



Understanding the Difference Between High School and College

	High School	College
ACADMIC MATURITY	<p>You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school is mandatory and usually free • Your time is structured by others • Parents provide permission to participate in extracurricular activities (i.e., outside of the classroom) • Parents and teachers will remind you of your responsibilities and guide you in setting priorities • Each day is heavily structured, and you proceed from one class directly to another spending 6 hours/day and 30 hours/week in class • You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate 	<p>You are expected to take responsibility for what your behavior as well as the consequences of your actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending college is an intentional decision that is voluntary and expensive • You manage your own time • The student determines the level of engagement with co-curricular activities (i.e., activities that coexist with academic responsibilities and status as a student) • You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities as well as consider the effect of moral and ethical decisions • You often have hours between classes, class times vary over days and evenings and you may spend 18-20 hours in actual class each week • Graduation requirements are complex and differ by major; you are expected to know those that apply to you
EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING	<p>Teachers will usually tell you in class what you need to learn from assigned readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some do not • Classes generally have no more than 35 students • You may study outside class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation • You seldom need to read anything more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough • You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class • Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process • Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates 	<p>College professors expect you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you have already done so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams • Classes may number 100 students or more • You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class • You need to review class notes and text material regularly. • You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class • Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics • Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded
GRADING	<p>Mastery is usually seen as the ability to reproduce what you were taught in the form in which it was presented to you, or to solve the kinds of problems you were shown how to solve; effort counts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material • Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low • Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade 	<p>Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you have learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems: results count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material; you, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test and a particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester • Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade • Watch out for your first tests which are usually "wake-up calls" to let you know what is expected; they may account for a substantial part of your course grade and can be shocking initially