

High School vs. College

Mandatory Attendance

You usually lose points for every class period you miss, and your teacher will talk to you about absences.

Lots of Assignments

Your grade is usually based on lots of assignments, many of which are small or easy.

Your grade is often based partly on effort. Sometimes there is extra credit.

Support

Your teacher often assigns big projects in stages and checks your progress as you go.

Your teacher collects your homework, grades it, and gives it back to you.

Your teacher will often approach you if you are struggling and help you get back on track and may even give you work you missed.

Your teacher usually tells you which ideas are most important and exactly what to expect on tests. Your teacher may even guide you through the notes you are supposed to write.

Teachers are experts in teaching.

Teachers are generally available throughout the day and before or after school.

Others Structure Your Time

Your teachers often give homework for each chapter or section to keep you on track all semester.

Classes usually follow the textbook and material is predictable.

Classes are usually continuous.

You spend about 30 hours a week in class and a lot of your work is done in class.

Parental Advocacy

The school and your parents structure the IEP.

Parents can see your grades.

IDEA

Services and accommodations may include fundamental alterations to the classroom or curriculum if needed.

School must provide useful benefits such as transportation and textbooks.

No Mandatory Attendance

Your professor often does not take attendance. It is up to you to go to class.

A Few Big Assignments

Your grade may be based on a few large assignments, often exams. There may be no small assignments to bring your grade up.

Your grade is based on results, not effort. There is almost never extra credit.

Independence

Your professor will assign big projects months ahead of time and will not mention them again until they are due. It is up to you to make a schedule and follow it.

Homework is often not collected or graded. It is up to you to get it done so you can learn from it.

Your professor will not approach you and may not even know you are struggling. It is up to you to talk to your professor or seek help if you fall behind, and it is up to you to get any work you miss.

Sometimes your professor will not tell you what to expect on tests. It is up to you to follow along and decide what is most important. Your professor will not guide your note taking.

Teachers are experts in their subjects.

You are responsible for finding your professors during office hours, which may be limited.

You Structure Your Own Time

Your professor will give you a syllabus on the first day of class and expects you to study on your own every night even when there is no homework.

Classes may follow the textbook loosely or not at all. Lectures may be more important even though your attendance is not graded.

You often have free time between classes, and it is up to you to stay focused throughout the day and use your breaks effectively.

You spend about 15 hours a week in class and do most work on your own time.

Self Advocacy

You must identify your own needs.

Parents need your permission to see your grades.

ADA

Accommodations cannot impose an undue burden on instructors or institutions and may not alter the fundamental nature of a class.

Transportation, textbooks, and most things provided by your high school are now your responsibility.