What to expect in your college course

Differences between High School and College
Overview

• Change in access to information
• Student responsibilities
• Course structure and expectations
• Suggestions for Success
Change in access to information

• The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal privacy law that gives parents certain protections with regard to their children's education records, such as report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information, and class schedules.

• When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student ("eligible student").
FERPA

• Access to student only:
  • Student account
  • Enrollment
  • Grades
  • Directory information
    • Phone
    • Email
    • Date of Birth
    • Participation in programs and athletic teams
Attendance and Responsibility

**High School**
- Usually mandatory attendance
- Time is structured by others
- Parents and teachers remind you of your responsibilities
- Go from one class to another

**College**
- College attendance is voluntary
- Manage your own time
- You must balance responsibilities and set priorities
- Schedule is not consistent
## Difference in Classes and Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>High School</strong></th>
<th><strong>College</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• School year is 36 weeks long (year)</td>
<td>• Semester is 16 weeks long (Summer condenses material into 6 or 8 weeks)</td>
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<td>• Classes are smaller (35 students per class)</td>
<td>• Classes can range from 30 – 180 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Most studying and homework done in class</td>
<td>• Most studying is done outside of class (at home)</td>
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<td>• Textbooks left in class or locker</td>
<td>• Must bring your textbooks with you</td>
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<td>• Checks to see if you’ve completed homework</td>
<td>• Don’t always check or grade homework, but completion is expected</td>
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<td>• Reminders about homework and upcoming assignments / exams</td>
<td>• Will provide syllabus with due dates at start of class and may never mention due dates again</td>
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Role of Counselors

- Counselors in college provide a variety of services
  - Academic, Career and Personal counseling
- Counselors are faculty
  - Teach coursework in Career Planning, College Success, and other disciplines
- Will not “put you” in classes
  - Do not enroll you in coursework, drop you from courses, change your schedule
- Will not call on you to visit
  - You need to schedule appointments
- Not assigned to a counselor
  - Counseling based on major or program of study
- Guide you through coursework to help reach your academic and career goals
- Provide comprehensive counseling services to help you succeed in college
Teachers vs. Professors

**High School**
- Trained in teaching methods
  - Often addressed as Mr. or Mrs/Ms.
- Provide you with materials if you miss a class
- Monitor class attendance
- Teacher-student contact is close and frequent in classes that usually meet 5 days a week. Teachers are very accessible.

**College**
- Trained as experts in their field
  - Often addressed as “Professor” or “Doctor”
- Expect you to get materials from missed classes from others
- Do not always formally take roll
- Classes meet less and faculty are usually available only during their office hours or by appointment.
The Course Syllabus

Overview of the entire course. Typically contains the following:

• **Course Information** (Course number, title, CRN, term, and catalog description)
• **Contact Information** (Professor’s name, phone/email, office hours, office location)
• **Student Learning Outcomes** (SLOs) (What you are expected to learn as a result of the course)
• **Summary of topics** (May be an overview of all topics or week by week schedule)
• **Course Structure** (Policies and processes, How course is outlined, methods of instruction)
• **Textbook** (Required or recommended materials)
• **Timeline of activities** (Reading, Assignments, Exams)
• **Methods of evaluation** (Grading scale for Assignments/exams)
Exams

• High School
  • Often covers small amounts of material with frequent exams
  • Make up tests are available if absent
  • Frequently have review sessions to prepare for exams
  • May rearrange tests so dates do not conflict with other classes/teachers

• College
  • Often fewer exams covering larger amounts of material
  • Make up tests are seldom an option
  • Rarely hold review sessions or provide study guide
  • Test scheduled according to own class with little regard for other courses
Grades

• Grades not always given for assigned work
• Extra credit not often available
• Grade is based on performance and not ‘effort’
• Passing is a “C” grade / 70% and grades are not always curved

The eternal struggle.

getting stuff from here

To here.
Expectations and Distractions

High School
• Distractions from school work can be partially controlled by rules at school and home (e.g., curfews, dress codes, and enforced study hours).
• Teachers share with students for their learning → Passive learner

College
• Academic expectations are much higher, and minimum effort usually produces poor grades.
• Many distractions exist!
  • Unexpected change in campus environment, instructional methods, campus events, construction!
  • Time management and the ability to prioritize become absolutely essential survival skills for college students
• Faculty to provide students with an environment in which to learn
  • Student’s responsibility to take advantage of this environment → Active learner
How to do well in your college course

• Ask questions when material is unclear
  • May need to write questions / make notations in book and ask professor during office hours

• Be an active learner
  • Read ahead, review materials

• Ask for help when needed
  • Tutoring, study groups, review sessions

• Stay on task!
  • Limit distractions, social media, outside activities

• Most important for success
  • Go to class - Go to class - Go to class

• Manage your time

study
(verb)

The act of texting, eating and watching TV with an open textbook nearby.
Manage your time...

- Rule of thumb: 2 hours outside of class for every hour spent in lecture
  - 16 week semester
    - 3 hours / week in class
    - 6 hours study time
    - Total class time = 9 hrs / week per class
  - 6 week summer course
    - 9 hours /week in class
    - 18 hours study time
    - Total class time = 27 hours / week per class

- Factor in paid work hours

- Don’t forget about volunteer activities, social time, drive time, sleep, hygiene, eating, etc.

- Full time students spend no more than 60 hours per week on all activities
How to Stand Out

• Get noticed in a positive manner
  • Be prepared and on time for class meetings
  • Sit up front, be attentive, be engaged with material
  • Visit professor during office hours
  • Check syllabus before asking questions

• Don’t get negative attention
  • Carrying on side conversations during class
  • Checking cell phone / having it ring or alert in class
  • Texting under the desk (we can see you!)
  • Pack up before class is done
Backpack Essentials – Be prepared!

• Academic planner
• Textbook
• Notebook
• Pens / pencils / highlighters / post-it notes / flags
• Wallet / dollars for vending
• Headphones for listening to music while studying
• Laptop / USB drive for saving materials and documents
• Snacks!
Ask for help when needed!