

The Difference Between High School and College

Differences in Classes

<p>High School: Bells ring to tell students when a new class is starting.</p>	<p>College: No bells ring—cadets are responsible for knowing what time it is and being in class on time.</p>
<p>High School: Students proceed from one class to another.</p>	<p>College: Cadets often have hours between classes, and class length can vary from 50 minutes to several hours.</p>
<p>High School: Students spend six hours a day, 30 hours a week, in class.</p>	<p>College: Cadets spend 12 to 18 hours a week in the classroom.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.</p>	<p>College: Professors are required to take attendance, and absences in excess of a certain number/and or in excess of 20% of the class meetings can result in an automatic failure or an Academic Discharge.</p>
<p>High School: Courses are fairly standard.</p>	<p>College: Course selection varies greatly, depending upon the cadet's major.</p>

Differences in Grades

<p>High School: Grades are given credit for most assigned work.</p>	<p>College: Assigned work is given for the benefit of the cadet but graded at the discretion of the professor. Expectations regarding assignments are explained in the syllabus.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers may offer extra-credit projects to help students raise their grade.</p>	<p>College: Extra-credit projects are rare.</p>
<p>High School: Consistently good homework may help raise a student's overall grade when test results have been low.</p>	<p>College: Results on tests and assigned projects usually carry most of the grade weight. Cadets should check the course syllabus to see how assignments are weighted.</p>
<p>High School: Initial tests in the beginning of the school year may not have an adverse effect on a student's final grade.</p>	<p>College: Because of the short duration of a semester—only 14 weeks of instruction during fall and spring and eight weeks in summer—the number of tests is limited. Each test score is important. If needed, a student should not hesitate to schedule an appointment with the professor to talk about the class, make use of the Academic Support Center, or seek the advice of their faculty or Company advisor.</p>

Differences in Responsibilities

<p>High School: The high school counselor can register students for classes.</p>	<p>College: Although a faculty adviser can help students select courses and develop an educational plan, the student is responsible for registering.</p>
<p>High School: The high school counselor can advise students on personal matters as well as course selection.</p>	<p>College: In college, there is a distinction between a counselor and an adviser. A counselor offers personal counseling while an academic adviser mainly provides academic assistance.</p>
<p>High School: Students can count on parents and teachers to remind them of responsibilities and help them set priorities.</p>	<p>College: Cadets choose their class times, they receive a syllabus for each class detailing assignments and due dates. With this information in hand, setting daily and weekly priorities will be the responsibility of the cadet.</p>
<p>High School: Students have more time for extra-curricular and leisure activities.</p>	<p>College: Time is devoted mostly to classes and studying. For every hour in class, cadets need to plan on spending up to two hours outside of class studying. For a cadet carrying an average load (15 credit hours), this would equate to 45 hours a week of class and study time.</p>
<p>High School: Work is often an option for high school students.</p>	<p>College: Cadets may work on campus; however, freshman cadets do not work.</p>

Differences in Studying

<p>High School: Teachers often set aside class time for students to work on homework. Study time at home is limited.</p>	<p>College: Class time is for instruction; studying and assignments are done on the cadet's own time. For every hour in class, cadets need to plan on spending up to two hours outside of class studying.</p>
<p>High School: Students are expected to read short assignments that are discussed in class.</p>	<p>College: Professors assign substantial amounts of reading that may or may not be directly addressed in the classroom.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers often remind students of their incomplete or pending work.</p>	<p>College: Professors expect cadets to complete homework listed on the syllabus, without being reminded.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers will usually tell students what they are expected to learn from assigned materials.</p>	<p>College: It is up to the cadet to determine what is important and what may or may not appear on a test.</p>

Differences in Teachers

<p>High School: Teachers remind students of assignments/ due dates.</p>	<p>College: A syllabus is given out to each cadet on the first day of class which spells out what is expected, when assignments are due, and how cadets will be graded. Cadets are expected to read, save and consult this syllabus.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers approach students if they believe they need assistance.</p>	<p>College: Cadets must initiate contact if they need assistance.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers are usually available before and after class to answer questions.</p>	<p>College: Professors meet with cadets during the professor's scheduled office hours.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers provide students with information they missed if they missed a class.</p>	<p>College: If cadets miss a class, they must get notes from a classmate, not the professor.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers often present worksheets and other materials to help students understand the textbook.</p>	<p>College: Professors often don't follow the textbook but may expand on topics by providing additional information. Cadets are expected to know the material.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers often write the information on the board for students to copy to notes.</p>	<p>College: Professors often lecture non-stop and expect cadets to pick out the important points for their notes.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers check students' homework and give them feedback.</p>	<p>College: Professors may not always check homework.</p>

Differences in Tests

<p>High School: Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.</p>	<p>College: Testing is infrequent and often cumulative, covering large amounts of material. A course may have only two to three exams all semester.</p>
<p>High School: Makeup tests are often available.</p>	<p>College: Makeup tests are rare.</p>
<p>High School: Teachers offer review sessions pointing out the most important concepts.</p>	<p>College: Professors rarely offer review sessions. Generally, they expect cadets to have taken adequate notes and to have read the required class material.</p>
<p>High School: Mastery is usually seen as the ability of students to reproduce what they have been taught.</p>	<p>College: Mastery is often seen as the ability of cadets to apply what they have learned to new situations.</p>

Adapted from Wenatchee Valley College