

HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

What are the differences? What can I expect?

The transition from high school to college is a difficult one for all students, but it can be especially difficult for students with disabilities. Here are some of the differences you may encounter as you begin your education at Springfield Technical Community College.

Who's responsible for what?

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school is mandatory and usually free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College is voluntary and there is a financial commitment to attend.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your time is structured by others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are responsible for managing your own time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can count on your parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and help you prioritize your time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must balance your activities and set your own priorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You proceed from one class directly to another, spending about 6 hours a day in classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically you will spend about 12 – 15 hours a week on campus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of your classes are arranged for you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor. You are expected to keep track of all dates for registering, adding, dropping or withdrawing from classes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are usually told what to do and when your behavior is out of line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students are expected to take responsibility for their behavior and abide by the Student Code of Conduct.
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES	COLLEGE CLASSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school year is 36 weeks long and you usually keep the same classes the entire time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The academic year is divided into two semesters, each 15 weeks long. You will take different classes each semester.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying outside of class usually is about 15 hours a week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying outside of class is usually about 30 hours a week.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You seldom read anything more than once and sometimes listening in class is enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need to review your class notes and text material regularly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will be assigned large amounts of reading and writing which may or may not be discussed in class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance policies may allow 15 absences a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors set their own policies and it can be as few as 3 absences before being withdrawn from class.
TEACHERS	PROFESSORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers usually ask you to hand in your homework and then grade it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may not always check completed homework, but they assume you have done it and can be prepared to take a test on the material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers remind you of your missing or incomplete assignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may or may not remind you of missing work.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers ask you if you need assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors are usually open and helpful, but will leave it up to you to see them after class or during their office hours for assistance with class material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers often write information on the board for you to copy down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some professors lecture non-stop, expecting you to know what notes to take and when to just listen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers remind you of important dates and assignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may or may not remind you of important dates. You should look at your syllabus regularly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers carefully monitor attendance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors may or may not take attendance but each one usually has their own attendance policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers break down material so you can understand it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors encourage you to visit tutors or the Writing Center for any help with difficult material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers are aware if you have a disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors only know you have a disability if you tell them or they receive an academic accommodation plan from the Office of Disability Services.
GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL	GRADES IN COLLEGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently good homework grades may raise your overall grade when test grades are low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades on tests, assignments and assigned papers usually provide most of the course grade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra credit projects are often given to raise a low grade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra credit assignments are not usually given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may graduate as long as you have passed all the required courses with a grade of D or higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may graduate ONLY if your average in classes meets the departmental standard which is usually a 2.0 GPA or better.
TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL	TESTS IN COLLEGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are frequent tests in high school which usually cover small amounts of material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing is less frequent and often covers large amounts of material. You are responsible for organizing the material to study for the test. Some classes have only 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make up tests are often available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make up tests are seldom an option.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers frequently conduct review sessions or give students outlines from which to study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professors rarely offer review sessions, and when they do, they expect you to be an active participant and come with questions about material you don't understand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students receiving extended time for tests, usually take them in the "resource room." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are responsible for making arrangements with the Office of Disability Services or the Testing and Assessment Center and their instructors for time extensions for their exams.