



How is high school different from Westminster College?

Religio et Scientia • Faith and Reason

PERSONAL FREEDOM IN HIGH SCHOOL

- High school is mandatory and free (unless you choose other options).
- Your time is usually structured by others. You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.
- You need money for special purchases or events.
- You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.
- Guiding principle: You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if behavior is out of line.

PERSONAL FREEDOM IN COLLEGE

- College is voluntary and expensive.
- You manage your own time. You must decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities. (Hint: Choose wisely in the first semester and then add later.)
- You need money to meet basic necessities.
- You will be faced with a large number of moral and ethical decisions you have not had to face previously. You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities.
- Guiding principle: You're old enough to take responsibility for what you do and don't do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

- Each day you proceed from one class directly to another.
- You spend 30 hours a week in class.
- The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some do not.
- Most of your classes are arranged for you.
- Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.
- Classes generally have no more than 35 students.
- You are provided with textbooks at little or no expense.
- You are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.

COLLEGE CLASSES

- You often have hours between classes; class times vary throughout the day and evening.
- You spend 12 to 16 hours each week in class.
- The academic year is divided into two separate 15-week semesters, plus a week after each semester for exams.
- You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your academic advisor. Schedules tend to look lighter than they really are.
- Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.
- Classes range in size from 6 to 30 students. You need to budget substantial funds for textbooks, which will usually cost more than \$200 each semester.
- Graduation requirements are complex, differ for different majors and sometimes different years - you are expected to know those that apply to you.

STUDYING IN HIGH SCHOOL

- You may study outside of class as little as 0 to 2 hours a week, and this may be mostly last-minute test preparation.
- You often need to read or hear presentations only once to learn all you need to learn about them.
- You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed, and often re-taught, in class.
- Guiding principle: You will usually be told in class what you needed to learn from assigned readings.

STUDYING IN COLLEGE

- You need to study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class--from 24 to 45 hours per week--and even more for some classes.
- You need to review class notes and text material regularly.
- You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.
- Guiding principle: It's up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you've already done so.

TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.
- Makeup tests are often available.
- Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.
- Teachers frequently conduct review sessions, pointing out the most important concepts.
- 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.

TESTS IN COLLEGE

- 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.
- A particular course may have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
- Makeup tests are seldom an option; if they are, you need to request them.
- Professors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
- Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant, one who comes prepared with questions.
- Mastery is often seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.

GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Grades are given for most assigned work.
- Consistently good homework grades may help raise your overall grade when test grades are low.
- Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.
- Initial test grades/ especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.
- You may graduate as long as you have passed all required courses with a grade of D or higher.
- Guiding principle: "Effort counts." Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith effort."

GRADES IN COLLEGE

- Grades may not be provided for all assigned work.
- Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.
- Extra credit projects cannot, generally speaking, be used to raise a grade in a college course.
- 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. If you receive notice of low grades on either an Early-Term or a Mid-Semester Progress Report, talk to your professor and see your academic advisor.
- You may graduate only if your average in classes meets the departmental standard-typically a 2.0 or C.
- 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.