

MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE

At least 30 hours/week of classroom instruction; regular daily schedule; attendance enforced

Schedule

Usually 12 hours/week of classroom instruction; classroom attendance not enforced

Routines established and enforced by parents, school, community traditions

Freedom

Student must establish schedule and maintain routine; time management skills needed

Limited by school and home regulations

Distractions

Frequent distractions (parties, fraternities, sports)

Demanded by parents and teachers

Discipline

Solely up to student

More frequent (5 days/week)

Teacher-Student Contact

Less frequent (1 to 3 times/week)

Parents, teachers, counselors often take responsibility and arrange tutors, etc.

Academic Support

Requested and arranged by student; student must be own advocate even if college offers academic support

Will vary depending upon the high school

Competition

May be more competitive particularly in more rigorous college environment

Student's status in academic and social situations often influenced by family/community factors

New Status

Student in new situation; judged solely for him/herself and by his/her own behavior

Parental contact constant; personalized counseling by teachers and guidance counselors; regularly and easily available

Counseling

Parental contact limited; student must seek counseling; often difficult to schedule and not personalized

Student told what to do in most situations; follow-up on instructions is usual

Dependence

Student is on his/her own; much self discipline required; often no specific time lines, no follow-up, no warnings

External from parents, teachers, counselors, etc.

Motivation

Internal; student is on his/her own

Flexible, designed to meet student's individual needs

Accommodations

May not alter or modify the curriculum; provides equal access