

## **Advice: Differences Between High School and College**

1. Public high schools are funded by taxes, so high school students don't usually see the bill. A college student receives and pays the bill, by some means or another. A college student is purchasing an opportunity to learn. Make the most of your money by purchasing only as many classes at a time as you can successfully complete and stay in the classes you've bought.
2. High school students are required (to a certain age) to go to school and to be in class. College students are in class by choice. Community college students can also choose, by their absences, tardiness, or behavior, to be dropped by the instructor. (University students will usually not be dropped, just given a grade of F.)
3. High school students are often assumed to be teenagers and not fully intellectually mature. College students are assumed to be adults, capable of learning and thinking in a mature way. In theory, adults learn more information, more quickly. A community college class covers in one semester what a high school class may take a year or more to learn.
4. High school students usually have classes from 7 or 8 AM to 2 or 3 PM. College students choose their class times, and get more choices if they plan carefully and register in advance.
5. High school students often get class time to do assignments. College students are expected to do most of their studying and assignments outside of class: at home, in the library, in study sessions, or other study locations.
6. High school students may or may not take notes, and may or may not find those notes useful. College students are expected to take notes, and to use those notes to make better use of textbooks, class discussions, and practice exercises. (Some university professors use no textbooks, and expect students to use their notes as a textbook.)
7. High school students often don't get a choice of teachers. College students can often choose to take a class from one of several professors.
8. High school students' parents are usually informed of their grades, behavior, and opportunities. College students' parents will not be informed of anything unless the students tell them. If parental support (or pressure) is important to a college student, it is up to the student to inform the parents!
9. Some high school students are promoted to the next grade even when they have not truly learned the material. College students will not pass classes unless they demonstrate that they have learned the information.
10. Some high school students go to the next class even when they didn't learn everything. College students must have passed the prerequisites or placement exams to register for the class.
11. Some high school students do nothing but show up to class, and learn enough to pass. If college students do nothing but show up to class, they probably won't pass.

## **And some similarities...**

1. All students who do homework and attend class regularly develop discipline, learn more, earn higher grades, are more valuable employees, and are more able to enter and succeed in higher-pay jobs.
2. All students have choices about whether they do the work or not.