

How College/University is Different from High School

Success at college or university will look very different for everybody. One of the best ways to ensure success is to know how post-secondary will differ from high school and to make a plan that will work for you to access the help you need.



Time Management

High School	College/University
Back to back classes (unless you have a spare)	Classes are spread out and there may be regularly scheduled days with no classes
Same lunch period every day	No assigned lunch period
Attending school every day	Attendance may be mandatory for some classes, but not for others. Attendance is often counted towards the final grade (usually 5-25%)
School starts and ends at the same time each day	School starts and ends at the different times each day and there may even be evening classes
Attendance is monitored and mandatory	No one will contact a student to make sure they are attending class
Teacher reminds students of due dates, upcoming assignments, and changes in schedule	Students are expected to use the course syllabus to manage due dates, assignments, and schedule on their own

Question	Answer
How are classes different between post-secondary and high school?	
How is lunch different between post-secondary and high school?	

Question	Answer
How is attendance different between post-secondary and high school?	
How are start and end times different between post-secondary and high school?	
How are due dates, assignments, and schedules different between post-secondary and high school?	



Accommodations

High School (Student responsibilities)	College/University (Staff responsibilities)
Request services in a timely manner (at or before start of term)	Provide students with a disability equal learning environment
Have psychoeducational testing done to determine accommodations (not IEP)	Does not guarantee a good mark, or even a pass in the course, only that the playing field is level for all learners
Present course instructor(s) with a letter from the Accessibility Office indicating recommended accommodations	Does not alter the important parts of the course, or diminish academic integrity
Meet all course requirements using only the approved academic accommodations	Only approved academic accommodations are applicable, not necessarily accommodations from high school IEP

Question	Answer
Who is responsible for requesting services for accommodations from	

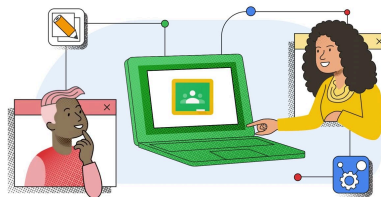
Question	Answer
Accessibility Office and from Instructor?	
Who is responsible for achievement outcomes (getting a good mark)?	
Who is responsible for making sure the course material levels the playing field for all learners?	
Will the same accommodations from the high school IEP be applicable in post-secondary?	



The Instructor

High School	College/University
Teacher specializes in subject matter and is trained in methods of instruction	Instructors are experts (Masters/PhD) in the subject but may not have specialized training in instruction
Teaches content in a variety of ways (reading, writing, activities), provides opportunities to ask questions, and apply new information in the classroom setting. Teachers mark assignments and tests	Professors talk in lecture style to share course content. Teaching Assistants (TAs) often mark assignments and tests (especially for large classes)
Often is a full-time job and they more available outside of classroom hours for extra instruction/clarification	Teaching Assistants (TAs) are sometimes available to help explain content. Instructors often available only during office hours, or by appointment
Course curriculum determined by the Ministry of Education	Instructors are responsible for design and content of the course

Question	Answer
How are high school teachers different from College/University Instructors?	
How is content and learning material delivered differently in post-secondary vs. high school?	
How is getting clarification from a high school different from post-secondary?	
Who determines the course material in high school vs. post-secondary?	



The Classroom

High School	College/University
Teacher provides the lesson and students listen and take notes, often multiple ways for students to show they understand the material	Instructor provides lectures and students listen and take notes; often only a few assignments to demonstrate learning
Time to complete assignments often given during class	Assignments expected to be completed on own time; often time is not given in class
Usually 25-30 students in a class	Classes can range from 15 students to over 1000 in each class. Larger classes often have teaching assistants (TA's) which break off into smaller classes and discuss course content in more detail
Homeroom class where the same group of students meet daily	Different classes each day; often different students in each class

High School	College/University
Resource room is available for support	Accessibility Office available for support, but often a prescheduled appointment is required

Question	Answer
How are classes different between post-secondary and high school?	
How are times for working on assignments different between post-secondary and high school?	
How are class sizes different between post-secondary and high school?	
How is resource support different between post-secondary and high school?	

Personal Reflection

Please provide one learning take away you learned from each of the four sections and how you will use this to help you successfully navigate your post-secondary learning environment

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