

# How College differs from High School

## Personal Responsibility

High School	College
Teachers usually tell you what you need to learn.	It's your responsibility to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.
Teachers discipline inappropriate behavior in class.	You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.
Effort counts. Courses are usually structured to reward effort.	Results count. Although effort is important, it will not substitute for results in the grading process.
You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and help you set priorities.	You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities yourself.
Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.	Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
Your time is structured by others.	You manage your own time.
Progress and grades are provided frequently.	Students need to monitor their own progress and grades.

## Course Structure/ Workload

The school year is typically 36 weeks long with most classes extending over two semesters.	The academic year is divided into two semesters, Fall and Spring, with 16-week and 8-week courses.
0 – 2 hours a week per class of studying outside of class.	2 – 3 hours of studying outside of class for each hour of class. 3 hours of class time = 9 hours outside of class
All course content is covered during class time.	Students are responsible for learning all material whether or not it is presented in class.
You can meet a teacher before or after school or email them for help.	You can email your Professors for help or visit with them during assigned office hours – time they have reserved to meet with students.
Teachers arrange test and assignment dates to avoid conflict with school events.	Professors in different courses usually schedule due dates without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
Teachers often remind you of assignments, incomplete work, and due dates and offer opportunities to make up work.	Professors expect you to read and consult the course syllabus and schedule. They may not remind you of incomplete work and rarely accept late work.
Good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low.	Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
Testing can be frequent with each test covering small amounts of material.	Testing is usually infrequent and may cover large amounts of material. A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester
Makeup tests and retakes are often available.	Makeup tests are seldomly given; if they are, you need to request them.
Extra credit projects are often available to help raise your grade.	Extra credit projects will rarely be used to raise a grade in a college course.

While several of the differences between College and high school have been listed here, students should understand that these are not the only differences. Students are responsible for understanding what is expected of them while attending college classes.