

Comparisons Between High School & College

	High School	College
Personal Freedom	<p>High school is mandatory and free (<i>unless you choose other options</i>).</p> <p>Your time is usually structured by others.</p> <p>You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.</p> <p>You need money for special purchases or events.</p> <p>You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.</p>	<p>College is voluntary and expensive.</p> <p>You manage your own time.</p> <p>You must decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities.</p> <p>You need money to meet basic necessities.</p> <p>You have to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.</p>
Teacher/ Professor	<p>Teachers check your completed homework.</p> <p>Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.</p> <p>Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.</p> <p>Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.</p> <p>Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students.</p> <p>Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.</p> <p>Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.</p> <p>Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.</p> <p>Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.</p>	<p>Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.</p> <p>Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.</p> <p>Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.</p> <p>Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.</p> <p>Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research.</p> <p>Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. They may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.</p> <p>Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (<i>outline</i>); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.</p>
Tests	<p>Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.</p> <p>Makeup tests are often available.</p> <p>Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.</p> <p>Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.</p> <p>Mastery is usually seen as the ability 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.</p>	<p>Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test.</p> <p>A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester/quarter.</p> <p>Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.</p> <p>Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.</p> <p>Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.</p> <p>Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.</p>
Grades	<p>Grades are given for most assigned work.</p> <p>Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when test grades are low.</p> <p>Initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.</p> <p>You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.</p> <p>Guiding principle: "Effort counts." Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."</p>	<p>Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.</p> <p>Grades on tests/ major papers provide most of the course grade.</p> <p>Watch out for your 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 grades.</p> <p>You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard – typically a 2.0 or C.</p> <p>Guiding principle: "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.</p>

Factors to Consider as You Compare Colleges & Universities

Curriculum

What do you want to study? Do you have a specific subject in mind, like art or music, or do you want a more general education? Do you want a range of potential majors and programs? Are you interested in a career that requires professional certification, and does the school provide the necessary training? Do you want to take advantage of special programs, like study abroad and internships?

Quality of Education

How much contact do you want with your professors? How much does it matter to you whether professors or graduate students teach your courses? How involved do you want to be in research and in learning outside of the classroom?

Admission Requirements

What does the school require for admissions? What does the school look for in prospective students? What are your chances of being accepted?

Size

How large or small a school do you want to attend? Do you prefer large lectures with hundreds of students or small classes with lots of student participation? Do you want to be on a big campus with many majors, an impressive library, and lots of campus activities? Would you prefer a small college where you know everyone's name?

Location

Which part of the country would you like to experience? Do you want an urban or small-town setting? Do you want to stay close to home so you can visit frequently?

Facilities

What would you like to see on or near your college campus? Are restaurants, shops, and health clubs important to you? What about laundry rooms, the computer lab, the library and research facilities? What about transportation on and around the campus?

Campus Life

How is life outside the classroom? What special interest groups, activities, and fraternities/sororities do you want to be involved in? Are they active in campus life?

Campus Security

What measures are taken to ensure your safety? What is the local community like? How safe is the campus and its surrounding neighborhoods?

Athletics

Does the school offer intramural and varsity sports? How are the sports facilities and coaches?

Housing and Resources

If you plan to live on-campus, make sure you check out the quality of dorm life. Find out if housing is guaranteed for returning students. Don't forget to check on the meal plan and if the school can provide for special dietary needs?

Cost

How much can you afford? What types of financial aid are available?

Retention and Graduation Rates

Retention rate is the percentage of students who stay for four years. Graduation rate is the percentage of students who graduate within four years. Both rates tell you whether students are satisfied with their experience at the school and get the support they need.

**Adapted from the MPSEOC Higher Education Book.*