

HOW IS COLLEGE DIFFERENT FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

CLASSES

HIGH SCHOOL

Usually follow a school-directed schedule and proceed from one class to another

General education classes dictated by state/district requirements

Typically a school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters. Summer classes may be offered but are not used to accelerate graduation

Class attendance is usually mandatory and monitored carefully

Classes generally have no more than 30-35 students

Textbooks are usually provided at little or no expense

Guidance is provided for students so they will be aware of graduation requirements

Modifications that change course outcomes may be offered based on the IEP

POSTSECONDARY

Individual students must manage their own time and schedules

Class based on field of study; requirements may vary

Academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters plus a week for final exams. Courses are offered fall, spring, and summer semesters, and summer classes may accelerate graduation

Attendance policies may vary with each instructor but lack of attendance may impact performance

Classes may have 100 or more students

Textbooks can be expensive.

Graduation requirements are complex and vary for different fields of study.

Modifications that change course outcomes will not be offered

INSTRUCTORS

Grade and check completed homework

May remind students of incomplete work

May know students' needs and approach students when they need assistance

May be available before, during, and after class

Have been trained in teaching methods

Often provide students with information missed during absence

Present material to help students understand what is in the textbook

Often write information on the board or overhead to be copied for notes

Teach knowledge or facts, leading students through the thinking process

Often take time to remind students of assignment and test dates

May assume homework is completed and students are able to perform on a test

May not remind students of incomplete work

Are usually open and helpful, but expect students to initiate contact when assistance is needed

May require students to attend scheduled office hours

Have content knowledge but not necessarily formal training in teaching methods

Expect students to get information from classmates when they miss a class

May not follow the textbook, but lectures enhance the topic area - need to connect text and lecture

May lecture nonstop. If they write on the board, it may be to support lecture, not summarize it

Expect students to think independently and connect seemingly unrelated information

Expect students to read, save, and refer back to the course syllabus