

# Skills Needed for Success in High School vs. College

## High School Homework

- Many students can study very little outside of class (0-2 hours per week) and still do very well.
- Usually reviewing material once is all students need. Sometimes they only need to listen in class.
- Careful note-taking during lectures is often unnecessary.
- Reading that students are assigned to do outside of class is typically short and is then re-taught in class.
- Teachers tend to tell students what they need to know.
- When work is procrastinated, it can usually get finished in the end with few negative consequences.
- If handouts or other materials are needed for tests, students can be given extra or replacement copies.

## High School Teachers

- Teachers check to make sure students have completed homework.
- Teachers contact students who are struggling or are missing work.
- If someone is absent, teachers will tell that student what was missed and what must be made up.
- Class time often focuses on covering the textbook material.
- Teachers usually remind students when assignments are coming due.
- Teachers reward students for trying, even when their grades don't always match their efforts. They provide extra credit opportunities to raise grades.

## College Homework

- Students should study 2-3 hours for every hour they are in class each week.
- Material is much more complex. Students need strong study skills and must continually review material.
- Note-taking strategies should be learned and used for every lecture.
- Course readings can be lengthy and are often not taught in class. College-level reading skills should be used.
- Instructors usually expect students to determine what is important.
- Time management is essential! Putting off coursework usually ends in stress and poor results.
- Students need to organize their course materials well because instructors will not issue new copies before exams.

## College Instructors

- Homework is often not graded but must be done to understand concepts.
- Students must contact instructors if they need assistance or extensions.
- Students should tell instructors when class will be missed. Also, absence is not an excuse for being unprepared!
- Classes don't just review; they discuss material further or apply it.
- Students must keep and check their syllabi to know what is coming due.
- Instructors may be more willing to help students who show effort, but there is not usually extra credit available when grades aren't strong.

## High School Tests

- Tests occur frequently and cover minimal course content.
- If you miss a test, you can usually make it up later.
- Teachers often consider school events or students' other obligations when scheduling tests.
- Tests are about memorizing and repeating back information taught.
- There are typically lots of review sessions done in class before a test, giving students an idea of what they will be tested on.

## High School Grading

- Grades are given frequently, and most assigned work is graded so that students are aware of where their grades stand in a class.
- Smaller assignments (homework, quizzes, etc.) can raise overall class grades significantly when other assignments do not go well.
- The first couple of tests in a class are sometimes easier than later tests. If the scores are low, students don't always take action because they can often do extra credit later.
- Attendance is typically checked every day, but a lack of participation will not usually affect the overall grade in the class.

## College Exams

- Courses may only have 2-4 exams that cover a lot of material.
- Missed exams cannot usually be made up without prior arrangements.
- Professors do not consider your other obligations when scheduling exams. Students must plan ahead for exams.
- Students must learn how to apply concepts to other situations for exams.
- Instructors do not always use class time for review or say what will be on exams. Organizing and preparing for review time is up to the students.

## College Grading

- Not all work is graded, so students must keep in contact with instructors to know how they are doing in a given course.
- Students must put more effort into the larger assignments (exams, papers, etc.) because they often account for most of the overall course grade.
- Beware of the first round of tests. They are often very different than students expected. Don't wait to get help! Go to the professor or a tutor right away, and try new study skills.
- Instructors may check attendance without announcing it, and class participation sometimes contributes significantly to overall course grades.