larger amounts of material. You are expected to prepare yourself for tests. Some courses may only have 2-3 large tests in a term.
- Makeup testing is rarely an option. If professors do offer them, they typically have to be set-up in advance.
- Professors in different courses schedule tests without considering other possible conflicts or courses. It is the expectation of the student to organize their own schedules.
- Professors typically outline topics and give instructions for papers/essay in class, but expect students to use the library, writing lab, tutoring, professor office hours, or other resources when they need assistance.

## Grades in High School vs. College

### In High School...

- Grades are given for most assigned work
- Consistently good grades may raise your grade over time, even when test grades may be lower.
- Extra credit is often available.
- Initial test grades, even when low, may not have a large impact on the overall class grade
- You may graduate as long as you earned a D or higher in courses.
- Effort counts, and teachers sometimes award points just based on effort.

### In College...

- Grades may not be given for all assigned work, although you are still expected to do the work to prepare for exams and essays.
- Grades and essays/papers usually make up most of the grades in the courses.
- Extra credit is not commonly offered.
- Watch out for your first test and always prepare more than you think you might need. Each class and professor has different test styles, and this can take some getting used to. If you earn a low grade, get help right away. Don't wait until it is too late to pull your grade up.
- You may graduate only when your average in classes meets the degree standards – this is usually a C (2.0) or better.
- Results count. While effort is important, this is not what professors grade on.

## Other Differences between High School and College

### In High School...

- Parents/Guardians and students may both be informed of important dates and deadlines, academic progress, upcoming assignments, and more.
- Most high schools operate on semester systems with varying start and end dates, school breaks, teacher work-days, holidays, etc.

- High Schools are likely to present content in a way that is suited for minors (age-appropriate).

## In College...

- Students are expected to keep track of dates and deadlines, academic progress, assignments, etc. Parents/guardians are not given this information directly.
- Clark College operates on a quarter system and may not align with high school calendars. It is the students' responsibility to keep track of both college and high school dates/deadlines, breaks, holidays, etc. as they sometimes do not align.
- Clark College welcomes the expression of diverse and opposing views that foster learning at the collegiate level. This adult environment can include potentially uncomfortable viewpoints, challenge closely held beliefs, develop critical thinking skills, or cover mature content. Instructors are not required to substitute assignments based on the content of the assignment.