



Surviving the transition to college can be smoother if you know some of the differences from high school.

Topic	High School	College
Time/Schedule	Structured and sequential. Typically a daily routine that is stable and predictable.	Unstructured. Students are personally responsible for waking up, going to class, managing priorities, and going to bed at a reasonable hour.
Teacher-Student Relationship	Significant contact as most classes meet five days per week. One-on-one relationships and casual meetings before and after class. Frequent homework reminders.	Most classes meet one to two times per week. Students are expected to meet with faculty during office hours. Work is often self-directed.
Freedom	Student freedom is usually dictated by scheduled activities and parental guidelines.	There are no curfews in college. Students make their own choices about how to use their time. On top of all the academic responsibilities, students are responsible for housing, food, laundry, cleaning, bills, money and social life. Learning how to



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		<p>prioritize and manage time well is key to a student's adjustment and continued success.</p>
<p>Parent/Family Involvement</p>	<p>Parents and guardians have access to and monitor grades, assignments, and attendance. Parents contact teachers or counselors directly with concerns. Communication is open and information is freely shared.</p>	<p>Parents may access academic and financial information only if the student grants them access, according to federal law. Professors and advisors are not permitted to share information with family members about student progress or concerns without the student's authorization.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>School administrators will contact parents or guardians if a student is absent.</p>	<p>Skipping class can be highly addictive and hazardous to a student's GPA but attending lectures and actively participating helps them learn the material and the professor's focus.</p>



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Advising	Guidance counselors plot out the four-year curriculum with the student. Parents may also be involved.	Students make appointments with advisors every semester and should be prepared prior to each meeting. It is up to the student to correctly map out their course of study and major but advisors are available to help.
Academics	Students may be able to earn good grades with minimal effort. The class work is evenly distributed throughout the semester. Students are given detailed instructions and support for major papers and projects.	Students may find that college is more rigorous and expectations are higher. Minimal effort may produce poor grades. Course work tends to be “back-loaded” meaning that there may be more work in the second half of the semester. Students must ask for assistance and clarification if they don’t understand major assignments.





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<p>In-Class versus Homework</p>	<p>Clear, likely projected or on a smart board. High school classes often include time for homework and review.</p>	<p>Students will need to pay strict attention and take notes without the visual cues. Their professors will assume they'll do the work (review, readings, lab reports, papers) on their own. Students should expect 3 hours of Homework for every 1 hour of class time.</p>
<p>Long-Term Assignments</p>	<p>Teachers will give reminders and suggested timelines for long-term assignments.</p>	<p>Things can be due even months down the road! Waiting to the last minute can be disastrous. Students must plan ahead to keep up on readings/labs and start early on larger projects. They must give themselves intermediate deadlines.</p>
<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Parents, teachers, and counselors advocate for the individual students. Parents frequently intercede in</p>	<p>Students must learn to advocate for themselves by asking for help when they need it and taking advantage of college support services and resources. Parents</p>



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	<p>problematic situations and are able to bring about resolution.</p>	<p>are not able to make appointments on behalf of a student.</p>
<p>Electives and Other Opportunities</p>	<p>One or two electives can be chosen per semester, limited to high school standard options. School sports and clubs are limited as well.</p>	<p>While students still have core courses to take for their chosen major, they'll have more opportunity for electives. Students should take advantage of the selection, likely discovering subjects they did not know existed, possibly discovering something new to enjoy. Students should also take advantage of practical courses.</p> <p>College gives students more space and experiences to be able to get to know themselves better. There are more extracurricular opportunities. Students should plan to get involved on campus, meet new friends. Take advantage of any apprenticeships or internships available.</p>





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Life Learning	The High School “bubble” can make a student feel like they know everything.	Develop a positive learning attitude. Though you may have had a “I know everything” attitude in high school, college is an ideal place to remind yourself there’s always room for growth.



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