

# High School vs. College

## Personal Freedom

- High school is mandatory and free (unless you're at a private school)
  - o College is voluntary and expensive (or affordable)
- In high school, others usually structure your time.
  - o In college, it is up to you.
- High school students need money for special purchases or events
  - o In college, you need money simply to live
- In high school, you can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.
  - o In college, you are old enough to take responsibility for what you do and do not do, as well as for the consequences of your actions.

## Classes

- Each day you proceed from one class directly to another.
  - o You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening
- You spend 6 hours each day – 30 hours each week in class
  - o You spend 12 to 16 hours each week in class
- Most of your classes are arranged for you
  - o You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor...schedules tend to look lighter than they really are
- Teachers carefully monitor attendance
  - o Instructors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether you attend.
- Classes generally have no more than 35 students
  - o Classes may number 100 students or more
- You're provided with textbooks at little or no expense
  - o You need to budget substantial funds for textbooks, which usually cost more than \$200 each semester

## Instructors

- Teachers check your completed homework
  - o Instructors may not always check work, but they'll assume you can perform the same tasks on tests
- Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance
  - o Instructors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need help
- Teachers are often available for conversation before, during or after class.
  - o Instructors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours
- Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent
  - o Instructors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed
- Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes
  - o Instructors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in our notes. Good notes are a MUST
- Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates
  - o Instructors expect you to read, save and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it's due and how you'll be graded

## High School vs. College – continued...

### Studying

- You may study outside of class as little as 0-2 hours a week
  - o You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class
- You're expected to read short assignments that are discussed and often, retaught in class
  - o You're assigned huge amounts of reading and writing that may never be directly addressed in class
- You'll usually be told in class what you need to learn from reading assignments
  - o It is up to you to read and understand the assigned material. Lectures and assignments generally proceed with the assumption you've already done so

### Tests

- Testing is often frequent and covers small amounts of materials
  - o Testing is usually infrequent and cumulative, covering large amounts of material
- Makeup tests are often available
  - o Makeup tests are seldom an option. If they are, you need to request them.
- Teachers frequently arrange tests dates to avoid conflict with school events
  - o Instructors in different course usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities
- Teachers frequently schedule review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts
  - o Instructors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to come armed with questions.

### Grades

- Grades are given for most assigned work
  - o Grades may not be provided for all assigned work
- Consistently good homework grades may help raises your overall grade when test grades are low
  - o Grades on test and major papers usually provide most of the course grade
- Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade
  - o Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course
- You may graduate as long as you've passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher
  - o You may graduate only if your average meets the departmental standard –typically 2.0 or C.
- Effort counts
  - o Results count.