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As you can imagine, high schools and colleges vary significantly across the country. Thus, students' educational experiences can differ radically from school to school and from student to student. As a result, it is wise to listen to others' perceptions about making the transition to college with that in mind.

Below is a comparison chart that illustrates GENERAL differences between high school and college. Remember, YOU will need to form your own opinions and plan/adjust accordingly.

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
<b>CLASSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Classes are arranged for you</li> <li>❖ Classes meet daily</li> <li>❖ Teachers monitor attendance</li> <li>❖ Classes average less than 30 students</li> <li>❖ You are given text books at little or no cost</li> <li>❖ Courses to meet graduation requirements are relatively consistent</li> </ul>	<b>CLASSES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ You arrange your classes</li> <li>❖ Classes may meet just once a week</li> <li>❖ Professors may not monitor attendance</li> <li>❖ Classes may number 100 students or more</li> <li>❖ You need to budget money for text books</li> <li>❖ Courses to meet graduation requirements differ according to the program you study</li> </ul>
<b>INSTRUCTORS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Have training in teaching methods courses</li> <li>❖ Write information on the board for your notes</li> <li>❖ Remind you of assignments and due dates</li> <li>❖ Provide you with the information you missed when you were absent</li> <li>❖ Present material to help you understand the concepts in the text book</li> <li>❖ Guide you through the thinking process</li> <li>❖ Approach you if they believe you need help</li> <li>❖ Are available for conversation and assistance before, during, and/or after school</li> </ul>	<b>INSTRUCTORS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Have training in their area of expertise</li> <li>❖ Expect you to identify key points for your notes</li> <li>❖ Provide you with a syllabus so you can track assignments and due dates</li> <li>❖ Count on you to get notes for missed classes</li> <li>❖ Encourage you to relate the material presented in class with the concepts in the text book</li> <li>❖ Push you to think critically for yourself</li> <li>❖ Suggest you initiate contact if you need help</li> <li>❖ Are available for conversation and assistance during their specified office hours</li> </ul>
<b>STUDYING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The amount of time studying is comparable to the time spent in class</li> <li>❖ Teachers may allot class time for homework</li> <li>❖ Your studying involves just the material in your text book</li> </ul>	<b>STUDYING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ You should study at least 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class</li> <li>❖ Little (or no) class time is allotted for homework</li> <li>❖ Your studying involves reading and writing assignments that are not in your text book</li> </ul>

<b>TESTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material</li> <li>❖ Quizzes occur between tests</li> <li>❖ Makeup tests are an option</li> <li>❖ Teachers (re)schedule test dates to avoid conflicts with other school activities</li> <li>❖ Teachers conduct review sessions prior to the day of the test</li> <li>❖ Mastery is often seen as the ability to recognize the same information presented in class</li> </ul>	<b>TESTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Testing is infrequent and covers large amounts of material</li> <li>❖ Courses may just have two or three tests total</li> <li>❖ Makeup tests may not be an option</li> <li>❖ Professors schedule test dates at the beginning of the semester, regardless of school activities</li> <li>❖ Professors encourage students to form study sessions prior to the day of the test</li> <li>❖ Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply and problem solve what you have learned to new situations</li> </ul>
<b>GRADES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Grades are given for homework</li> <li>❖ Consistently good homework grades help raise your overall grade when test grades are low</li> <li>❖ Extra credit projects are offered to help you raise your grade</li> <li>❖ Final class grades are determined by a "good faith effort" – if you try hard, you will pass</li> <li>❖ Final class grades of a D or higher are required to graduate with a diploma</li> </ul>	<b>GRADES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Grades may not be given for homework</li> <li>❖ Grades on tests and papers provide most of the overall course grade</li> <li>❖ Extra credit projects may not be offered to help you raise your grade</li> <li>❖ A good effort is important, but likely won't change your status from failing to passing</li> <li>❖ Final class grades of a C or higher are required to graduate with a certificate or degree</li> </ul>
<b>PERSONAL FREEDOMS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ You are told your responsibilities and are "called out" if your behavior is out of line</li> <li>❖ Your time is guided by others</li> <li>❖ The high school is obligated to teach you – mandatory until a certain age is reached</li> </ul>	<b>PERSONAL FREEDOMS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ You are responsible for your actions and their consequences</li> <li>❖ You manage your own time</li> <li>❖ The college is not obligated to teach you – voluntary enrollment</li> </ul>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS IDEAS:</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS IDEAS:</b>



For more information on college success tips,  
Located inside the Learning Commons, room #1262

You can also reach us by email at:

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\*Handout created by Dana Kobold\*

Content adapted from the Adelphi University website