

Differences between High School and College Culture

Students who understand the key differences and learn how to bridge the gap between high school and college should have a greater chance for success.

High School Culture	College Culture
High school culture usually assumes immaturity.	College culture expects maturity.
Students have few choices and less freedom.	Students have many choices and much more freedom.
Students are required to attend high school.	Attending college is a personal choice.
Teachers often remind students to complete assignments.	Instructors give assignments and expect students to hand them in on time without reminders.
Teachers spend time disciplining students who create disruptions.	Instructors do not tolerate disruptive students and may ask them to leave the class.
Students typically spend 30 or more hours in class each week, and teachers cover the majority of the course material during class.	Students typically spend 15 or fewer hours in class each week, and instructors expect students to come prepared to discuss new material in class and review the lecture notes outside of class.
Teachers and parents manage much of the students' time.	Students much manage their own time.
Teachers often "teach to the test", so students can pass standardized assessments.	Instructors have more "academic freedom" to choose what to teach and how to teach it, and they challenge students to be critical thinkers.
Students often get good grades without working too hard or implementing specific study strategies.	Academic standards are usually high, and success is dependent on a strong academic skill set that includes specific study strategies.
Students rely on family and friends as a primary resource for advice or solutions to academic, social and other problems.	Students often must self-advocate and solve their own problems, or seek help from many support services available at the college.
Students' choice of classes is relatively limited by graduation requirements.	Students have many courses to choose from, and they are responsible for meeting with an academic advisor to create an educational plan.
Teachers and parents often dictate priorities for students.	Students are responsible for setting their own priorities and having balance between academics, work and personal life, including parties, television, video games, social media, etc.
Educational costs, including textbooks, are paid for by tax payers.	Educational costs, including text books, are paid for by students and/or their families, which may also include applying for financial aid and loans.

In college culture, students **must** always be in control of their learning.

Contact your academic strategist to learn strategies for student success within the college culture.