

#ASDNext

Educational Differences Between High School and College

This information sheet highlights some of the differences students experience between high school and college.

Responsibility in High School

- High school is mandatory and usually free
- Student's time is structured by others
- Students can count on parents and teachers to remind them of responsibilities and to help set priorities
- Students aren't responsible to know what is needed to graduate
- Parents may help with advocacy and communication

Responsibility in College

- College is voluntary and usually not free
- Students manage their own time
- Students are responsible for themselves and setting priorities
- Students are expected to know graduation requirements that apply to them and can be complex and differ from year to year
- Students are responsible to advocate for themselves

High School Classes

- Class sizes are generally small (20 kids)
- Students usually take the same classes for an entire academic year
- Students go from one class directly to another, spending a full day in classes
- Most classes are arranged for the student
- Students may not need to study much outside of class, listening during class may be enough
- Students are expected to read short assignments that are discussed and re-taught in class

College Classes

- Classes will vary in size from small to large (20-100+kids)
- Academic year is divided into semesters, with different classes taught each semester
- Students often have hours between classes, with times varying through the day and evening
- Students arrange their own schedules
- Students typically need to study 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class
- Students are assigned large amounts of reading and writing which may not be reviewed or discussed in class

High School Teachers

- Teachers check homework and remind students of incomplete work
- Teachers approach students to provide help
- Teachers provide information when students miss classes
- Teachers present information to help students understand materials in the textbooks
- Teachers write notes on the board to be copied
- Teachers remind students of assignments and due dates
- Teachers monitor class attendance

College Professors

- May not check homework or remind students of incomplete work
- Expect students to initiate contact if help is needed and expect students to attend office hours
- Expect students to get missed information from classmates
- May not follow the textbook and expect students to relate class discussions to the text
- Expect students to identify important points discussed in your own notes and may not write things down
- Expect students to read and follow the course syllabus for assignments, due dates and grading
- May or may not take attendance



*This information sheet was developed by ASERT for #ASDNext.
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