



FOLLOWING THE RULES IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Your time is structured by others.
- You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.
- You can count on your parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in settling priorities.
- You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.
- You will usually be told what to do and be corrected if your behavior is out of line.
- You need money for special purchases or events.

GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

- Each day you proceed from one class directly to another, spending 6 hours each day – 30 hours/wk – in class.
- Most of your classes are arranged for you.
- The school year is 36 wks long; some classes are a full year and some are not.
- Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.
- You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Teachers check your completed homework.
- Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.
- Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.
- Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.
- Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.
- Teachers often write information down on the board to be copied in your notes.
- 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.
- High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.

CHOOSING RESPONSIBILITY IN COLLEGE

- You manage your own time.
- You decide whether to participate in co-curricular activities.
- You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will be faced with a large number of moral and ethical decisions you have not had to face previously.
- Graduation requirements are complex, and differ from year to year. You are expected to know those that apply to you.
- You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.
- You need money to meet basic necessities.

SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE CLASSES

- You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening and you spend only 12-16 hours/week in class.
- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your Advisor.
- The academic year is divided into two separate 15 wk semesters plus a week after each semester for exams.
- Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attend – attendance is usually factored into your grade.
- While a college course may have the same name as a high school course, college professors pace their courses more rapidly, emphasize different aspects of material taught, and have different goals for their courses.

COLLEGE PROFESSORS

- Professors may not always check completed work, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
- Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
- Professors expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.
- Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- Professors expect you to get from notes from classmates for any classes you missed.
- Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
- Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
- Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.
- College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned. The student-teacher relationship changes dramatically as do expectations for engagement, independent work, motivation, and intellectual development.

STUDYING/TEST TAKING IN HIGH SCHOOL

- You may study outside of class up to 2 hrs/wk.
- 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.
- Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.
- Teachers frequently arrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.
- Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.
- In high school you are asked 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.

GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Grades are given for most assigned work.
- Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low.
- Extra credit projects are often available to help raise your grade.
- Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.
- You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.
- “Effort Counts” – courses are usually structured to reward a “good faith effort.”

STUDYING/TEST TAKING IN COLLEGE

- You need to study at least 2-3 hrs outside of class for each hour in-class preparation.
- You need to review class notes and test material regularly.
- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class. College courses may expect you to read 8-10 books in the same time that high school classes require only 1-2.
- Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You are responsible for organizing the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may have only 2-3 tests in the semester.
- Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
- Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.
- In college, you will be expected to apply what you’ve learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.

GRADES IN COLLEGE

- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
- Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade. Professors may also factor in attendance and class participation as part of your final grade. Your syllabus will provide a break-down for % distribution.
- Extra credit projects are often not an option.
- Watch for first tests. These are usually “wake-up calls” to let you know what is expected but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade. You may be shocked when you get your first grade.
- You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard – check your catalog for your major/college’s standard.
- “Results Count” – though “good-faith effort” is important in regard to the professor’s willingness to help you achieve good results, it will not substitute for results in the grading process.